

City of Auburn

Irrigation Policy

Effective January 1, 2013

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.

Background: The City of Auburn allows encroachments upon public right of way provided that such uses have been permitted and do not diminish the City's rights to use the public right of way for maintenance, repair, or expansion of infrastructure. Often private property owners install, construct, or cause to be constructed irrigation systems and landscaping within the right of way that can be affected by expanding the infrastructure. All of these actions have increased the costs to the City when performing maintenance, repair, or expansion of the infrastructure.

Policy:

1. 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 in below.
2. Any work within existing street right of way will require an encroachment agreement and/or hold harmless agreement.
3. All trees planted within right of way, 10 feet from any paved surface, will include City approved root barriers.
4. 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:

1. A permit is required to be obtained from the Codes Enforcement Division of the Public Safety Department.
2. The system should be installed per the standard details outlined in the Public Works Design and Construction Manual.
3. 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.

4. Heads and pipe type shall be of a common type such that replacement is easily accommodated.
5. A hold harmless/indemnity agreement, and certification 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.

Contact the Public Works Department at (334) 501-3000 or www.auburnalabama.org for questions concerning this policy.