

For additional information:

The following websites are great resources on backyard chickens. They have detailed information about raising backyard chickens, including: the benefits of backyard chickens, the various types of breeds, different styles of chicken coops, chicken supplies, etc.

www.urbanchickens.org

www.backyardchickens.com

Although the City of Auburn now allows the keeping and maintaining of backyard chickens, it is possible that neighborhood covenants and restrictions prohibit this activity. Residents are encouraged to check with their subdivision or neighborhood Homeowners' Association for any prohibition of backyard chickens before obtaining a permit from the City.

City of Auburn

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City of Auburn
Planning Department

**BACKYARD
CHICKEN
KEEPING**



Urban Chicken Ordinance

The Auburn City Council approved an ordinance to allow residents to keep and maintain backyard chickens at their July 19, 2011



council meeting. The passage of the ordinance was a response to numerous citizens wishing to keep chickens.

In September 2010, the Auburn Planning Department was asked to research residential urban chicken-keeping in the City of Auburn. Through this research, it was found that residential urban chicken-keeping is a national trend in many cities as result of rising food costs and easy access to fresh organic eggs. Many communities around the country have added regulations regarding chicken-keeping to their codes and ordinances. At the June 9, 2011 Planning Commission meeting, the commission unanimously recommended approval of a zoning ordinance text amendment designed to allow the keeping of chickens on residential lots in the City of Auburn. Due to the prohibition of fowl being kept and maintained inside the stock district in Section 4-2 of the City Code, the City Council amended the code to allow urban chicken keeping in the stock district. All regulatory provisions for keeping chickens are outlined in Section 501.04., Limitations on Animals, in the City of Auburn Zoning Ordinance.

APPLYING FOR AN URBAN CHICKEN KEEPING PERMIT

The urban chicken-keeping ordinance allows Auburn residents to keep backyard chickens upon applying and receiving a permit from the Planning Department. In order to receive a permit, a resident must meet the following conditions:

- ◆ The minimum lot size of the property is 10,000 square feet (.23 acres)
- ◆ The principal use of the property is a single-family dwelling
- ◆ The number of chickens does not exceed:
 - Four (4) on lots 10,000 to 19,999 square feet
 - Six (6) on lots 20,000 square feet or greater
- ◆ The chickens are kept in an enclosure or fenced area such as a henhouse, chicken coop, chicken tractor, etc. at all times
- ◆ The chicken enclosure or fenced area is a minimum of six (6) square feet per chicken
- ◆ The chickens are not kept in any location on the property other than in the backyard (the rear yard of the principal structure)
- ◆ The covered enclosure or fenced area is a minimum of 10 feet to any property line of an adjacent property and 30 feet from neighboring dwellings, church, school, or place of business

- ◆ The enclosures are kept in a clean, dry, odor-free, neat, and sanitary condition at all times
- ◆ The chicken owner takes necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites

Roosters and the slaughtering of chickens are strictly prohibited inside of the stock district and outside of the stock district unless a lot is zoned Rural (R) and is larger than 3 acres.



Applicants must pay a \$40 permit fee and will need to bring a drawing of their parcel showing the relative location of the residence and chicken enclosure and the size in square feet of the enclosure. Residents can find maps showing parcel boundaries and building locations online at <http://gis.auburnalabama.org/website/AuburnIMS>.