

Forest Hills Addition Annexation

In 1912, the voters of Texas passed the Home Rule Amendment to the Texas Constitution TEX. CONST. Art. XI, §5.

This amendment and its accompanying legislation in 1913 gives cities over 5,000 population that adopt a home rule charter by election the full power of local self-government, including the ability to unilaterally annex property. Except for the Home Rule Amendment, relatively few substantial changes were made to annexation laws from 1858 through 1963.ⁱ

City of Dallas attempted a simultaneous election in April 1945 to annex University Park, Highland Park, and Preston Hollow. While the Park Cities rejected the merger, Preston Hollow voted for unification, which became effective instantly.

After the failure to annex University Park and Highland Park, Dallas began annexing the land surrounding it.

On April 4, 1945 the Dallas City Council passed the annexation ordinance on the first reading protecting the rights of the city to claim areas around Park Cities which included the Forest Hills Addition. The annexation ordinance required 30 days before taking effect including a second and third reading.

Forest Hills Addition was one of many of the areas surrounding Highland Park. Specific to the White Rock Lake area, areas annexed also included the Lake Terrace addition, the Reinhardt area and Casa Linda Estates.

The map on the next page is from the United States Army Air Forces Foscue Map Collection, SMU Libraries 1945.



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