



Open Line

a newsletter for you, our residents



2025 SummerNight Downtown Art Walk

Auburn Parks and Recreation's highly anticipated SummerNight Downtown Art Walk will return on Friday, June 6, from 6-10 p.m. in Downtown Auburn!

This vibrant, family-friendly festival transforms the heart of Auburn into a lively arts district, showcasing local and regional artists, live music, food vendors and interactive activities for all ages.

This year's theme celebrates the great outdoors, and culinary artists are invited to join the fun by entering the Marshmallow Mania Culinary Contest — a sweet opportunity to show off your most creative marshmallow masterpiece! Artists, businesses, volunteers and food vendors can register at auburnal.myrec.com.

More summer fun with Parks & Rec

The fun continues all month long with events for the whole family! Dive into summer at Family Splash Day on Saturday, June 14. Enjoy free admission to both Lake Wilmore and Samford Pools plus games and water activities for all ages.

Don't forget to swing by City Market every Saturday in June from 8-11 a.m. at Town Creek Park. Shop for fresh produce, baked goods, handcrafted items and more while enjoying one of Auburn's favorite community traditions.

Summer in Auburn is shaping up to be full of fun, creativity and community connection!

Help us help you: Sharing info with 911

Did you know you can submit helpful personal information to be securely stored in our computer aided dispatch (CAD) system in case of emergency?

Auburn Public Safety's CAD system allows our emergency communications team to make note of pertinent information such as:

- Residents with special needs.
- Patients with contagious diseases.
- Combative residents.
- Use of special equipment (storm shelters, the use of oxygen or hazardous materials).
- Emergency response instructions (hidden key location, door code, etc.).
- Unfriendly animals.

By having access to this information, our first responders can adjust their approach to best fit the needs of Auburn residents, ensuring that you get the help you need in an efficient and effective manner.

If you would like to voluntarily submit information to be stored in our CAD system, please email communications@auburnalabama.org and be sure to include your name, phone number and address.

Have questions? Contact Auburn Public Safety at 334-501-3110 or webpubsfty@auburnalabama.org.



Auburn ranked among top 100 Best Places to Live

Auburn was recently named one of the Top 100 Best Places to Live in the US in 2025 by Livability.com. One of three Alabama cities to make the list, Auburn was highlighted for its top-ranking school system, safety and welcoming atmosphere.

"One thing you'll quickly notice after moving to Auburn, AL, is that those who call it home are bursting with community pride," stated the report. "It's warranted as there's so much to be excited about in this eastern Alabama college town, including a nationally ranked public school system, a diverse population, an excellent arts and culture scene and the cheerful school spirit that spills over from Auburn University. With a population of 80,478, the city is known for being one of the more progressive cities in the South. Safety and the welcoming nature of residents helped land Auburn on this list of 100 best places to live in the U.S."

You can find the full report at livability.com/best-places.



Juneteenth holiday schedules

Auburn City Hall and most City facilities will be closed in observance of Juneteenth on Thursday, June 19. Police, fire and communications will remain on their regular schedules. Thursday's garbage, trash and recycling collection route will run on Friday, June 20. Keep an eye on auburnal.gov/parks for Parks and Recreation facility closures.

Board & commission vacancies

Interested in serving our community? This June, the Auburn City Council will accept applications for:

- Two vacancies on the Auburn Downtown Redevelopment Authority (June 4-23).
- Two vacancies on the Greenspace Advisory Board (June 18-July 7).

Appointments to the Auburn Downtown Redevelopment Authority will be made at the July 1 City Council Meeting, and appointments to the Greenspace Advisory Board will be made at the July 15 meeting.

Find a link to apply and more info at auburnal.gov/boards.



We have designated a few dog parks in Auburn where well-behaved pups are allowed to be off leash, including Kiesel Park, Town Creek Park and Dinius Park.

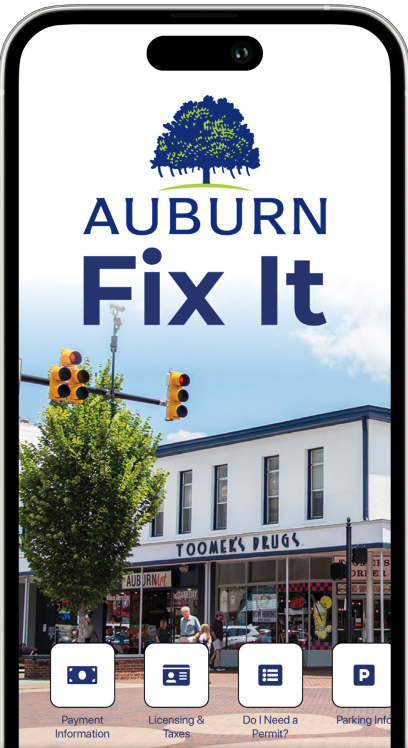
Dogs may ONLY be off leash if they are “under immediate and effective voice control” of their owners. Dogs who aren't voice trained should be kept leashed for everyone's safety.

More details can be found at auburnal.gov/environmental-services/animal-control. You can also review what the City Code says about the restraint and tethering of dogs at auburnal.gov/city-code in Sections 4-16 and 4-17.

Did you know Auburn has a leash law? City Code states that dog owners should keep their dogs “under restraint at all times” for the safety of both the dog and our community.

What does “under restraint” mean? A dog is considered under restraint when:

1. The dog is confined in a building, fenced pen or fenced yard on its owner's property or on the property of another person with their consent.
2. The dog is leashed.
3. The dog is tethered — in accordance with section 4-17 — on its owner's property or on the property of another person with the other person's permission. The dog must be tethered so that it cannot access public property or other private property.
4. The dog, though not meeting any of the conditions above, is in a peaceful attitude on the property of its owner and is wearing rabies vaccination tags.



connect with city staff through Auburn FixIt

It's been five years since we launched the Auburn FixIt app, giving Auburn residents a way to report issues and submit requests directly to the City staff members who can help.

Since then, you've submitted 7,831 requests, and more than 3,900 people have downloaded the app. Thanks for helping make Auburn a better place!

Through the app, you can do everything from reporting a missing pet to submitting a request for traffic sign or pothole repair. You can download the app on your phone by searching “Auburn FixIt” in your phone's app store, or you can create an account online at auburnal.gov/FixIt.

To submit a service request, simply:

1. Create an account.
2. Select the location of the issue.
3. Attach relevant photos, video or audio clips.
4. Add any details that we'll need to help resolve the issue.

Once the request has been submitted, you can check back at any time to check the status or make additional comments.

Find more info and download the app at auburnal.gov/FixIt.

Prevent water pollution by picking up pet waste

Leaving pet waste on the ground may seem harmless, like compost, but it has an impact on Auburn's waterways. Stormwater runoff may pick up the waste and wash it into the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). This ends up polluting our local water bodies.

Animal waste contaminates water by carrying bacteria (E. Coli), viruses and parasites that threaten the health of humans and wildlife. Animal waste also contains nutrients that can feed algae, leading to cloudy water. As the increased algae decays, it reduces the oxygen level within the water and harms aquatic life. You can help prevent this by picking up and properly disposing of pet waste. Let's protect our blueways, Auburn — don't pollute!

Here are some ways to dispose of pet waste that can help keep our waterbodies clean:

- **Carry plastic bags** when taking your pet for a walk, run or stroll in the park.

- **Pick up your pet's waste** using a plastic bag, scoop or disposable gloves. Seal the waste inside a plastic bag (or two) and throw it in the garbage. Remember to wash your hands afterward.
- **Pick up after your pet in your yard** every few days or more often if you have small children who play there.
- **Utilize pet waste stations** located at dog parks, apartment complexes or within neighborhoods.
- **Bury pet waste in your yard** at least 12 inches deep and cover with at least eight inches of soil to let it decompose slowly. Bury the waste in several different locations and keep it away from vegetable gardens.
- **Share with others** how easy and important it is to protect our waterways by picking up after our pets. Let's all do our part!

For more information on the City's Stormwater Program, please contact the City's Watershed Division at 334-501-3060 or webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org.



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JUNE 2025 upcoming events

Open Line is produced by the Office of the City Manager
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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Toon Time Mondays @ 10 a.m. Movie Matinee Mondays @ 2 p.m. Cemetery Advisory Board 4 p.m.	2 Preschool Story Time Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m. PreK in PJs Tuesdays @ 1 p.m. Summer Serendipity Tuesdays @ 2 p.m. Adults Create! Painted Glassware 5:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole TBD City Council 6 p.m.	3 Baby's 1st Story Time Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m. Untidy Tales Wednesdays @ 1 p.m. Crafternoon Wednesdays @ 2 p.m. Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.	4 Toddler Tales Thursdays @ 9:30 a.m. Lullabies for Little Ones Thursdays @ 1 p.m. Hometown Heroes Thursdays @ 2 p.m. Chess Mates Thursdays @ 4:30-6:30 p.m.	5 Puppet Shows Fridays @ 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. Tree Commission 11:30 a.m. SummerNight Downtown Art Walk 6-10 p.m. @ Downtown	6 City Market 8-11 a.m. @ Town Creek Park Family Story Time Saturdays @ 9:30 a.m. Untidy Tales Saturdays @ 10:30 a.m. Movers & Shakers Saturdays @ 1 p.m.	7 City Market 8-11 a.m. @ Town Creek Park Adults Create! Painted Glassware 2 p.m. Family Splash All Day @ Samford & Lake Wilmore Pools
8 Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon Puppetry Camp (8-12 year olds) June 9-13	9 Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.	10 Library Board 10 a.m. Greenspace Advisory Board Noon Chapter Chats Book Club 5:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole TBD City Council 6 p.m.	11 City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m. Planning Commission 5 p.m.	12	13	14 City Market 8-11 a.m. @ Town Creek Park Adults Create! Painted Glassware 2 p.m. City Market 8-11 a.m. @ Town Creek Park Adults Create! Painted Glassware 2 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 City Market 8-11 a.m. @ Town Creek Park Adults Create! Painted Glassware 2 p.m.
22	23	24 Adults Create! Painted Glassware 2 p.m.	25 City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m. Water Works Board 4 p.m.	26 Auburn Public Library auburnal.gov/library City Meetings auburnal.gov/boards Parks & Recreation auburnal.gov/parks Citywide Events auburnal.gov	27 Programs & events are subject to change. Find up-to-date information at auburnal.gov .	28 City Market 8-11 a.m. @ Town Creek Park
29	30					<i>Background Photo: Family Splash event at Samford Pool</i>

Open Line

Special Edition: **Flood Protection & Preparation Info**

In May 2014, the City of Auburn was accepted into the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). Even though everyone doesn't own or live on property in a floodplain, this program benefits the community by protecting the environment, making people safer and saving everyone money.

The City has received a Class 8 score for our CRS application, giving the citizens of Auburn a 10% discount on their flood insurance. The 10% discount is applied uniformly to all CRS eligible NFIP policies in the community regardless of flood zone. Below is some information you might find helpful about floodplains in the City of Auburn.

LOCAL FLOOD HAZARD

The City of Auburn has an annual precipitation of 52.6 inches and has a history of major rainstorm events.

Over the last 10 years, our biggest rain events occurred in December 2015, May 2017, June 2017, May 2018, December 2018, February 2020, April 2020, August 2021, December 2021, April 2022, July 2022, January 2023, June 2023, May 2024 and September 2024. During these major storm events, flooding can occur when drainage courses — such as stormwater systems and natural ditches — overflow. Local bodies of water and roadways subject to flooding include:

Local Water Bodies: Choctaw Creek, Parkerson Mill Creek, Town Creek, Moore's Mill Creek, Chewacla Creek, Lake Chewacla, Lake Ogletree, Sougahatchee Creek and Little Loblockee Creek

Roadways: Watercrest Drive Bridge, East University Drive Bridge at Summertrees Drive, Moores Mill Road Bridge at Forestdale Drive, and Windway Road Bridge

KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARD

Our staff is available to provide more information on whether a property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area. Find out if your property is in the regulated floodplain by calling Engineering Services at (334) 501-7390.

For more general information, you can view your property in relation to the regulated floodplain online using the City's interactive map at auburnal.gov/maps. Select the COA Map then turn on the "Natural Features" layer and the "Floodplain" sublayer.

The following Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information can also be provided upon request: the community number, the map panel number and suffix, the date of the FIRM's Index, the Base Flood Elevation shown on the FIRM, the elevation datum used on the FIRM and the availability of Elevation Certificates for review.

INSURE YOUR PROPERTY FOR YOUR FLOOD HAZARD

The City encourages all citizens to purchase flood insurance. Even if your property is not located in a high-risk flood area, it's a good idea to buy flood insurance because almost 25% of all flood insurance claims come from areas with minimal flood risk. Here are some important facts you should know:

- Homeowner's insurance policies DO NOT cover flood damages or losses.
- Flood insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect.
- Renters are able to buy flood insurance for the contents of their homes.

Contact your insurance agent to see if your property is covered for flood damage. Additional information on flood insurance can be found at auburnal.gov/engineering-services/flood-protection.



Water rushes through Moores Mill Creek after a heavy rainfall.

FLOOD SAFETY

Safety is a must when it comes to possible flooding in our area. The following tips can keep you and your family from harm during flooding:

- Do not walk through flowing waters.
- Do not drive through a flooded area.
- Stay away from power and electrical lines.
- Shut off all gas and water valves.
- Have a departure plan in case of emergency.

FLOOD WARNING

The City of Auburn works with the Lee County Emergency Management Agency to give citizens ample warning in cases of a flooding event. Emergency messages are broadcast through local radio and TV stations. In the event of heavy rains, it is essential to monitor TV and/or radio weather broadcasts for up-to-date forecasts on tornadoes, hurricanes or flash floods. Please call 911 for any emergencies and (334) 501-3100 for any non-emergencies.

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PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

Flooding remains the country's number one disaster and can potentially affect everyone and every property. If you own property, you can apply these permanent retrofitting techniques that can help to eliminate or reduce flood damage:

- Elevating your house one foot above the base flood elevation.
- Flood proofing your house to make the walls and flooring watertight so water cannot enter.
- If you know you are in the flood prone area, flood vent the crawl space under your home so that water can flow through.

Employees from the City of Auburn are available for site visits to review flooding and drainage issues and provide one-on-one advice to property owners on appropriate flood protection measures. We are also available to help you with reviewing and critiquing retrofit plans for flood-prone residences and buildings.

Contact our Inspection Services Department at (334) 501- 3170 or webcodes@auburnalabama.org about protecting your home or business from flooding.

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

To ensure the highest degree of safety and to protect your property from flood damage, the Inspection Services Department enforces the Building Code for the City of Auburn. Check with them before you build on, alter, grade or fill on your property. A permit is required for all construction in the City of Auburn to ensure that a project is compliant with all regulations.

Substantial Improvement Requirements

For the City of Auburn to participate in the NFIP, we adopted regulations and codes that apply to new developments in the floodplains. Local floodplain management regulations and codes contain minimum NFIP requirements that apply to new and existing structures that are “substantially improved” or “substantially damaged.”

“Substantially damaged” means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the structure before damage occurred.

“Substantially improved” means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or other improvements of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of

the market value of the structure before the “start of construction” of the improvement. This term includes structures that have incurred “substantial damage” regardless of the actual repair work performed.

The City of Auburn requires an elevation of one foot above the base flood elevation for new construction and for existing structures before they are repaired.

PROTECT NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS

Floodplain areas and wetlands provide a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. Wetlands in and around the City of Auburn are a valuable asset, flood control and water quality being the two most important aspects of our local floodplain.

One of the ways you can help prevent flooding is to make sure you don't dump pollutants or debris into our storm drains. These debris drain into our natural drainage systems and wetlands. For the natural drainage system to operate efficiently, our ditches, streams and channels must remain clean. Debris, even leaves and grass clippings, can obstruct the flow of water and cause overflow onto streets and yards.

Wetlands absorb water during heavy rainfall or flooding and slowly release the waters downstream, reducing flood damage. Wetlands and wetland plants help to absorb and filter potentially harmful chemicals and pollutants before they get into our waterways.

The City of Auburn is home to several identified undeveloped floodplain areas that are vital for several endangered or threatened species unique to this area. These areas also provide recreation, education and research opportunities important to our local economy.

Residents, businesses and property owners play a huge role in maintaining the ditches and streams on their property. They should notify the City when maintenance is needed on the right of way. City Code, Section 7-1, prohibits taking any action that can impede the flow of water in ditches and waterways. If you know of any illegal dumping of debris or any action that could affect the drainage system, please contact the Public Works Department at (334) 501-3000 or webpw@auburnalabama.org.

For more information regarding the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System, please contact the Engineering Services Department at 161 N. Ross St., webengineering@auburnalabama.org or visit auburnal.gov/engineering-services.

