Annexation Trends
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Annexations

This section examines the characteristics of annexations within Snohomish County since January 2000 as certified by The Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM). Annexation activity that is reported in this section refers only to municipal annexations, and does not include information on special district annexations (e.g., water and sewer districts).

A subset of these data were used to determine population annexed by cities since December 13, 2012 (the date at which city boundaries were “frozen” for the development of the 2035 population and employment growth targets) for purposes of estimating current population within areas represented by city boundaries as of this date (see Section I, Population Growth Trends).

After nearly 12 square miles of Snohomish County's UGA were annexed during 2005 – 2007, annexation activity dropped off until 2010 when over 8 square miles were annexed. Annexation activity has again dropped off significantly since 2010.

Figures A-1 and A-2 show population and acres annexed in Snohomish County on a yearly basis since January 1, 2000, as certified by OFM. The 2005-2007 period witnessed a significant increase in annexation activity in Snohomish County. During this time, slightly over 18,000 residents and 7,593 acres (11.86 square miles) were annexed by cities.

This annexation surge followed a 4-year period beginning in 2001 during which a pronounced downturn in the level of annexation activity occurred. This period generally coincided with a period of uncertainty about municipal annexations in Washington State brought about by the March 2002 state Supreme Court decision overturning the petition method of annexation. The Supreme Court reversed its decision in January 2004, leading to the 2005-2007 upsurge in annexation activity in Snohomish County.

Following two years of reduced annexation activity in 2008 and 2009, two large annexations certified by OFM in 2010 to the cities of Marysville and Lake Stevens resulted in over 8 square miles and nearly 31,000 residents being annexed to incorporated areas. These two annexations were motivated by the availability from the state of a sales and use tax credit for cities that annex areas with at least 10,000 residents.

Since 2010, annexation activity in Snohomish County has again dropped off significantly.

Figures A-3 and A-4 show that the cities of Marysville and Lake Stevens together account for well over half the population (81%) and acres (68%) annexed in the County since January 2000.
Figure A-1

Population Annexed, 2000 - 2016
in Annexations Certified by OFM

Note: The two large annexations by the cities of Marysville and Lake Stevens (both effective as of the end of December 2009) are shown as occurring in 2010 since this was the year they were certified by OFM.
Figure A-2

Note: The two large annexations by the cities of Marysville and Lake Stevens (both effective as of the end of December 2009) are shown as occurring in 2010 since this was the year they were certified by OFM.
Population Annexed, 2000 - 2016
in Annexations Certified by OFM

- Marysville: 48%
- Lake Stevens: 33%
- Everett: 8%
- Mill Creek: 7%
- Arlington: 2%
- Other: 2%

Acres Annexed, 2000 - 2016
in Annexations Certified by OFM

- Marysville: 43%
- Snohomish: 4%
- Mill Creek: 4%
- Everett: 5%
- Arlington: 8%
- Lake Stevens: 25%
- Darrington: 3%
- Stanwood: 3%
- Other: 5%