

# Irrigation/Sprinkler Meter Information

A sprinkler meter is used to eliminate sewer charges for water used for lawn watering. There are two ways of getting a sprinkler meter installed.

1. The first and most common is an extra stub and the cheaper option.
2. The second is a new tap.

## **EXTRA STUB – Irrigation/Sprinkler Meter**

- Installation of a tee connection in the service line directly in front of the meter on the street side and the installation of another meter immediately adjacent to the domestic meter.
- While both meters are connected through the same line and a pressure drop may be noticeable inside the house when running lawn sprinklers, most people choose this option and schedule their lawn sprinkling at times when inside use is minimal.
- The standard service line is a 1" plastic (Polyethylene) line. Older services may be ¾" or 1" galvanized, and will be replaced with a new 1" PE line automatically at no cost to the customer, whenever an extra stub is requested.

## **NEW TAP – Irrigation/Sprinkler Meter**

- Connected to the water main through an entirely separate service line.
- Larger taps or streets wider than the standard residential street will have a higher tap fee.
- The customer will need to stake the location for the new meter.
- Typically large sprinkler system installations or installations where the existing meter location is undesirable for connecting to the sprinkler system may require separate taps.
- Important Note: Huntsville Utilities will install sprinkler meters with a back flow prevention device and meters will be left in the unlocked position. A plumber must then tie the meter into an irrigation system or install a spigot at the meter in order to utilize this meter.
- Typical flow rates available from a 1" service line range from 20 to 60 gallons per minute, depending upon pressures and length of line (from main to meter). Static pressure at individual services is entirely a function of location and elevation and cannot be changed by Huntsville Utilities. In lower pressure areas (generally higher elevations, such as the tops of hills etc.), a larger service line or private booster pump may be needed in order to provide significantly increased flows.
- If you have questions regarding flows and pressures in your area, contact Water Engineering at 535-1315.
- Once sprinkler meter is set by Huntsville Utilities the customer will be billed an availability charge each month based on the size of the meter.

*\*03/29/05 - Per City of Huntsville Ordinance: Any single family residence served by more than a single water meter will be billed at a rate greater than a single family residence served by one water meter.*