

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City of Auburn, home to Auburn University, offers many benefits and amenities of a larger city while staying true to its identity as “The Loveliest Village.”



Auburn offers a variety of locations and types of commercial development, including a traditional downtown, neighborhood commercial nodes, commercial corridors and regional commercial centers. It is the largest city in the MSA and serves as the commercial hub of the region.

Downtown Auburn has continued its significant growth in recent years, attracting local, regional and national retailers, award-winning restaurants, and new office space. Several mixed-use student housing developments have been constructed downtown in recent years, increasing foot traffic in downtown and surrounding areas. Notable downtown projects completed in 2022 include a Publix grocery store, Auburn Bank headquarters, and Auburn University’s Tony & Libba Rane Culinary Science Center. New projects under construction include an urban format Target, Graduate Hotel, and AC Hotel. [*Learn more about recent downtown projects.*](#)

Outside of downtown, commercial corridors and neighborhood nodes have seen continued development and investment. These nodes serve Auburn’s neighborhoods, students, and travelers on Interstate 85. Shopping centers anchored by grocery stores Publix, Kroger and Walmart Neighborhood Market have opened or seen reinvestment within the last five years. Auburn recently welcomed Home Goods on the Opelika Road corridor as well as Buc-ee’s travel center to I-85 Exit 50 in 2023.



Auburn has made it a priority to promote and facilitate the reinvestment and development of commercial properties throughout the city by partnering with commercial businesses and developers. These include the abatement of sales and use tax through the [*Commercial Development Incentive Program*](#) available for new commercial projects, redevelopment of existing commercial space to recruit new business, and the revitalization of existing retail space that would contribute to larger City initiatives. Since its inception in 2011, this program has partnered on 41 commercial development projects accounting for over \$162,000,000 of private capital investment.

The City of Auburn maintains an [*Available Commercial Properties webpage*](#). This page serves to connect businesses with available property listings throughout the city. Contact us if you would like to list your commercial space available for sale or lease on our webpage.

Public investments have been made in infrastructure throughout Auburn to promote quality commercial development. Downtown has seen ongoing streetscape improvements, including a major overhaul of the famous Toomer’s Corner. Several phases of the Renew Opelika Road streetscape enhancements and road improvements have been implemented. In 2021 the city opened a the 350 space Wright Street Parking Deck, helping to provide over 1,300 public parking spaces throughout downtown Auburn.