

**NCAC § 143-355.4: Water System Efficiency** states all new in-ground irrigation systems require a separate irrigation meter, it doesn't limit to only residential or only non-residential.

**Definition: In-Ground** - Below ground or below finished grade; including but not limited to below concrete, sod, mulch, or sand. An in-ground piping system is any in-ground (piping, tubing, hose(s), or appurtenance), thereby making the in-ground piping not readily accessible.

**Definition: Irrigation System** - All piping, tubing, hose(s), or appurtenance, sprinklers, drip tubing, and/or control wiring of 30 volts or less, and all other associated components installed for the delivery and application of water for the purpose of irrigation.

## IRRIGATION SYSTEM



# Irrigation Service Process Guide



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Why might I need an irrigation system?

- In 2009, state drought legislation required **all new in-ground irrigation systems** to have a separate water meter installed. If your property **was platted after June 30, 2009**, per [House Bill 2499](#) (GS § 143-355.4), a separate irrigation meter is required. If your property **was platted on or before June 30, 2009**, you are not required to have a separate irrigation meter. One of the reasons for the legislation is to determine how much drinking water is being used for non-potable reasons.
- The charges for irrigation accounts are [set at a higher rate \(tier 5\)](#) but there are no sewer service or consumption charges applied.

### 2. Should I have the City or private contractor install a separate irrigation service?

If your property is on a street maintained by the City or North Carolina Department of Transportation, then the City can complete the irrigation service installation. If you live on a privately maintained street you must hire a private contractor to install.

*If you need assistance finding what type of installation service is required please call [Engineering Services Staff](#) at (919) 560-4326.*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 3. If the City and/or a licensed contractor install the irrigation service, do I still need a backflow and plumbing permit?

Yes. When a new installation, replacement, relocation, or removal of a backflow is performed, a backflow permit is required. If a new installation or a replacement is performed a plumbing permit is also required.

### 4. When do I need a Right-of-Way (ROW) Permit?

Any work done by a contractor requires a Right-of-Way (ROW) permit.

### 5. If I have an existing lawn irrigation/sprinkler system do I need a backflow preventer?

Yes, City of Durham Code of Ordinance requires a Reduced Pressure (RP) type backflow.

### 6. What are the ongoing maintenance requirements for an irrigation service?

After an approved backflow prevention (BFP) assembly has been installed and tested, it must be re-tested annually.

## PERMIT CHECKLIST

What are all the possible permits I might need to complete to receive an irrigation service?

#### ✓ Right-of-Way Permit

- Name: [Construction in The ROW](#)
- Department: Public Works (DSC)
- Cost: See Fee Schedule
- Submit: Email to [PWpermit@durhamnc.gov](mailto:PWpermit@durhamnc.gov)

#### ✓ Engineering Inspection Request Form

- Name: [Engineering Inspection Request Form](#)
- Department: Public Works Engineering
- Why do I need this? All work performed in the public Right-Of-Way requires an inspection
- Request by completing the [Engineering Inspection Request Form](#).

#### ✓ Plumbing Permit

- Name: [Plumbing Application Form](#)
- Department: City-County Inspections
- Cost: See Fee Schedule
- Submit: [City LDO Website](#)

#### ✓ Backflow Preventer Permit

- Name: Backflow Preventer Permit
- Department: Water Management
- Cost: See Fee Schedule
- Submit: [City LDO Website](#)

#### ✓ Irrigation Meter Permit

- Name: Connection to City Utility Application
- Department: Public Works Engineering
- Cost: See Fee Schedule
- Submit: Must contact Public Works Engineering Services

