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BENEFITS OF LIVING IN THE TOWN OF INDIAN TRAIL

The Town of Indian Trail is excited that you are considering annexing into Indian Trail to take advantage of the many benefits our community has to offer. The following is information that you will find useful in making the decision regarding whether or not to annex into the Town. For ease of reference, this information is provided in a *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQ) format.

Annexation Overview

WOULD YOU PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE ANNEXATION PROCESS?

Properties located outside of cities or towns are referred to as unincorporated areas. The process for a property to be incorporated into a town is referred to as *annexation*. The annexation process is specified by the State of North Carolina and generally involves interested property owners signing a petition requesting to be a part of a town. There are additional notices and hearings that are conducted by the annexing town to effect the annexation and establish an appropriate zoning district on the annexed property. In Indian Trail, it is important to know that the Town will pay for all annexation process related expenses such as public notices, land surveying, etc.

Public Safety

WHAT PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY THE TOWN?

The Town contracts with the Union County Sheriff Office (UCSO) to provide law enforcement services in Indian Trail. The Town currently has 24 additional deputies providing services for Town residents in addition to the deputies already in this area. This helps provide the highest level of public safety for Town residents versus those living in unincorporated Union County. Fire protection services will continue to be provided by the same Union County Volunteer Fire Department that serves your property today.



Parks and Recreation

WHAT PARKS AND RECREATION AMENITIES ARE PROVIDED BY THE TOWN?

The Town currently operates three public parks which include Crooked Creek, Chestnut Square, and Crossing Paths Park. Each of these facilities provide diverse recreational opportunities for town residents such as tournament level baseball/softball facilities, volleyball courts, tennis courts, walking trails, playgrounds, outdoor event facilities, picnic facilities, a dog park, and other amenities. Town residents receive a discount on park and recreation fees. Town residents may also receive a free, annual recreation pass to use at Carolina Courts for indoor recreation such as basketball, volleyball, and other sports during specified times of the day. This is a great way to have fun and stay fit during the summer heat or during the winter cold.



Solid Waste

HOW ARE SOLID WASTE SERVICES PROVIDED IN INDIAN TRAIL?

A comprehensive solid waste and recycling service is provided by the Town of Indian Trail to all residents. These services are provided under contract by Waste Pro, one of the most proficient solid waste providers in the region. Each annexing homeowner will receive a free Town logo solid waste and recycling receptacle. The following will provide an overview of these services.

- Weekly Garbage Pick Up
- Bi-Weekly Recycling and Yard Waste Pick Up
- Enhanced Fall Leaf Collection
- Bulk and E-Waste Pick Up 3-Times Per-Year
- Periodic Community Drop off Events

Town residents pay for these valuable services as part of their annual taxes. This saves our residents a considerable amount of money with individual private waste collection costing as much as \$280 to \$400 annually for comparable services.



Public Works

WHAT INFRASTRUCTURE DOES THE TOWN MAINTAIN?

The Town of Indian Trail Public Works Division provides street and sidewalk maintenance of all Town maintained/owned streets and sidewalks. Public Works also maintains the Town stormwater infrastructure and some stream segments. The Town also provides street sweeping services for Town maintained/owned streets twice per-year.

Taxes and Fees

WHAT TAXES AND FEES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH BEING A TOWN RESIDENT?

The Town of Indian Trail maintains one of the lowest property tax rates of any North Carolina municipality of comparable size. All property is taxed 18.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value of their property. For example, a home assessed by Union County at \$150,000 in value would have Town taxes in the amount of approximately \$278 per-year. As previously noted, it is important to recognize that the Town pays for residential solid waste collection as part of these taxes, which reduces much of this expense and in some cases can result in less total out of pocket expenses.

Please contact Union County for County and Fire Service [tax rates](#) that all Union County residents must pay.

The Town also has a stormwater utility fee that funds capital projects designed to improve stormwater management and reduce flooding in the Town. The rate is based on the amount of impervious surface (i.e. house or paved areas) at your home. The fee is \$3.54 per-month for most homes. The stormwater utility fee may only be used for Town stormwater management/flood reduction projects and activities.

Closer to Home Services and Representation

HOW ACCESSIBLE ARE TOWN STAFF AND ELECTED OFFICIALS?

One of the benefits of being an Indian Trail resident is that you will have direct access to your local government and more local representation of your interests. Town offices are located in Downtown Indian Trail and are staffed with knowledgeable professionals to help answer your questions or address any problems. Unincorporated residents must make an extended drive to Monroe to meet with County staff.

The Mayor and the five members of the Town Council are also Town residents, which provides a more local understanding of issues and provides residents with more direct access to their elected representatives. The Town also has several boards and committees that provide an opportunity for residents to help shape the future of their community. County elected and appointed officials may not live in your immediate area and may be unfamiliar with issues specific to your neighborhood.

Ordinances

WHAT TOWN ORDINANCES SHOULD A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNER BE AWARE OF?

The following is a quick snapshot of some Town ordinances that apply to residential property owners. For a complete listing of ordinances, please review the [Indian Trail Municipal Code](#) and the [Unified Development Ordinance](#).

1. *Recreational Shooting of Firearms:* The recreational discharge of firearms is not permitted within the Town of Indian Trail. Town residents may lawfully discharge firearms at one of the private, indoor shooting range facilities within the Town or elsewhere. In very limited instances State law may “grandfather” some older, established outdoor ranges.
2. *Keeping of Farm Animals and Horses?* The keeping of farm animals is permitted on agricultural properties within certain zoning districts. Residential homes are not permitted to maintain farm animals such as swine, goats, chickens, and similar animals, however, in limited instances, there may be allowances for grandfathering of existing animals. Horses are permitted in the Town’s lower density residential districts subject to compliance with standards for the number of horses and location requirements for stables. In limited instances, there may be allowances for grandfathering of existing horses and their stables (if current standards are not met). Please review the [Unified Development Ordinance](#) for additional information.
3. *Outdoor Storage of Debris/Junk or Junked Vehicles on Residential Property:* The Town prohibits the open storage of junk/debris (i.e. garbage, junk, trash, appliances, etc.). The Town permits the storage of one junked vehicle, however, it must be stored within a garage or under an appropriate cover in the rear yard. Town residents enjoy having these standards in place to help maintain property values and to have an attractive community. Please refer to the [Indian Trail Municipal Code](#) for additional information.
4. *Outdoor Fire:* Open burning is not permitted within the Town of Indian Trail with the exception of some land clearing activities and small home fire pits. The benefit of the Town providing regular yard waste collection and enhanced fall leaf collection is that residents no longer need to burn vegetation debris.
5. *Animal Control Ordinance:* The Town has an animal control ordinance that requires dogs to wear identification tags outdoors, not be kept in a manner that creates a nuisance for neighbors or the general public, and other minor requirements. Dogs must also be kept on a leash or secured by a fence or other restraint unless located on the owner’s property and under their control. The full ordinance can be reviewed at www.indiantrail.org.

If you would like to learn more about Indian trail or the annexation process, please contact the Planning Department at 704.821.5401 or www.indiantrail.org