

# Moroni Annexation Policy Plan

April 2025



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## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE

The purpose of an Annexation Policy Plan is to assist municipalities in planning for anticipated expansion of their boundaries. This Plan identifies what areas can eventually become part of the incorporated city, what process a petitioner shall undergo to pursue annexation, and the criteria the City Council shall consider in making a determination on whether to approve the annexation. This Plan does not advocate immediate or near-term annexation of all properties identified. Rather, annexation will occur as property owners anticipate a desire to develop and improve properties in a way that necessitates expansion of Moroni municipal services.

The requirement for Utah municipalities to adopt an Annexation Policy Plan is found in Utah Code 10-2-401.5. For municipalities within a specified county, which includes Sanpete County, a municipality may not annex an unincorporated area unless the city has adopted an annexation policy plan. This includes a requirement that cities and towns develop an expansion area map and formulate a strategic blueprint for the community's growth over the ensuing 20 year time horizon. Moroni aims to promote orderly development, ensure efficient service provision, and coordinate land use planning in alignment with Moroni's General Plan. Annexations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, ensuring alignment with both immediate and long-term benefits for the city and prioritizing the interests of existing residents.

The Annexation Policy Plan serves as a roadmap for making informed decisions concerning future annexations. In conjunction with the General Plan, it plays a pivotal role in enabling the city to strategize for forthcoming expansion, aligning its objectives with those of neighboring political entities. The plan serves as a mechanism to promote transparent communication between neighboring towns, cities, and the county. This transparency is a necessary cornerstone to the planning process. Furthermore, a purpose of the plan is to protect and enhance the private property rights of property owners within the municipal boundaries and in the unincorporated areas surrounding the city.

Some of the purposes for pursuing or accepting annexation include, but are not limited to:

- Eliminating jurisdictional islands and peninsulas
- Promotion of planning and development for unincorporated areas adjacent to a municipality which may share or support the basic character of a municipality
- Bolstering the municipal tax base and economic opportunities
- Extending municipal services
- Minimizing services and infrastructure gaps
- Improving recreational services, programs, and trails
- Promote Efficient Service and Infrastructure Expansion without burdening current city residents by planning for the extension of essential services.



## COMMUNITY CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

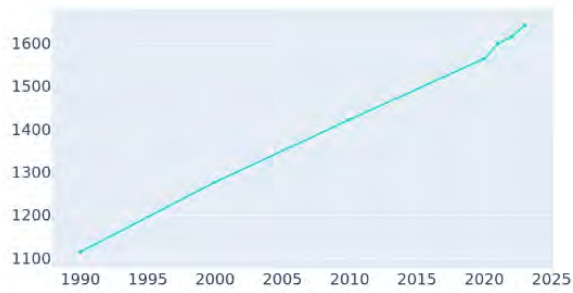
### OVERVIEW OF MORONI'S HISTORY AND COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Located in northern Sanpete Valley, Moroni lies 30 miles southeast of Nephi and 19 miles north of Manti. Settled in 1859 by pioneers, the community initially established homes along the Sanpitch River before relocating to the rolling hills northwest due to flooding. Agriculture, livestock, and sawmills formed the economic backbone of early Moroni.

Incorporated in 1866 during the Black Hawk War, Moroni was fortified to protect its residents and settlers from nearby towns. By 1872, peace allowed for expansion, and the city adopted the grid city layout we see today. Moroni thrived as a terminus of the Sanpete Valley Railroad in 1885, becoming a hub for trade, travel, and mail services, which brought economic prosperity (Sanpete County: 1866; Utah Division of State History, 1885).

Cultural landmarks like the Moroni Tabernacle (1889) and Opera House (1891) reflect the city's growth. Despite economic shifts after World War II, Moroni has retained its rural charm, with strong agricultural ties and a close-knit community that values its historical legacy (Utah Historical Quarterly, 1891).





Year	Population	Rank in US	Growth Rate
2023	1,642	8,383	1.7%
2022	1,615	8,438	0.9%
2021	1,600	8,443	2.2%
2020	1,565	8,512	1.0%
2010	1,423	8,869	1.1%
2000	1,277	9,148	1.4%
1990	1,115	9,300	-

**DEMOGRAPHICS AND GROWTH TRENDS**

As of the 2020 Census, Moroni City has a population of approximately 1,544, reflecting steady growth with a 7.8% increase from 2010 to 2020. Many community members are employed in local agriculture, manufacturing, and service industries, with some commuting to nearby towns for work. Agriculture remains a key part of daily life, contributing to the local economy and reinforcing Moroni’s rural identity.

The city’s recent growth underscores the importance of strategic planning to preserve its character while meeting future needs. Sustainable growth is essential to support infrastructure without straining resources or disrupting the community’s agricultural foundation.

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE GENERAL PLAN**

The Annexation Policy Plan builds on the framework of the 2024 Moroni General Plan by focusing on annexations that will not burden existing infrastructure and will only be considered if they align with long-term community goals.

The 2024 General Plan was developed through collaboration among the Moroni City Council, Planning Commission, City staff, the steering committee, and residents. Public input played a significant role, with over 140 responses collected through a community survey in late 2023 and early 2024. The survey was widely publicized through utility billing, the city website, social media, city hall postings, and hand delivery. In February 2024, an open house presented survey results and invited additional feedback. Numerous resources contributed to data collection for most of the chapters, including the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates from the United States Census Bureau and ESRI Business Analyst Online reports



integrated with ESRI's spatial and consumer analyses to provide accurate current conditions and help predict future trends across the various city topics.

## EXISTING BOUNDARIES AND ADJACENT JURISDICTIONS

Moroni's current city boundaries encompass primarily low-density residential areas, agricultural lands, and open spaces. Situated in central Sanpete County, Moroni is bordered by unincorporated county land on all sides, with the nearest neighboring communities including Fountain Green to the northwest, Wales to the southwest, Mount Pleasant to the east and Spring City to the southeast.

Moroni's expansion area does not overlap with any neighboring municipality's expansion areas. In compliance with Utah Code Title 10, Chapter 2, the city will coordinate with Sanpete County and neighboring municipalities to avoid overlapping service areas and ensure efficient infrastructure delivery. Collaboration with adjacent jurisdictions is crucial to managing compatible land use and promoting mutual planning interests.





## COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL AND STATE LAWS

### CITY CODE

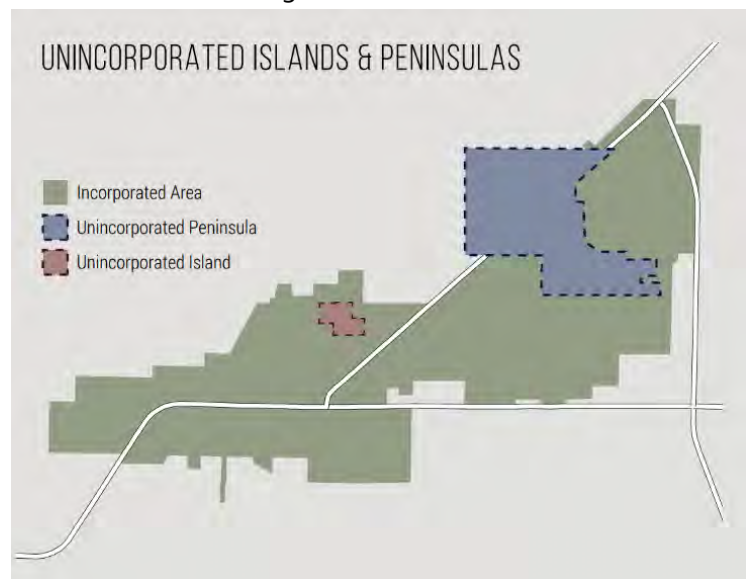
Development in annexed areas shall comply with all City standards and regulations. This includes Moroni City Code, any applicable construction and design standards, standards for public utilities, and other uniform codes adopted by the City (such as the international building code and international fire code), as amended.

### STATE CODE

Any annexation petition must comply with the requirements of Utah Code, including U.C.A. §§ 10-2-402 and 403.

### CONTIGUITY

According to Utah Code 10-2-401 and 10-1-104(2), all annexation areas must be 'contiguous,' meaning continuous and uninterrupted with existing city boundaries at the time of submission of an annexation petition. Areas to be annexed shall not be located within the corporate limits of another incorporated city or be a part of a previously filed annexation petition that has not been denied, accepted or approved. The proposed annexation area shall not leave or create an unincorporated island or peninsula, unless it meets one of the exceptions of U.C.A §§ 10-2-402(1)(b)(iii). The unincorporated area to be annexed must itself be a contiguous area. If an area is dispersed, it shall require an independent annexation process per contiguous area.



## SENSITIVE LANDS

It is the policy of Moroni to avoid development of sensitive lands, such as wetlands, hillsides, critical environmental habitat areas, expansive soils, or any other environmental conditions that could compromise the integrity of city infrastructure. Any development on sensitive lands must include mitigation efforts in compliance with:

- Moroni City Code,
- This Annexation Policy Plan,
- Applicable federal regulations, and
- Utah State regulations

Mitigation plans must be approved as part of the annexation process and detailed in annexation agreements.

## MOTIVES FOR ANNEXATION

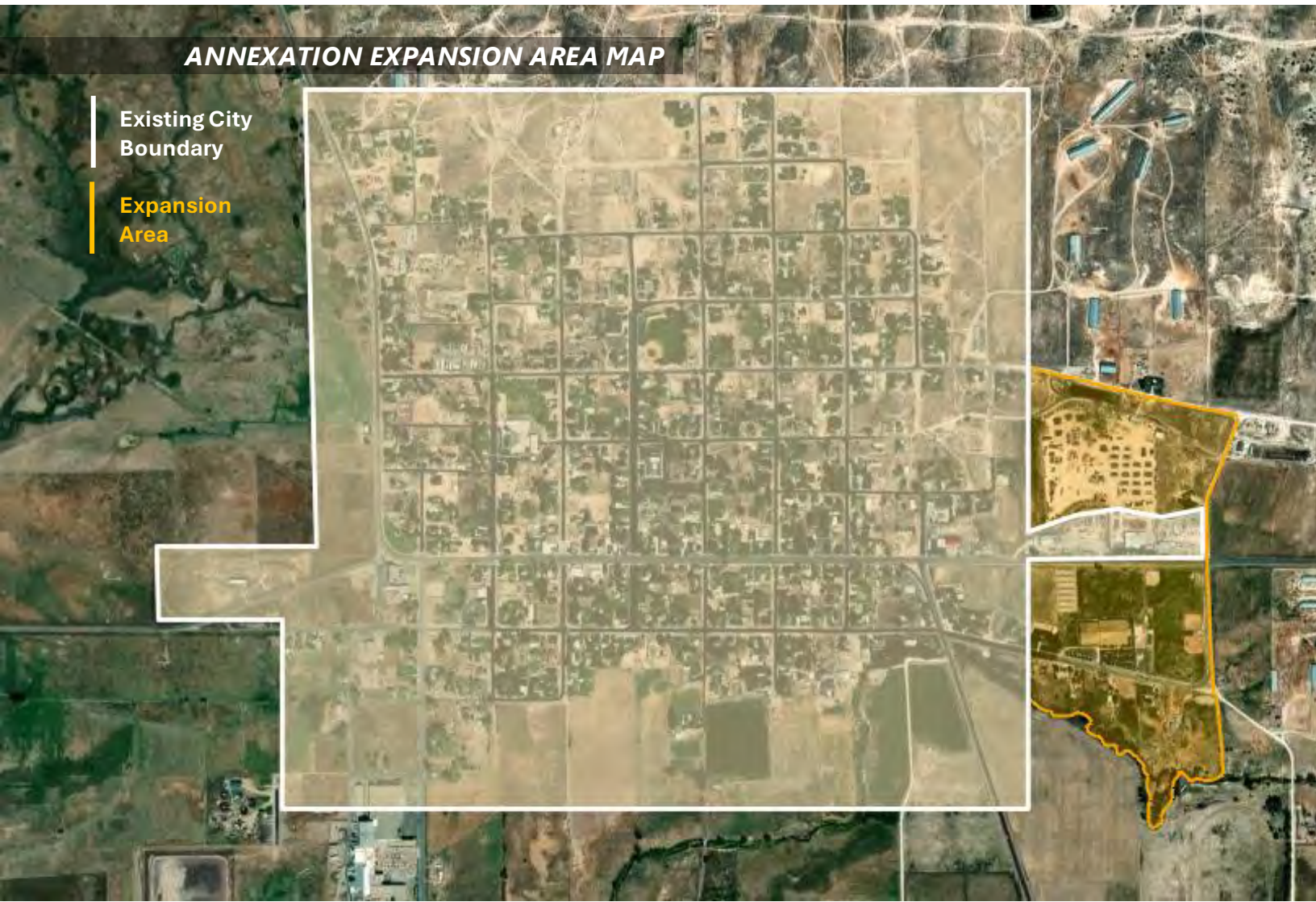
Moroni will not annex property solely for the purpose of acquiring revenue or impeding another municipality's ability to annex the same property. Rather, the City may, as requested by the owners of those properties, annex said properties provided there is the ability to provide adequate public services, if necessary; and the annexation is deemed beneficial to the City. Annexation will be guided by:

- The ability to provide adequate public services, as outlined in UCA § 10-2-401.5(3)(b)(ii).
- Potential benefits to the community, including support for infrastructure expansion, housing diversity, and economic development.
- Alignment with Moroni's General Plan and its goals for orderly, sustainable growth.

**ANNEXATION EXPANSION AREA MAP**

Existing City Boundary

Expansion Area



**PLAN CONTENTS**

The Expansion Area Map delineates the boundaries of Moroni’s future annexation areas, ensuring compliance with UCA § 10-2-401.5(3)(a). This map closely follows existing city limits and illustrates the few areas expansion aligns with the city’s goals for orderly growth, service efficiency, and sustainable land use where city services are extended past current city boundaries. The map is not a guarantee of annexation approval but identifies areas that meet the city’s criteria for consideration. The map reflects the following principles:

**AN APPROVED ANNEXATION POLICY PLAN EXPANSION AREA MAP**

The Expansion Area Map shown above outlines the existing city boundaries in white and the extent of potential future annexation areas the City may consider in orange. While the anticipated land uses are shown in the General Plan, this map shows the extent of potential annexation expansion. Moroni will coordinate its annexation boundaries with Sanpete County and nearby municipalities to foster cooperative planning. This alignment will consider infrastructure sharing, shared municipal services, tax implications, and jurisdictional efficiency, to support objectives that benefit the broader region.

## SPECIFIC CRITERIA THAT WILL GUIDE THE MUNICIPALITY'S DECISION WHETHER TO GRANT FUTURE ANNEXATION PETITIONS (MAP CONSIDERATIONS)

### 1. Character of the community:

Residents overwhelmingly support maintaining the small-town feel of the community and suggest this is why they chose to make Moroni home. Annexation proposals will be evaluated based on their ability to support Moroni's quality of life characterized by small-town charm, scenic mountain vistas, quiet streets, and close-knit communities.

### 2. Need for municipal services in developed and undeveloped incorporated areas:

Given recent investments in water infrastructure, Moroni will only consider annexation proposals that do not overburden existing service capacities. The city's primary focus is on infill development to make the most of current resources before expanding boundaries. Any annexation proposal must include a clear plan for extending services sustainably. In addition, expansion areas must be within reach of Moroni's existing infrastructure capacities. Water, sewer, and contracted services (such as police and garbage collection) should be able to extend without compromising service quality for current residents.

### 3. The Municipality's plans for extension of municipal services:

Due to the City's recent \$4 million investment in water infrastructure there are not currently plans to extend municipal services. The City intends to focus on improving services within the existing municipal footprint before extension of services.

### 4. Estimate of the tax consequences to residents both currently within the municipal boundaries and in the expansion area:

Annexation areas must offer clear economic benefits, such as increased property or sales tax revenues, that justify the associated service and infrastructure costs.

### 5. The interest of Affected Entities:

The city will consult with all affected entities, including:

- a. Water
- b. Sewer
- c. Secondary water
- d. Contracted Services (Garbage, Law Enforcement)
- e. County Health Department
- f. Utility Providers (Gas, Power, Internet)

At this time there are no additional Special Service Districts or Agencies to coordinate land use, infrastructure, and service provision. Annexation decisions will account for regional growth objectives and maintain positive interlocal relationships, fostering a cooperative approach to boundary management.

## PROXIMITY TO EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Proposed expansion areas must align with Utah Code § 10-2-401.5(3)(b)(iii), which requires that the municipality's "plans for extension of municipal services" be feasible and cost-effective. Areas included in the expansion area map are near existing infrastructure, including water, sewer, and roads, to support efficient service extensions and reduce financial burdens on existing residents by utilizing current service networks.

## COMPATIBILITY WITH MORONI'S LAND USE AND ZONING GOALS

Expansion areas align with Moroni's General Plan, emphasizing efficient land use that preserves open spaces and agricultural lands. Priority is given to infill development and redeveloping underutilized parcels within city limits before considering outward expansion. This strategy supports Moroni's character by limiting sprawl and focusing growth within walkable, community-oriented neighborhoods.

## MINIMIZATION OF IMPACT ON SENSITIVE LANDS

Moroni's annexation criteria exclude areas with significant environmental sensitivities, including flood-prone zones and steep slopes, to minimize development risks and conserve natural resources. Exceptionally, such areas may be included if their annexation benefits the city and mitigation measures are implemented to protect environmental assets.

## JUSTIFICATION FOR EXCLUDING FROM THE EXPANSION AREA ANY AREA CONTAINING URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITHIN ½ MILE OF THE MUNICIPALITY'S BOUNDARY

Under Utah Code 10-2-401 (1)(m) Urban Development is defined as:

1. a housing development with more than 15 residential units and an average density greater than one residential unit per acre; or
2. a commercial or industrial development for which cost projections exceed \$750,000 for all phases.

A review of the built environment within ½ mile of Moroni's current municipal boundary found no developments meeting this definition of urban development. Residential areas within this distance are characterized by low-density housing, generally consisting of fewer than 15 units and with densities less than one unit per acre. Commercial or industrial activities are minimal and do not involve projects exceeding the \$750,000 threshold.

Based on this analysis, no areas within ½ mile of Moroni qualify as urban development under state law, justifying their exclusion from the city's annexation expansion area.

## STATEMENT ADDRESSING ANY COMMENTS MADE BY AFFECTED ENTITIES AT OR WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting regarding this Annexation Policy Plan was held on March 4, 2024, during the regularly scheduled Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. In accordance with Utah Code § 10-2-401.5(2)(a)(iv), the city accepted and considered comments from affected entities for 10 days following the public meeting, through March 14, 2024.

During this period, no oral or written comments were received. As a result, no modifications to the plan were necessary, other than the inclusion of this section acknowledging the comment period.

## OTHER PLAN CONTENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

The following were considered by the Planning Commission and City Council in the creation of this plan, as required by U.C.A. §§ 10-2-401.5(4):

1. Attempt to avoid gaps between or overlaps with the expansion areas of other municipalities
  - a. Moroni's proposed expansion area is closely tied to the existing city boundary and as such does not overlap with any neighboring municipalities. The city's boundaries are surrounded by unincorporated Sanpete County land. Through the process of creating this Annexation Policy Plan, neighboring municipalities'

expansion area maps were reviewed to ensure that the minimal Moroni expansion area does not conflict with other existing or planned municipal annexation areas.

- b. Should any potential overlap arise in the future, Moroni will adhere to Utah Code which prohibits annexation into another municipality's expansion area without mutual agreement. Coordination with Sanpete County and adjacent jurisdictions, such as Fountain Green, Wales, and Mount Pleasant, will ensure that all expansion areas align with regional planning goals and avoid service inefficiencies.
2. Population growth projections for the municipality and adjoining areas for the next 20 years
  - a. Moroni and the surrounding areas in Sanpete County are projected to experience modest but steady population growth over the next two decades. According to data provided by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, Sanpete County is expected to grow at an annual rate of approximately 1.5%, reflecting regional trends in rural areas that are increasingly attractive for residential development.
  - b. Moroni's population as of the 2020 Census was 1,544, representing a 7.8% increase from 2010. If growth follows the projected county trend, Moroni's population could exceed 1,850 residents by 2040. This growth could represent significant development pressure on the city's infrastructure and services that have already received major costly upgrades.
  - c. The General Plan identifies infill development and efficient land use within existing boundaries as primary strategies for accommodating this growth while minimizing demands for new infrastructure and services.
3. Current and projected costs of infrastructure, urban services, and public facilities necessary:
  - a. *to facilitate full development of the area within the municipality,*
    - i. Moroni's current municipal boundaries are compact and primarily low-density. Recent investments, including the \$4 million upgrade to the city's water infrastructure, demonstrate Moroni's commitment to maintaining high-quality services for its residents.
    - ii. Sewer and water systems are nearing their operational limits, and any significant increase in population or development will require strategic planning to prevent overburdening current systems. The city is exploring targeted upgrades to improve system resilience, but no plans for large-scale infrastructure expansions have been established.
    - iii. Public facilities, including parks and recreation spaces, are currently sufficient for the city's size, but population growth may necessitate additional investments to maintain community standards.
  - b. *to expand the infrastructure, services, and facilities into the area being considered for inclusion in the expansion area,*
    - i. Impact fees assessed on developers will fund improvements, promoting fiscal responsibility.
    - ii. WATER: Water Capacity limits have been met within existing city boundaries. Additional Water capacity will be needed to serve annexed areas not currently included in the expansion area map and are thus not included in the expansion area map. In the future should expansion area map boundaries be extended, parties wishing to annex will be responsible for connecting to existing systems and funding necessary upgrades.
    - iii. SEWER: Some potential annexation areas may require individual septic systems if sewer lines are not feasible.
    - iv. ROADS: Current expansion area map only includes areas currently served by roads connecting to the existing grid system. In the future should expansion area map boundaries be extended, parties wishing to annex must ensure road networks in new areas connect seamlessly with Moroni's existing grid system.

- v. **PUBLIC SAFETY:** areas included in the expansion area map are currently served by Sanpete County. Moroni City Council will consider impacts on public safety when assessing a request for annexation.
  - vi. **IRRIGATION/ SECONDARY WATER:** Applicants seeking annexation will be responsible for addressing irrigation and secondary water needs in the proposed annexation area. This includes providing sufficient water shares, ensuring access to existing irrigation systems, and funding necessary infrastructure improvements or extensions. Development in annexed areas must comply with Moroni's requirements for secondary water systems to promote efficient water use and reduce reliance on culinary water for irrigation purposes.
4. In conjunction with the Moroni General Plan, the need over the next 20 years for additional land suitable for residential, commercial, and industrial development.
- a. **Residential Development Needs:** The General Plan identifies that Moroni is anticipated to grow steadily in population, primarily through natural increases rather than in-migration. Residential growth will focus on maintaining the city's small-town charm while meeting the increasing demand for housing. Areas within the current municipal boundaries are prioritized for infill development, particularly in vacant residential areas.
  - b. **Commercial Development Needs:** Commercial development can be beneficial to Moroni by meeting local demand and creating opportunities for economic diversification. In the near or foreseeable future, development of commercial should focus on infill to maintain the rural character of the city and preserve open spaces. The General Plan emphasizes limited opportunities for commercial growth along existing transportation corridors. Planning for the distant future, the annexation expansion area map may be amended to accommodate commercial development that is beneficial to the residents and compatible with zoning requirements and the General Plan.
  - c. **Industrial Development Needs:** The General Plan emphasizes the importance of prioritizing infill development within existing manufacturing zones in the east and southwest areas of the city. These areas are identified as critical for supporting industrial activities, such as light manufacturing and agricultural processing, while preserving compatibility with surrounding residential, agricultural, and commercial uses. The annexation expansion area map has been designed to focus on utilizing and enhancing existing industrial areas. Future amendments to the Annexation Expansion Area map for industrial purposes will only be considered if it aligns with the General Plan and demonstrates clear benefits to the community. In no case shall the city be required to annex or service industrial areas outside the defined expansion boundaries.
5. The reasons for including agricultural lands, forests, recreational areas, and wildlife management areas in the municipality
- a. Agricultural lands are mostly excluded in the expansion area map. The majority of Moroni's surrounding area consists of actively cultivated farmland, which plays a vital role in the local economy and community identity. The city places a high value on its agricultural heritage and the preservation of open spaces that define its rural character. The General Plan emphasizes the importance of preserving these lands where possible; however, it recognizes that agricultural uses may change over time due to economic pressures or the needs of property owners. The minimal inclusion of agricultural lands in the expansion area map accounts for portions of parcels that already have existing development, ensuring that properties remain intact and are not divided by annexation boundaries.
  - b. Recreational lands are not fully included in the expansion area map. Moroni recognizes the importance of maintaining access to recreational opportunities for residents, however, the expansion area does not include all lands that could be suitable for parks, walking trails, and open spaces due to concerns of funding and maintaining these spaces. Development of recreational areas within existing boundaries and maintaining partnerships for recreational facilities outside of the area shall be prioritized as to align with the General Plan's goals to expand community resources and increase recreational access for both current and future residents.

- c. No forests, sensitive lands, or wildlife management areas were included in the expansion area map. Certain lands surrounding the city include environmentally sensitive lands, such as riparian zones, wetlands, and open spaces that serve as wildlife corridors. Development in these areas will require compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, including coordination with agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers for wetlands mitigation and protection. To ensure responsible growth protecting these habitats this area has been excluded from the annexation expansion area.
6. All consideration shall be guided by the principles set forth in U.C.A. §§ 10-2-403(5) stating if practicable and feasible, the boundaries of an area proposed for annexation shall be drawn:
    - a. along the boundaries of existing special districts and special service districts for sewer, water, and other services, along the boundaries of school districts whose boundaries follow city boundaries or school districts adjacent to school districts whose boundaries follow city boundaries, and along the boundaries of other taxing entities;
      - i. The proposed annexation areas deviates little from existing city boundaries and is aligned with the boundaries of existing service districts and taxing entities or natural features wherever practicable. Moroni is served by the North Sanpete School District and several special service districts for utilities and public safety. No conflicts with existing service districts are anticipated in the proposed expansion areas. Coordination with these entities will ensure smooth transitions and efficient service delivery.
    - b. to eliminate islands and peninsulas of territory that is not receiving municipal-type services;
      - i. The annexation plan avoids creating unincorporated islands or peninsulas of territory that are not receiving municipal-type services. Proposed boundaries are contiguous and logical, promoting cohesive growth patterns that prevent fragmented jurisdictions and service inefficiencies. Currently such peninsulas do not exist.
    - c. to facilitate the consolidation of overlapping functions of local government;
      - i. Moroni City is not aware of any overlapping functions of local government in the annexation expansion area.
    - d. to promote the efficient delivery of services; and
      - i. Moroni's compact municipal boundaries and planned expansion areas allow for cost-effective delivery of water, sewer, road maintenance, and public safety services. The city's strategy prioritizes infill with future changes to the expansion area map to be areas where infrastructure can be efficiently extended, ensuring new developments are supported without overburdening existing resources.
    - e. to encourage the equitable distribution of community resources and obligations
      - i. The intention of the annexation expansion area is to incorporate properties who already align with Moroni land use vision and current service capacities. The City believes it has responsibly identified these portions of the community to ensures that residents and property owners within the expansion areas share equitably in the costs and benefits of community resources.



## **ANNEXATION IMPLEMENTATION, PROCESS, REQUIREMENTS, AND REVIEW**

The annexation process follows a structured sequence of steps to ensure compliance with state regulations and city policies. The general process includes submitting a notice of intent, filing the petition, certifying the petition, adopting a resolution of intent to annex, holding a public hearing to approve the annexation, filing with the lieutenant governor, and recording the annexation with the county. This process and accompanying requirements are subject to change. The City will need to follow legislative updates to ensure they follow the most recent Annexation requirements and applicants must adhere to current state laws and local requirements.

To streamline the process, applicants are encouraged to contact Moroni City for information and resources of applicable standards.



## **ANNEXATION IMPACTS AND LAND USE COMPATIBILITY**

### **ZONING**

If no alternative zoning designation is requested, annexed properties will default to the zoning classification outlined in the General Plan and Municipal Code.

The Planning Commission is responsible for recommending zoning designations for parcels proposed for annexation. Annexation petitions seeking specific zoning designations will be treated as zone change requests. A public hearing will be scheduled, with notice provided in compliance with Moroni Municipal Code and Utah Code 10-9a-502 and 10-9a-503. Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission will forward its recommendation on the proposed zoning to the City Council.

The City Council will evaluate the proposed zoning designation in conjunction with the General Plan and Future Land Use Map to ensure compatibility with adjacent uses and city development goals. Approval or denial of the zoning request will occur prior to the adoption of the ordinance granting annexation.

The approved zoning designation will be included in the ordinance granting annexation and will take effect upon the annexation's official approval by the lieutenant governor.

### **ADDITIONAL IMPACT INFORMATION AND STUDIES**

Petitioners may be required to provide additional documentation to assess the potential impact of annexation. The need for such studies will be determined during the petition review process and may include:

1. Environmental Impact Assessments: To evaluate potential effects on flood-prone areas, wetlands, or other sensitive lands.

2. Traffic Studies: To determine the impact of new developments on existing transportation infrastructure.
3. Infrastructure Evaluations: To assess the capacity of existing water, sewer, and utility systems to support new developments.
4. Fiscal Analysis: To evaluate the financial sustainability of the proposed annexation, including its effects on Moroni's tax base and service delivery costs.

## **ANNEXATION AGREEMENTS AND CONDITIONS**

Petitioners may enter into legally binding annexation agreements with Moroni to ensure compliance with city standards for zoning, infrastructure, environmental protection, and development density. These agreements often include terms for infrastructure improvements, preservation of open spaces, and adherence to sustainable growth objectives, providing enforceable clarity for all parties involved. These agreements are legally binding and enforceable by Moroni to ensure adherence to city goals and sustainable growth standards.



## **ANNEXATION POLICY PLAN FUTURE UPDATES**

As Moroni's needs evolve, this annexation policy plan and expansion area map can be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect current goals and community values. Updates may be in response to requests by property owners for annexation, strategic goals identified by the city, changes in infrastructure capacity or service considerations, or economic development opportunities aligned with Moroni's vision. Amendments can be initiated by authorized bodies such as the City Council and planning commission or by property owners or interested development parties.

### **UPDATES TO THE POLICY PLAN AND EXPANSION AREA MAP**

Amendments to the annexation policy plan and expansion area map will be conducted in conjunction with changing city conditions or throughout a periodic time frame similar to the General Plan. Amendment begins with the planning commission preparing proposed updates, including any necessary changes to expansion boundaries. A public meeting must be held to allow stakeholders and affected entities to review and provide input on the proposed amendments. Notice for this meeting must be compliant with current state standards.

Following the initial meeting, the planning commission will hold a public hearing, with applicable notice, to finalize recommendations for the municipal legislative body. After considering all input, the planning commission submits the updated annexation policy plan and map to the legislative body for approval.

The municipal legislative body will conduct its own public hearing with proper notice before adopting the amendments, with or without modifications, ensuring alignment with the city's General Plan and zoning goals. After adoption, the updated plan must be submitted to each affected county within the required time frame currently defined as 30 days, per Utah Code § 10-2-401.5(5).

Amendments must follow the previously stated guiding criteria of this document, including avoiding overlaps with other municipalities' expansion areas, addressing projected population growth for 20 years, and evaluating the inclusion of

agricultural, recreational, and environmentally sensitive lands. Regular reviews ensure the plan remains relevant and aligned with city growth objectives.

Amendments to the expansion area map must follow state process to ensure that any adjustments align with Moroni's long-term goals and community vision. This process requires a detailed analysis to be conducted to evaluate the proposed change, considering: Infrastructure capacity and fiscal impacts, compatibility with the city's general plan and annexation policy, justification for including or excluding areas, particularly urban development areas within a half-mile of the city boundary.