

Above Ground Utility Structures (AGUS) Placement Guidelines

The following are guidelines for Applicants to use to determine acceptable locations for AGUS in the public right-of-way or within a public utility easement of a residentially zoned property.

1. In general, an Applicant will identify appropriate locations for AGUS so that:
 - a. The path of travel for pedestrians will not be unreasonably impeded, paying particular attention to the needs of persons with disabilities.
 - b. The access to other facilities that are installed or the Department knows are to be installed by other entities including City departments and Public Service Providers is not obstructed.
 - c. Travel on public streets or alleys and the public's use of the right-of-way is not impeded.
 - d. Property owners are not unreasonably inconvenienced.
 - e. The aesthetic character of the streetscape will not be unreasonably affected.
2. An effort should be made, subject to any tariff provisions with respect to the placement or payment for the underground facilities, to place a proposed AGUS underground if, in the judgment of the proposed AGUS owner, it is technologically and economically feasible and practical to do so. An Applicant may satisfy this requirement by demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Director that it is not technologically or economically feasible for the Applicant to place the AGUS underground. At a minimum, the Applicant must demonstrate to the Director that it conducted a thorough search for adequate underground technology.
3. AGUS should be placed in an alley where it is economically and practically feasible, if an alley exists.
4. AGUS should be located as closely as practical to the common lot line between lots or parcels, but not located so as to interfere with drainage or access between buildings.
5. All AGUS servicing a building should be placed on a common side of the building. In the case of a corner lot, utility structures allowed by this section, when placed on the corner side yard, should be placed as close to the rear property line as practical to minimize the visual impact on the side yard of the property adjacent to the side street.
6. Dimensions of AGUS supporting foundation or pad should not measure more than one foot larger than the footprint of the structure in any direction unless required by the manufacturer for stability of the structure, or to permit safe access by the AGUS owner. The placement of the pad should allow for existing and proposed sidewalks.
7. AGUS exceeding two and one-half (2.5') feet in height should not be placed within any intersection or driveway visibility triangle.
8. AGUS should be no larger than is reasonably necessary to contain and protect the required equipment and to be able to provide the service.
9. AGUS should not obstruct pedestrian travel along existing sidewalks or designated pedestrian pathways. A minimum of four feet (4') of pedestrian clearance (free of all obstacles for a clear path of travel, unobstructed pedestrian walkway) shall be maintained.

10. AGUS should not be placed over any storm drainage, water or wastewater facility without permission from the Director or their representative or other utility facility without permission of the facility owner, unless there is a joint trench agreement.
11. AGUS should not obstruct the view of any traffic sign, wayfinding sign, or traffic signal.
12. AGUS should not front the boundaries of a park, or open space.
13. In new subdivisions, joint trenching should be used, where feasible, to facilitate placement of AGUS in compliance with these guidelines.