

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Who can I call regarding any questions about right of way?**

Please contact the City of Auburn's Land Acquisition Specialist, Riley Brice, at 334-501-3000.

### **How can I have my property pins located?**

A licensed surveyor can find pins by performing a boundary survey.

### **Who can I contact regarding projects that may affect my property or the right of way along my property?**

You may contact the Public Works Department at 334.501.3000 or visit [www.auburnalabama.org/pw/](http://www.auburnalabama.org/pw/).

### **Where should I go to get my irrigation permit?**

Permits can be obtained from the Codes Enforcement Division of the Public Safety Department located at 171 North Ross Street Suite 200. They can be reached at 334-501-3170.

## Frequently Asked Questions Continued

### **Who should I contact about obtaining a Hold Harmless Agreement?**

Please contact the City of Auburn's Land Acquisition Specialist, Riley Brice, at 334-501-3000.

## Special Note Regarding Irrigation Meters

The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn will not install any irrigation meters until a permit has been obtained.



City of Auburn

Public Works



## IRRIGATION POLICY

January 1, 2013

171 North Ross Street Suite 200  
Auburn, AL 36830  
334.501.3000

## General Information

**Purpose** – The purpose of this policy is to protect the use of public rights of way for their intended purposes and to repair and replace utilities located in public right of way at the lowest cost to the City of Auburn.

**Right of Way** – The public right of way is used for providing water service lines, sanitary sewer lines, storm water runoff, sidewalks, street widening, electric utilities, gas utilities, phone lines, cable television lines and other items as needed for public use (*State of Alabama Code Section 11-47-171*).

**How to Locate the Right of Way** – Along most streets, the right of way extends beyond the back of the curb for several feet. The best way to know where the right of way begins and ends is to locate the property pins for the lot. Anything on the street side of the property pins is within public right of way. If the property pins are not easily located, look for the water meter and utility poles which are generally placed at the edge of the right of way.

**Maintaining the Right of Way** – The City has a responsibility to maintain City services that are within the right of way. The City must make repairs to services located in the right of way when needed and may remove any item that is placed within the right of way. Public sector utilities such as Alabama Power and authorized private sector companies such as AT&T, Charter Communications, and Knology, are permitted to work within the right of way to maintain their services.

**Commons Issues** – Homeowners often place flowers, trees, shrubs, and irrigation systems within the right of way or next to public right of way. This practice hinders the City's ability to maintain, repair, and expand the City's infrastructure. The removal of these obstructions also increases the cost for the City when maintenance, repairs, and expansions are needed. Due to these issues, this policy was created.



*Example of irrigation system in the right of way*

## Policy

- ◆ To reduce the costs to City projects, the City shall not restore nor pay any restoration or replacement costs for any encroachment on public right of way, except as outlined below.
- ◆ Any work within existing street right of way will require an encroachment agreement and/or hold harmless agreement.
- ◆ All trees planted within right of way, 10 feet from any paved surface, will include City approved root barriers.
- ◆ It is understood that irrigation systems placed on City of Auburn right of way are placed there at the risk of the property owner and may be removed with notice to the owners without compensation or replacement.

**In the case where the City allows irrigation within the City of Auburn right of way, the following shall apply:**

- ◆ A permit is required to be obtained from the Codes Enforcement Division of the Public Safety Department. The permit fee will be the evaluation fee plus the contractor's quarterly tax. Standard re-inspection fees apply.
- ◆ No major irrigation equipment, such as backflow, controller, remote control valves or mainlines shall be located within the right of way. Lateral line, emitter and distribution tubing may be located within the right of way, but should be as close to the property line as possible.
- ◆ Heads and pipe type shall be of a common type such that replacement is easily accommodated.
- ◆ A hold harmless/indemnity agreement, and certification shall be executed that if the City needs the right of way to expand infrastructure, the irrigation system and appurtenances will be removed as part of the construction. The homeowner understands that the City or its assigns has the right to remove the obstruction to accommodate the infrastructure expansion.
- ◆ The City will not replace irrigation or landscaping that had been placed on the right of way without prior approval by the Public Works Department.