

Margaret Fowler and her husband Al have lived on Tucson's far east side since 1978. Their home is on 4 acres of horse property with lush grass and towering mesquite trees. Their neighborhood, Tanque Verde Country Estates, was annexed into the City in 1984.



Interview with Margaret Fowler, 10/14/04

Were you required to make any changes regarding your property as a result of annexation (e.g., horses, private well)?

“No. We still have horses and we still have our well.”

How has the neighborhood changed since being annexed?

“We’ve had a few more houses built on vacant land within the neighborhood, but there have not

been any changes to the neighborhood as a result of annexation. Our property is 4 acres, and all properties in the neighborhood are 4 acres or larger, just like they were prior to annexation. We have not had any rezonings. This neighborhood is still horse property.”

In your opinion, what are the benefits of joining the City of Tucson?

“We are protected by the Tucson Fire Department now instead of Rural Metro. Annexation was a break-even proposition for us, with the increase in taxes offset by not having to pay Rural Metro. One of the services I really love is the “Brush and Bulky” pick-up (twice a year). With all of the large mesquite trees out here, we have tons of branches that need to be hauled away. Rezoning in the City are very difficult and the neighbors have great influence. It’s also nice to be able to get involved in City elections and issues.”

What would you tell people that live in a rural setting like you that are thinking about joining the City of Tucson?

“The character of your neighborhood will not change with annexation.”