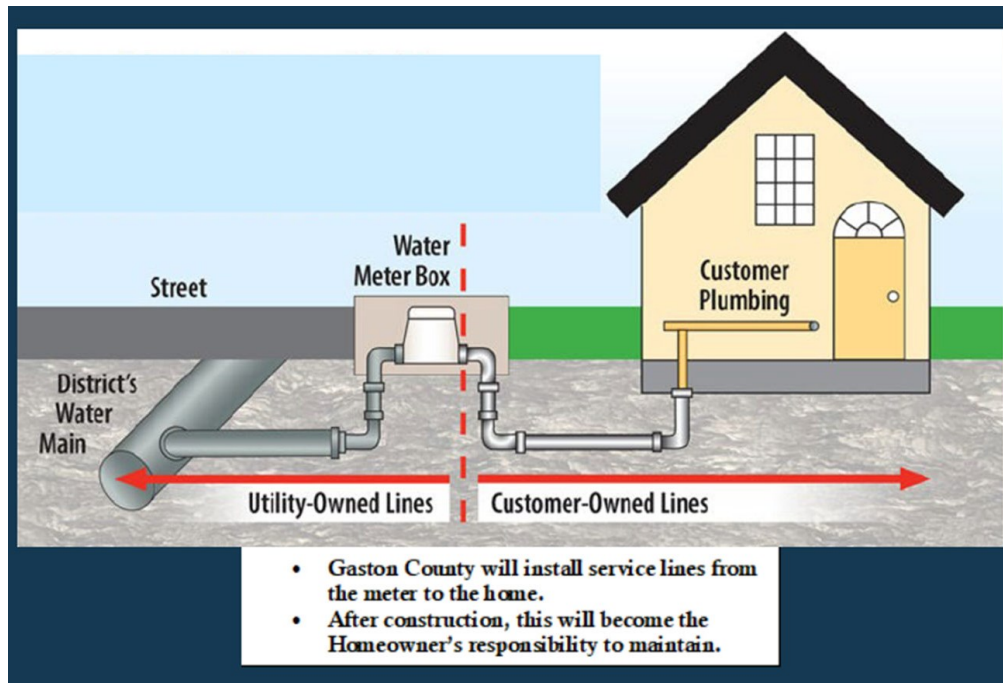


Preparing Your Home for Water Connection



Overview:

Water Mains: Think of these as the major arteries, forming the primary network. **Service Lines:** Also called supply lines, or water laterals. These connect the mains to individual properties, bringing water to your doorstep.

Water Meters: Devices that measure your water usage for billing purposes.

Valves and Hydrants: Strategically placed to control and maintain the system's functionality.

Connecting your home to a public water supply is a thoughtful process. When weighing public water against other sources, it is about finding what suits you best. Public water brings convenience and consistent quality, meeting regulations. Well water offers independence but needs vigilant monitoring. Consider factors like maintenance, cost, and environmental impact to choose the source that aligns with your preferences and needs.

If you choose to pursue connecting, give your home plumbing a good inspection to make sure it can handle the public water supply. Getting your home ready for public water is important, so do not hesitate to seek professional help. Talk to licensed plumbers and utility experts. Their insight can spot potential issues, ensure you're following all the rules, and make the entire process smoother. Make sure your existing plumbing connection is accessible.

Get quotes from the pros for permits, plumbing tweaks, and connection fees. Be ready for unexpected expenses. Plan a timeline that considers permit processing and construction. Work with your licensed plumber to apply for the needed permits to ensure you follow the rules.

Well abandonment requires a permit and inspection and must conform to Gaston County and state regulations. Any person carrying out the abandonment of a well must be registered with Gaston County Environmental Health and must be the owner of the well or must be certified as a well contractor by the State of North Carolina. Gaston County Environmental Health must be notified, and staff must be on site during well abandonment procedures. Please contact Samantha Dye at Gaston County Environmental Health for more information on what uses you may be able to keep your well. **704-853-5200, samantha.dye@gastongov.com**

The County will install up to 500 LF feet of service line and the tap. You will be responsible for the additional LF, the connection to your premise, any internal plumbing and fees associated with well abandonment. You may also have fees associated with permits and inspections if required. You will be responsible for the System Development Fee and Meter Fee, payable to Bessemer City if you connect **post** construction.

The Plan:

Construction of the Tryon Elementary Waterline Project will begin February, 2026. The project will take approximately 10 months.

If you choose to connect, go to the **Bessemer City Finance and Customer Service Office located at 125 East Virginia Avenue Bessemer City, NC 28016** or call **704-629-5542** to set up a water account by **DECEMBER 31, 2026**.

Fees that are ***waived*** with the Tryon Elementary Waterline Project during construction are:

- \$1,100.00 Tap Fee
- \$4,211.00 System Development Fee
- \$500.00 Meter Fee
- Up to 500 LF of service line
- **Out of City Rates.** Bessemer City has approved in city rates for this waterline.

If you choose to connect at a later date, and not during construction, the estimated cost could be \$5,000 to \$8,000 dollars.

FAQs

What is an Agreement to Connect?

An Agreement to Connect is a contract used to gauge interest in water service during construction of a new water main. The Agreement to Connect is a formal commitment to set up an account. Owners who sign and return user agreements will have some fees waived as listed in the Agreement.

How Long Does A Water Project Take?

The Tryon Elementary Waterline Project was approved in 2021, since that time, design, property acquisition and bidding have been completed. Construction will begin in February and is expected to take roughly 10 months.

Will the County Connect My House Plumbing to the Meter?

Installation of a service line from the meter to the residence is typically the customer's responsibility, however, with ARPA funds, the County will cover up to 500 LF of service line. The Owner is responsible for having a licensed plumber connect the service line to the premise and apply for any permits.

Can I Continue to Use My Private Water Source After Connecting to the public System?

Owners are required to maintain a physical separation between any plumbing that provides water from a private source (wells, springs, etc.) and plumbing that provides water from the UTILITY water supply. This means you may be able to continue to use your well or spring water for other purposes if it has separate plumbing. Please contact Sam Dye at 704-853-5200 with questions.

Can I Connect Two Houses or Buildings to the Same Water Meter?

The County will only install one meter with the project. A separate meter can be purchased for each additional structure according to the UTILITY requirements and fees.

Once a New Water Line is Installed, How Soon Must I Connect?

By signing the agreement, the Owner agrees that they will complete the connection by **DECEMBER 31, 2026**, which is the deadline for completion of the project.

Once I complete the application, do I have to remain a customer?

By signing the agreement, the property owner agrees to maintain water service for a period of at least five (5) years from the date the meter is installed.

Can I Sign a Water User Agreement for a Vacant Lot?

Agreements to Connect are not solicited from owners of vacant properties. However, if there is an active building permit a tap will be installed