

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH, N.C.

July 2009

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HIGHLIGHTS

Under a new state law, new irrigation systems connected to the Town of Hillsborough system on or after July 1, 2009, must have a separate water meter.

Our system capacity or “capital facilities” fee for an irrigation-only meter is currently the same as for a regular water service, but sewer fees are not charged.

Our monthly charges for irrigation-only water service are a charge per 1,000 gallons.

Because of the potential for water in or from irrigation systems to flow back into the Town of Hillsborough public water system under some conditions, the Town of Hillsborough has for several years required all new and existing irrigation systems to have a “backflow prevention” device.

Our backflow prevention program is designed to protect the public water supply from water that may become contaminated after it has passed through the Town of Hillsborough system.

Under a new state law, irrigation contractors are generally required to have a state license.

A plumbing permit from the local inspections department is required for installation of an irrigation system.

Town of Hillsborough Utilities Department, Engineering Division

101 E. Orange St., Hillsborough, NC 27278

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SEPARATE METERS REQUIRED FOR NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AS OF JULY 1, 2009

Under a state law adopted in 2008, all new irrigation systems connected to the Town of Hillsborough system on or after July 1, 2009, must have a separate water meter. (Separate meters are not required for existing irrigation systems.)

For information on having a Town of Hillsborough irrigation-only meter installed, please contact our Engineering Department at (919) 732-1270 Ext. 72.

LOCAL PLUMBING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The N.C. Plumbing Code requires a permit from the local inspections department for installation of an irrigation system. The Orange County Planning and Inspections Department issues permits and does inspections.

The Orange County Building Inspections staff can be reached at (919) 245-2600.

CAPITAL FACILITIES FEE & OTHER CHARGES FOR IRRIGATION-ONLY METERS

We charge a system capacity or "capital facilities" fee to cover the cost of the water supplies, treatment facilities, pumps, piping, etc. necessary to provide service to an irrigation-only meter. This fee is currently the same as for a regular water service, but sewer fees are not charged. This fee is likely to be increased in late 2009, based on historical experience with water demand by irrigation-only customers, which is higher than normal residential demand.

For information on the service availability fee for an irrigation meter, please contact Town of Hillsborough Engineering at (919) 732-1270 Ext. 72 or julie.laws@hillsboroughnc.org or visit the Engineering/Utilities section of our website, <http://www.ci.hillsborough.nc.us/engineering.asp> and see the Water Sewer Capital Fee Calculations. Our rates and fees normally change in July of each year.

MONTHLY FEES FOR IRRIGATION-ONLY SERVICE

Our monthly charges for irrigation-only water service are a charge per 1,000 gallons of water use. For current rates, please contact Town of Hillsborough Engineering at (919) 732-1270 Ext. 72 or julie.laws@hillsboroughnc.org or visit the Engineering/Utilities section of our website, <http://www.ci.hillsborough.nc.us/engineering.asp> and see the Water Sewer Capital Fee Calculations.

In water shortages due to droughts, etc., the Town of Hillsborough may shut off irrigation-only service. If we turn off service, we will only bill for the actual amount of water used for the affected months (no minimum bill charge).

BACKFLOW PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEMS



A “backflow prevention” device, above, is designed to protect the public water supply from potential contamination.

For various facilities and water uses including irrigation systems, we require customers to install “backflow prevention” devices.

These devices are designed to protect the public water system from potential contamination by water that has passed from our public water pipes into or through a private plumbing system or private equipment.

Backflow prevention devices are required immediately following the water meter on a water service if there is an irrigation system (or other identified “hazard”).

The flow of water from a private system back into the public (Town of Hillsborough) water system could occur under special conditions such as a major water main break or firefighting.

For more detailed information about our backflow prevention program, please visit the “Cross-Connection Control Policy” and “Technical Specifications” sections of our website at <http://www.ci.hillsborough.nc.us/engineering.asp> and Section 14-56 of the Hillsborough Town Code at <http://www.municode.com/Resources/gateway.asp?pid=14194&sid=33>. We have information including:

- the type of backflow prevention device that is needed,
- required initial testing of a new irrigation system and annual testing by a certified person, and
- required filing of the annual test report by a certified person.

STATE LICENSE GENERALLY REQUIRED FOR IRRIGATION CONTRACTORS

Irrigation contractors are now generally required to have a state license. However, the exemptions from the license requirement include:

- Federal and state agencies working on public property.
- Property owners performing work on their own property.
- When the price of all contracts for labor and material is under \$2,500.
- Licensed landscape architects, engineers, general contractors, etc.
- Irrigation for certain construction, agricultural and nursery operations.

For more information, please contact the N.C. Irrigation Contractors' Licensing Board at PO Box 41421, Raleigh, NC 27629-1421; 919-872-2229; fax: 919-872-1598; e-mail: info@nciclb.org; www.nciclb.org

CHECKING FOR LEAKS IN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

We recommend that you, or the company that maintains your irrigation system, regularly check it for leaks. If allowed to continue, a leak can waste a large amount of water-- and dollars. Please note that we do not typically make account adjustments for leaks in irrigation systems.

CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS

Under normal conditions and our current policies, spray irrigation is limited to 1 inch per week and three application days per week. Irrigation systems are also required to have rain or moisture sensors.

Please view Section 14-19 of the Hillsborough Town Code at <http://www.municode.com/Resources/gateway.asp?pid=14194&sid=33>; or contact us at 732-1270 Ext. 72 or julie.laws@hillsboroughnc.org for more information.

WATER WASTE

Irrigation systems should be installed, maintained and operated so that water does not run off onto other properties or street right-of-way areas, including sidewalks, road shoulders and roadways.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

We welcome your questions and feedback! Please feel free to contact us at 732-1270 Ext. 72 or julie.laws@hillsboroughnc.org; visit or write to us at our offices at 101 E. Orange St. (PO Box 429), Hillsborough, NC 27278; or visit our website, www.ci.hillsborough.nc.us.