

FOX POINT

files



by Douglas H. Frazer

The Shape of Things: Fox Point Boundaries

Part Two

On February 3, 1953, Bayside area residents voted to incorporate the Village of Bayside. This left the Town of Milwaukee (Town), reduced to 3.5 square miles in the territory within several miles of the intersection of Port Washington and Brown Deer Road, with few remaining residents. Clearly the Town was too small to carry on as an independent unit of government.

On May 28, 1953, officials from Fox Point, River Hills, Bayside, and Glendale met informally to discuss the matter. Area residents were circulating several annexation petitions, and given common concerns over fresh water, garbage disposal, sewers, storm water drainage, zoning, and the periodic flooding of Indian Creek, the officials hoped a unified approach—involving agreed-upon municipal planning principles—would be the best way forward.

Annexation, as we learned in Part One, is the process of transferring unincorporated territory situated in towns to incorporated cities and villages. A successful annexation petition often required a gerrymandered territory—for the law mandated written consent of over one-half of (a) the to-be-annexed area's resident voters and (b) the property owners (measured by area or assessed value).

By the May 28, 1953 meeting, the race was on.

On August 19, 1953, members of the planning commissions of the four municipalities—and Town officials—held a follow-up meeting to consider a map dividing up what remained of the Town. A third meeting took place on October 14, 1953.

Property owners scrambled to determine which petition and municipality to join. Considerations included taxes, services, school district boundaries, and general quality of life.



Town of Milwaukee Town Hall

Glendale acted first. It annexed property on the west side of Port Washington Road from Mall Road to Bradley Road, creating the "Glendale thumb." Then, as now, the thumb comprised a mile-long, thin strip of territory between Fox Point and River Hills.

Property owners who wanted to join Fox Point, represented by Attorney Richard Cutler, put together tracts and posted annexation petitions to the Village.

The Kick petition, filed April 29, 1953, included a tract bounded by the Fox Point limits on the east, the lot lines just north of East Mall Road on the south, North Port Washington on the west, and a line about 600 feet north of West Calumet Road on the north.

The Heiser petition, filed November 3, 1953, included much of the territory described in the Kick petition, and more. It covered a roughly 165-acre tract bounded by the south bank of Indian Creek westerly to the east side of Port Washington Road, south to include Bradley Road, east to a point 180 feet east of Port Washington Road, south to an intersection with a dry creek just south of Bayfield Road, then diagonally southeast along the creek to near Hemlock Road. (Hemlock no longer exists in the Village.) The village board approved the annexation ordinance for this tract on December 8, 1953.

The Kaiser petition, filed November 17, 1953, included more than 100 acres from the village's western boundary just north of Dean Road along the railroad tracks north to a line 240 feet south of Brown Deer Road, west to just west of Regent Road and south to Indian Creek. The village board approved the annexation ordinance for this tract on December 22, 1953.

The Ring petition, filed January 26, 1954, included about 130 acres that would bring the north-south village boundaries between Brown



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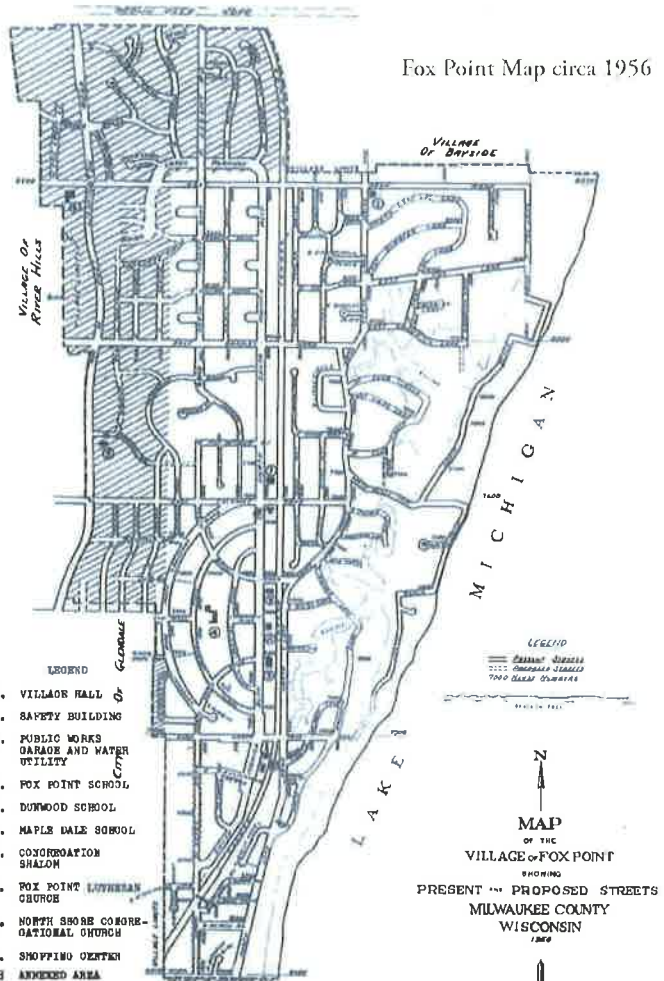
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Deer and Bradley Roads west to meet with the River Hills boundary. The village board approved the annexation ordinance for this tract on March 10, 1954.

All that was left was a 31-acre tract the extended from West Dean Road and North Port Washington Road south to approximately West Calumet Road and North Port Washington Road, and a smaller track—originally included in the Kick petition—to the south of the dry creek that began just south of Bayfield Road and running to the lot lines just north of Mall Road. The village annexed these two tracts in early 1955—although the jurisdictional transfer of the larger tract was delayed by property owner James Donahue’s court challenge. (It failed.)

On June 2, 1955, the *Milwaukee Journal* reported that Town officials had signed a resolution that the unit of local government had ceased to exist because of the recent annexations. The Town board turned over its books and records to the City of Glendale along with the key to the Town Hall built in 1872, still in use, at 528 W. Bender Road. Fox Point received \$27,126.93 of the Town’s assets.

In 1963 the Glendale Woman’s Club spearheaded the effort to move the Town Hall behind the Glendale City Hall—where it can be visited today.

And that’s how Fox Point got its shape.

- LEGEND
1. VILLAGE HALL Or SAFETY BUILDING
 2. PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE AND WATER UTILITY
 3. FOX POINT SCHOOL
 4. DUNWOOD SCHOOL
 5. MAPLE DALE SCHOOL
 6. COOPERATION SHALOM
 7. FOX POINT LUTHERAN CHURCH
 8. NORTH SHORE COBOR-GATIONAL CHURCH
 9. SHOPPING CENTER
 10. ANNEXED AREA

Douglas H. Frazer is a Fox Point resident and neighborhood contributor as well as the village president. The views expressed are his own and not necessarily those of the Village, the village board, other village board members, or Best Version Media, LLC.

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