

City of Littleton Three Mile Plan

(November 19, 2024)

Areas Eligible for Annexation

I. Introduction

Colorado statute limits municipal annexations to no more than “three miles in any direction from any point of such municipal boundary in any one year.” (§31-12-105(1)(e)) of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S)), if otherwise eligible for annexation pursuant to the Municipal Annexation Act of 1965. Section 32-12-105(1)(e), C.R.S., further requires that prior to annexing any property within the three-mile limit, a municipality shall have in place a plan that generally describes the proposed:

Location, character, and extent of streets, subways, bridges, waterways, parkways, playgrounds, squares, parks, aviation fields, other public ways, grounds, open spaces, public utilities, and terminals for water, light, sanitation, transportation, and power to be provided by the municipality, and proposed land uses for the area.

A full analysis of the annexation proposal shall be reviewed for its consistency with this plan, including a financial analysis of the requests’ compatibility with the financial analysis. Areas within three miles of the current City of Littleton boundary that are submitted for de-annexation would also need to meet the same threshold analysis and show the requests consistency with all existing plans and policies.

This document constitutes the City of Littleton’s “Three-Mile Plan”, as required by and in conformance with Section 31-12-105(1) (e) C.R.S. This Three-Mile Plan shall be deemed annually updated without the need for any formal action or amendment absent express recognition by the city that annexation would require an update of the Three-Mile Plan.

The City of Littleton’s Three Mile Plan is intended to address those lands in the unincorporated Jefferson County, Douglas County and Arapahoe County areas, within three miles of the city’s municipal boundaries, which includes any portions of the city that are physically disconnected from the rest of the county. These unincorporated areas of the above-referenced counties are considered to be legally available for annexation pursuant to Section 31-12-105(1)(e), C.R.S., if otherwise eligible for annexation pursuant to the Municipal Annexation Act of 1965. There may also be instances where a geography within three (3) miles of the City of Littleton’s boundary is in an adjacent jurisdiction, but the landowner wishes to de-annex and annex-in to the City of Littleton, CO. The standards and exceptions to these requests will be outlined in the City of Littleton’s adopted codes, ordinances, or other applicable documents that recognize the financial obligations of the commitment.

This plan is neither a proposal, nor a guarantee, of an approved annexation of the geographically eligible areas identified in this document. Any proposal for annexation must be done in accordance with all applicable City of Littleton plans, including the

city's mostly recently adopted Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan, as adopted and amended.

The Three Mile Plan serves as an analysis tool that recognizes the unique nature of an annexation proposal, with each being reviewed through its codes and regulations for its consistency with this plan and other applicable City of Littleton, Colorado plans in existence at the time of the request. The review and scrutiny include a financial analysis of the requests' compatibility and ability to meet a threshold analysis based on key considerations, some of which include:

- The potential impact to the city's ability to provide utilities and municipal services;
- The roadway network supports the future development of the proposed annexation site or will provide financial contribution to any needed improvements;
- The proposed annexation site does not have a negative impact on existing City of Littleton development or available services;
- Existing zoning and character consideration for a proposed annexation parcel(s) should be considered for compatibility.

Current Criteria in the ULUC:

- Whether the Annexation complies with the procedures and provisions of C.R.S. § 31-12-101 et seq. (the Municipal Annexation Act of 1965) and Article II, Section 30 of the Colorado Constitution;
- Whether the Annexation complies with the city's Three-Mile Plan, as adopted and amended;
- Whether the Annexation is consistent with the city's Comprehensive Plan, as amended; and
- Whether the area being proposed for Annexation has, or will have at the time of development, the capacity to serve residents of the area with adequate utilities, facilities, and public services; and,
- Whether the Annexation is in the best interests of the city.

II. Utilities.

Xcel Energy provides natural gas and electric utilities within the City of Littleton's boundaries and most of the three-mile limit for annexations. It is anticipated that adequate supplies and distribution systems for natural gas and electricity are available to serve anticipated development within the three-mile area. CenturyLink and AT&T provide telephone service. Cable television service is provided by Comcast, pursuant to a franchise agreement with the City of Littleton. Proposed annexations would also need to ensure they will have adequate water for development, from their respective provider.

III. Public Improvements and Services

Much of the public services, public improvements, and public infrastructure within Littleton and the three-mile limit are provided by Littleton, Denver Water, South Suburban Parks and Recreation, numerous special districts, including metropolitan districts, and water and sanitation districts. It is anticipated that in most cases, to the extent that public improvements do not already exist to serve areas annexed to the city,

applicants will be required to assume the costs of these services, if they can be made available. Any special consideration to use services outside those supported by the City of Littleton would need to be requested and may be a disqualifying factor.

Significant water and sanitation service providers within the three-mile limit include Denver Water, Southwest Metro Water and Sanitation District, Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District, Ken Caryl Water and Sanitation District, South Arapahoe Sanitation District, Columbine Sanitation District, Centennial Water and Sanitation District, Roxborough Water and Sanitation District, Dominion Water and Sanitation District, Grant Water and Sanitation District, Southgate Water and Sanitation District, City of Englewood and Cherry Hills Village. Existing developments wishing to annex into the City will be required to work with their respective Littleton service providers, as well as the City.

Fire protection, emergency medical and ambulance service is provided to the City of Littleton and the area within the three-mile limit is generally served by Littleton Fire Protection District, West Metro Fire District, South Metro Fire Rescue Authority, West Douglas County Fire Protection District and Lockheed Martin Aerospace Fire Department.

Park and recreation facilities are provided to the City of Littleton and the area within the three-mile limit by the City of Littleton, South Suburban Parks and Recreation, Foothills Parks and Recreation, Jefferson County, Douglas County and Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District. The services and facilities are made available to the public through coordinated partnerships and contractual agreements. Any new annexations would need to be considered for impacts to existing park and recreational facilities, along with any established agreements.

Library services are provided to the City of Littleton and the area within the three-mile limit by the City of Littleton, Jefferson County Public Library, Douglas County Library and Arapahoe Library District. Newly annexed property into the City of Littleton may modify the library district a property financially supports.