

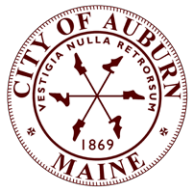
# Auburn

Small city. Big ideas.



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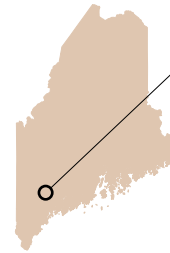
Above: Auburn skyline



Below: Main Street, downtown Auburn



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF AUBURN COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



## City of Auburn

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## Innovative approaches and planned growth

Auburn is renowned for its commitment to economic development and has been making remarkable strides in providing business incentives to companies. The city’s approach extends beyond traditional methods such as Tax Increment Financing Districts with Credit Enhancement. In a demonstration of the city’s forward-thinking approach, Auburn has utilized funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to establish a revolving loan pool – a valuable resource, supporting both existing businesses and new ventures, spanning from local corner stores to large-scale manufacturing enterprises. Auburn has also implemented several other innovative programs aimed at bolstering the business landscape, further solidifying its reputation as a hub for entrepreneurship and economic growth.

Auburn has taken an innovative approach to the use of ARPA, CBDG and other state and federal funds to accomplish goals set forth in the city’s 2019 Strategic Plan, including “Third Space” and Commercial Agriculture incentive programs, Neighborhood Corner Store grants, micro enterprise loans and more.

## Transformative zoning reform

Auburn is seeing new highs in construction permits and commercial and residential development is booming. In 2022, Discourse Magazine named Auburn as the “YIMBYest City in America,” thanks to the city’s willingness to say “Yes in My Backyard” to new development.

“Instead of latching on to one kind of housing, Auburn has opened up its neighborhoods to innovation,” said economist Salim Furth from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Commercial and residential development is sizzling in Auburn, with record-setting permitted construction value and investment. In 2022, there was well over \$74 million in estimated cost of construction. And in 2023, Auburn announced that there will be no increase to the mill rate for Auburn property taxpayers, a meaningful accomplishment that is a direct result of good growth combined with the hard work of staff and the city council, both of whom are deeply committed to controlling costs.

With the implementation of zoning reforms that are among the most ambitious in the country, including modernized agriculture and resource protection zoning, Auburn has positioned itself for thoughtful growth and a bright future.

## Opportunity is closer than you think.

The City of Auburn is a thriving community, built upon a rich history of hard work, innovation, unity and pride. A diverse small city with big ideas, Auburn is racing toward the future with smart, deliberate and record-breaking growth, a commitment to sustainability, flourishing public-private partnerships, and transformative revitalization. In Auburn, your next home, job, event, vacation, business or adventure is closer than you think!

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