
Facility Design

A. General

Water mains and appurtenances, including hydrants and valves, should be provided along all streets including connections to and extensions from existing water systems.

The location and spacing of water mains and their appurtenances is not only important for service and fire protection, but also maintenance requirements. Figures 4C-1.02 through 4C-1.03 show guidelines for the location of these facilities.

B. Water Mains

1. Water main pipe will typically be either polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe or ductile iron pipe (DIP); and meet AWWA Standards.

Designers should use the Iowa DNR's website to determine if there are any leaking underground storage tanks (LUST) sites within 500 feet of the proposed water main:

<https://facilityexplorer.iowadnr.gov/facilityexplorer>.

Where distribution systems and service connections are installed in areas of known groundwater contaminated by volatile organic compounds (LUST), pipe and joint materials (non-PVC pipe) that do not allow permeation of the volatile organic compounds must be used.

The Iowa DNR requires underground storage tank (UST) owners to meet specific design requirements for USTs installed within 1,000 feet of a community water system. The Project Engineer should determine if there is an UST within 1,000 feet of the project area. If so, the Designer should determine the need to design the water mains to prevent future permeation of any volatile organic compounds into the water system. There are various elements to consider, some of which include soil types, groundwater table depth, size of the UST, age of the UST, etc.

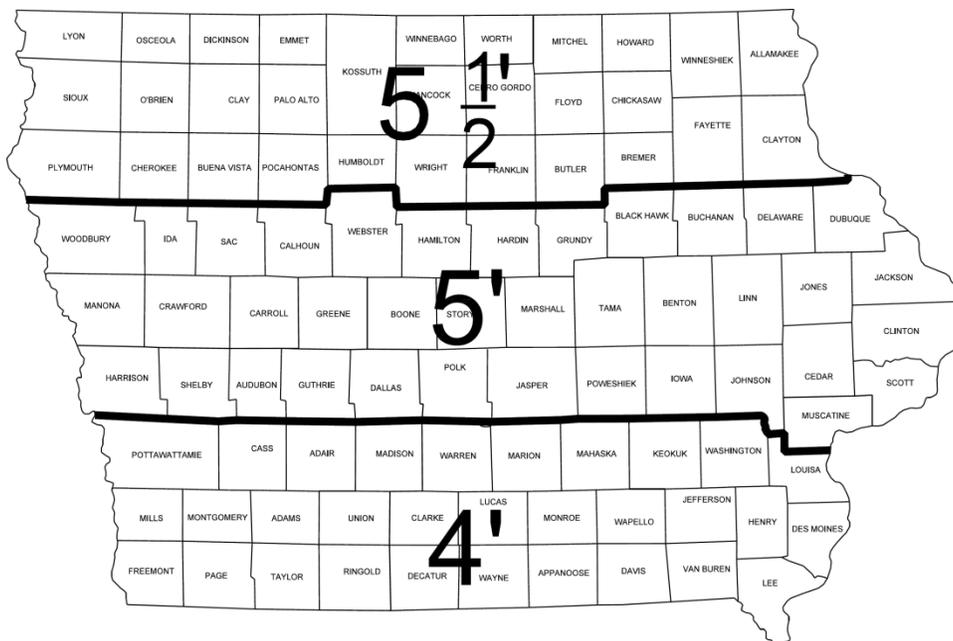
Consult with manufacturers concerning permeation of the pipe walls, jointing materials, valve seats, etc.

2. Water mains should be extended to the plat or property boundaries, to the next street, or as directed by the Jurisdiction.
3. New main installation should be located in the parking area (between the curb and the property line) of the right-of-way and minimum of 4 feet behind the curb. Where possible, water mains should be located along the south and east sides of the street.
4. Dead-ends should be minimized by looping mains whenever possible. Dead-ends should terminate with an approved flushing device (blowoff, hydrant, flushing hydrant). They may terminate with an approved fire hydrant when adequate pressure is available at required flows. For maintenance considerations and when adequate fire flows are not available, flushing hydrants may be allowed by the Jurisdiction with the hydrant outlet sized and arranged to prevent the attachment of fire hoses. Unless required by a Jurisdiction, permanent inline shut-off valves

should not be placed at the end of dead-end mains. A valve may be placed one or two pipe lengths back from the end of the project. No services should be placed past the valve. These pipes will provide sufficient support for the valve and allow a future extension to be made without impacting current water customers.

5. Water mains and extensions should be designed with a minimum cover as indicated on Figure 4C-1.01, unless more or less cover has been approved by the Jurisdictional Engineer. Greater depths of cover, surface loading conditions, or unusual trench conditions may require a stronger class of pipe according to the AWWA Standard regarding the type of pipe being installed. Where a dip must be placed in a main in order to pass under another utility, the length of the deeper main should be kept to a minimum, and bends should be considered to affect the desired offset.
6. Water mains should be adequately protected from corrosive soil environments. Comply with AWWA C105. Complete soil testing or check with the Jurisdictional Engineer to determine if corrosive soils are present within the project area. If so, include polyethylene encasement for ductile iron pipe, valves, and fittings or use of other nonmetallic pipe materials. If nonmetallic materials are used, be sure to provide polyethylene encasement for fittings and valves. In severe instances, cathodic protection may be required.

Figure 4C-1.01: Minimum Depth of Cover for Water Main Installation



C. Blowoffs

A blowoff or approved flushing device is required on all dead-end mains where a hydrant is not installed. The minimum riser assembly size should be no less than 2 diameter sizes smaller than the diameter of the water main. The flushing device should be sized to provide flows that will give a velocity of at least 2.5 feet per second in the main being flushed. When the water main is extended, the blowoff should be removed. A new valve should be placed between the existing and extended main.

D. Valves

1. As a minimum, valves should be located at intersections, such that only one unvalved pipe exists at the intersection. Valves should be equally spaced, if possible, with spacing no more than 800 feet in residential areas and no more than 400 feet in high density residential, commercial, and industrial areas. (See Figures 4C-1.02 through 4C-1.03 for valve locations at intersections).
2. Valves should not be located in the sidewalk line or in driveways.
3. All valves should be installed with valve boxes. Use slide type valve boxes in paved areas and screw type in all other areas. A screw type valve box that is located in an area to be paved should be changed to a slide type valve box as a part of the paving program.
4. No valves (except blowoff valves) should be placed at the end of a dead-end main unless required by a Jurisdiction. A valve should be installed between the existing main and new main when the main is extended. Intermediate valve locations between the end of a dead-end main and last valved street intersection may be required by the Jurisdiction to provide required valve spacing.
5. A tapping sleeve and valve should be used when making a perpendicular connection to an existing main.
6. If the project area has high water pressure, usually exceeding 100 psi, it may be appropriate to install system pressure relief valves as opposed to individual building controls. The potential for using a system pressure reducing valve is limited by the interconnected nature of a distribution system. Check with the Jurisdiction to determine the potential need for use of pressure reducing valves.

E. Fire Hydrants

1. Hydrants should comply with AWWA C502. The connecting pipe between the supply main and the hydrants should be a minimum of 6 inches in diameter and be independently valved. Fire hydrants should not be installed on water mains that do not provide a minimum pressure.
2. Hydrant drains should not be connected to or located within 10 feet of sanitary sewers.
3. Locations of fire hydrants are governed by the rules and regulations of the Iowa DNR and the local Jurisdiction and by the following principles. Satisfy each principle in the order they are listed. See Figures 4C-1.02 through 4C-1.03 for typical hydrant locations.
 - a. Locate fire hydrants within 25 feet of each street intersection, measured from an end of a street paving return.

Locate fire hydrants outside street paving returns. Avoid conflicts with storm sewers, intakes, and sidewalks. Whenever possible, locate fire hydrants at the high point of the intersection.

- b. Locate fire hydrants between street intersections to provide spacings of no more than 450 feet in single family residential districts and no more than 300 feet in all other districts. Coverage radii for structures as noted below should be checked when determining hydrant placement.

Vary spacings slightly to place fire hydrants on extensions of property lines. When hydrants are required between intersections, they should be located at the high point of the main for air release or at a significant low point for flushing on the downhill side of an in-line valve.

When street curvature or grid patterns places a proposed protected structure at an unusual distance from the fire hydrant, the coverage radius should not exceed 300 feet in single family residential districts and 150 feet in all other districts. The Jurisdiction's fire marshall may have additional private fire protection requirements.

- c. On cul-de-sac streets, hydrants should be located at the intersection of the cul-de-sac street and cross-street and the end of the cul-de-sac.
 - 1) For cul-de-sacs between 300 feet and 500 feet in length, an additional hydrant should be located at the mid-block.
 - 2) For cul-de-sacs greater than 500 feet in length, hydrants should be placed at near equal spacings, but not exceeding the spacings described above.
- d. Hydrants must be located to provide the required fire flows. ISO evaluates fire hydrant locations within 1,000 feet of the test location, measured along the streets as fire hose can be laid, to evaluate the availability of water for fire protection. Hydrant capacity is credited as shown in the following table:

Hydrant Location	Credited Capacity
Within 300' of location	1,000 gpm
Within 301' to 600' of location	670 gpm
Within 601' to 1,000' of location	250 gpm

- e. Locate fire hydrants to maintain a 3 foot clear space around the circumference of the fire hydrant to create unobstructed access for the fire department.

F. Water Service Stubs

Water service stubs for each building or platted lot should be provided, including corporation stop, service line, and curb stop (shut-off) with box. Check with the Jurisdiction to determine appropriate placement location. In no case should the shut-off be in the sidewalk. Avoid locations where driveway approaches are likely to be constructed in the future.

G. Separation of Water Mains from Sewer Mains

The following comply with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources separation requirements.

1. **Horizontal Separation of Gravity Sewers from Water Mains:** Separate gravity sewer mains from water mains by a horizontal distance of at least 10 feet unless:
 - the top of a sewer main is at least 18 inches below the bottom of the water main, and
 - the sewer is placed in a separate trench or in the same trench on a bench of undisturbed earth at a minimum horizontal separation of 3 feet from the water main.

When it is impossible to obtain the required horizontal clearance of 3 feet and a vertical clearance of 18 inches between sewers and water mains, the sewers must be constructed of water main materials meeting the requirements of [SUDAS Specifications Section 5010, 2.01](#). However, provide a linear separation of at least 2 feet.

2. **Separation of Sewer Force Mains from Water Mains:** Separate sewer force mains and water mains by a horizontal distance of at least 10 feet unless:
 - the force main is constructed of water main materials meeting a minimum pressure rating of 150 psi and the requirements of [SUDAS Specifications Section 5010, 2.01](#), and
 - the sewer force main is laid at least 4 linear feet from the water main.

3. **Separation of Sewer and Water Main Crossovers:** Vertical separation of sanitary and storm sewers crossing under any water main should be at least 18 inches when measured from the top of the sewer to the bottom of the water main. If physical conditions prohibit the separation, the sewer may be placed not closer than 6 inches below a water main or 18 inches above a water main. Maintain the maximum feasible separation distance in all cases. The sewer and water pipes must be adequately supported and have watertight joints. Use a low permeability soil for backfill material within 10 feet of the point of crossing.

Where the sanitary sewer crosses over or less than 18 inches below a water main, locate one full length of sewer pipe of water main material so both joints are as far as possible from the water main.

Where the storm sewer crosses over or less than 18 inches below a water main, locate one full length of sewer pipe of water main material or reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) with flexible O-ring gasket joints so both joints are as far as possible from the water main.

H. Surface Water Crossings

Comply with the Recommended Standards for Water Works, 2007 Edition. Surface water crossings, whether over or under water, present special problems. The reviewing authority should be consulted before final plans are prepared.

1. **Above-water Crossings:** Ensure the pipe is adequately supported and anchored; protected from vandalism, damage, and freezing; and accessible for repair or replacement.
2. **Underwater Crossings:** Provide a minimum cover of 5 feet over the pipe unless otherwise specified in the contract documents. When crossing water courses that are greater than 15 feet in width, provide the following.
 - a. pipe with flexible, restrained, or welded watertight joints,
 - b. valves at both ends of water crossings so the section can be isolated for testing or repair; ensure the valves are easily accessible and not subject to flooding, and
 - c. permanent taps or other provisions to allow insertion of a small meter to determine leakage and obtain water samples on each side of the valve closest to the supply source.

I. Air Relief Facilities

1. **Air Relief Valves:** At high points in water mains where air can accumulate, provisions should be made to remove the air by means of air relief valves. Automatic air relief valves should not be used in situations where flooding of the manhole or chamber may occur.
2. **Air Relief Valve Piping:**
 - a. Use of manual air relief valves is recommended wherever possible.
 - b. The open end of an air relief pipe from a manually operated valve should be extended to the top of the pit and provided with a screened, downward-facing elbow if drainage is provided for the manhole.

- c. The open end of an air relief pipe from automatic valves should be extended to at least 1 foot above grade and provided with a screened, downward-facing elbow.
- d. Discharge piping from air relief valves should not connect directly to any storm drain, storm sewer, or sanitary sewer.

J. Valve, Meter, and Blowoff Chambers

Wherever possible, chambers, pits, or manholes containing valves, blowoffs, meters, or other such appurtenances to a distribution system should not be located in areas subject to flooding or in areas of high groundwater. Such chambers or pits should drain to the ground surface or to absorption pits underground. The chambers, pits, and manholes should not connect directly to any storm drain or sanitary sewer. Blowoffs should not connect directly to any storm drain or sanitary sewer.

K. Thrust Blocks and Restrained Joints

Concrete thrust blocks and restrained joints are used to counteract joint movement at points where piping changes directions or at dead-ends.

1. **Thrust Blocks:** Concrete thrust blocks are typically used on pipes 16 inches in diameter or smaller. Thrust blocks may be used on other pipes independently or in combination with restrained joints. Table 4C-1.01 assumes a bearing area of thrust blocks based on 1,000 psf soil pressure and 150 psi water pressure. Where water pressures are higher and/or soil conditions are poor, the designer should design the correct block size using the equation below Table 4C-1.01. No bolts should come into contact with the concrete thrust blocks. If necessary, polyethylene wrap should be wrapped around the pipe, including the bolt circle, before the concrete is placed. Concrete should have a minimum compressive strength of 4,000 psi at 28 days.

Table 4C-1.01: Thrust Block Minimum Bearing Surface (SF)

Pipe Size (inches)	Bends				Tee or Dead-end
	11.25°	22.5°	45°	90°	
4	1.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	3.0
6	1.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	6.0
8	2.0	4.0	7.0	14.0	10.0
10	3.0	6.0	11.0	21.0	15.0
12	4.0	8.0	16.0	29.0	21.0
14	5.0	11.0	21.0	39.0	28.0
16	7.0	14.0	27.0	50.0	36.0
18	9.0	17.0	34.0	63.0	45.0
20	11.0	21.0	42.0	78.0	55.0
24	15.0	31.0	60.0	111.0	78.0
30	24.0	47.0	92.0	171.0	121.0
36	34.0	67.0	132.0	244.0	173.0

Note: Areas based upon water pressure of 150 psi and allowable soil pressure of 1,000 psf.

$$\text{Required Area, ft}^2 = (2) (\text{water pressure, psi})(\text{cross-sectional area of pipe outside diameter, in}^2) \\ (\sin(\text{angle of bend} / 2)) / (\text{allowable soil pressure, psf})$$

2. Restrained Joints:

- a. **For Pipe Diameters 8 inch through 12 inch:** Provide a minimum of 40 feet of restrained pipe in all directions along the pipe from the fitting for pipe diameters 8 inch through 12 inch, depths of bury of at least 5 feet, and a maximum test pressure of 150 psi.
- b. **For Pipe Diameters Greater than 14 inch:** Restrained joints are typically used on pipes larger than 14 inches in diameter. They may be used on other pipe sizes independently or in combination with concrete thrust blocks. See pipe manufacturer's recommendations for determining restrained lengths of pipe required.

L. Crossings

1. **Railroad Crossings:** The regulations of the railroad company involved will govern when a water main is installed under or over any railroad tracks.
2. **Roadway Crossings:** The jurisdiction responsible for the roadway should have regulations for crossing a roadway. For primary and interstate highways, the Iowa DOT is the responsible jurisdiction. For non-primary, federal-aid roadways use the most recent version of the "Policy for Accommodating Utilities on the County and City Non-Primary Federal-Aid System." For all other roadways, contact the responsible jurisdiction.

M. Flushing, Disinfection, and Pressure Tests

Before going into service, all new mains should be adequately flushed, pressure tested, and disinfected according to the rules and regulations of the local Jurisdiction and Iowa DNR. The procedures, once approved by the Jurisdiction, should be conducted under the supervision of the Jurisdiction or designated representative.

1. **Disinfection:** Disinfect the water main according to AWWA C651. Verify requirements and acceptable methods with the Engineer. Three methods of disinfecting new water mains are available. They include the tablet method, the continuous feed method, and the slug method. The tablet method is the most convenient, but the least effective. [SUDAS Specifications Section 5030](#) indicates that the tablet method is not to be used unless approved by the Engineer. The continuous feed method is acceptable for general application. The goal for disinfection is to obtain a concentration in the new main of 25 mg/L free chlorine. The chlorine is to be retained in the pipe for a minimum of 24 hours, but no more than 48 hours.
2. **Flushing:** Once the main has passed the chlorination tests, it is to be flushed according to the requirements of AWWA C651 until the water in the new main is at the same chlorine level as the other sections of the distribution system. The velocity in the main should be at least 2.5 feet per second for adequate flushing. If there is any potential threat the highly chlorinated water will damage the environment, a neutralizing chemical should be added to the water to render it acceptable.
3. **Hydrostatic Pressure Testing:** Pressure test according to AWWA C600. All air must be expelled from the new main. The test pressure should be 1.5 times the working pressure of the system or 150 psi, whichever is greater. The test should continue for a minimum of 2 hours. If the pressure falls by 5 psi or more, additional makeup water must be added to return the pipe to the test pressure. The amount of makeup water used must meet the requirements of [SUDAS Specifications Section 5030](#).

Figure 4C-1.02: Standard Water Main Location at Cul-de-sac

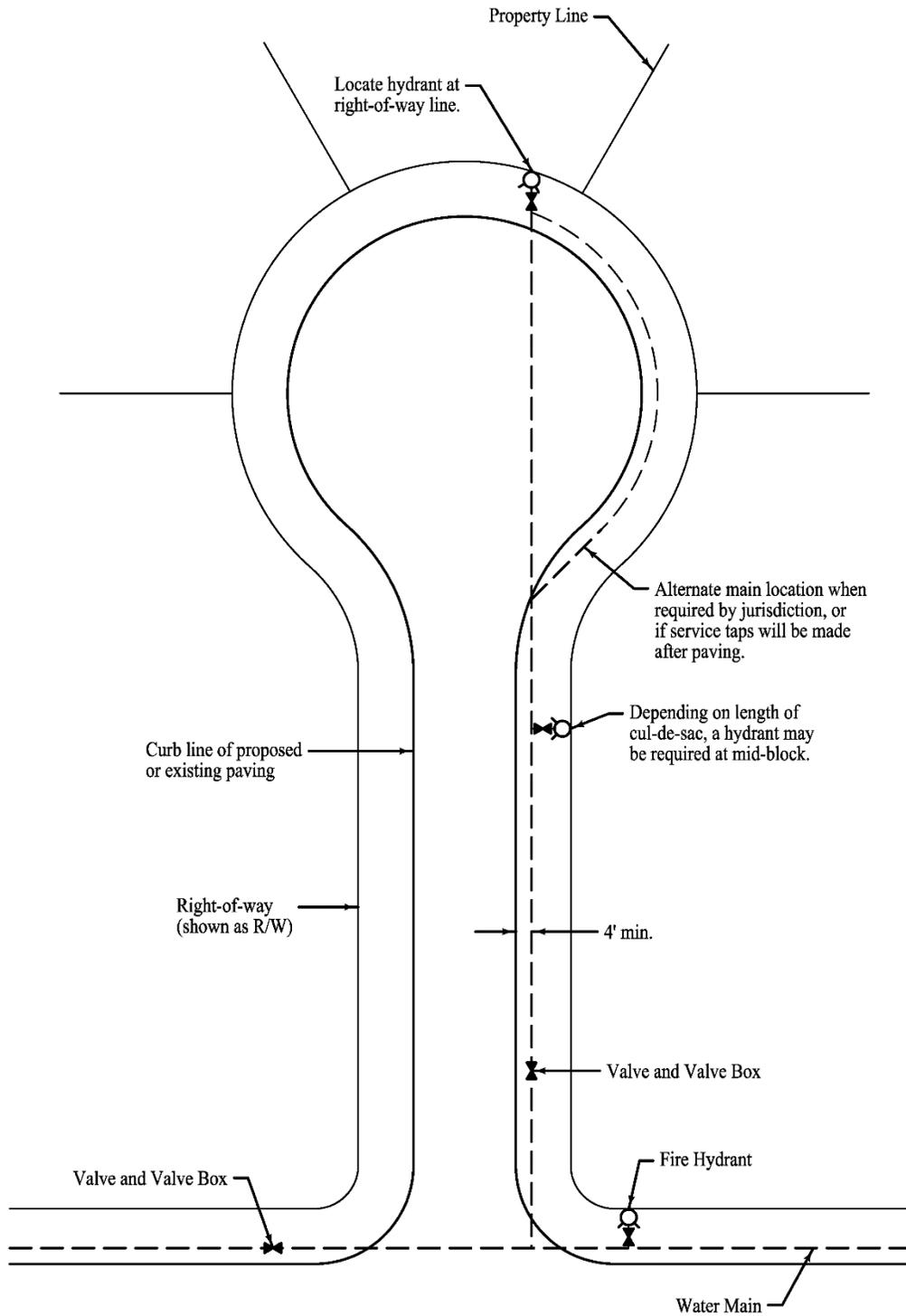
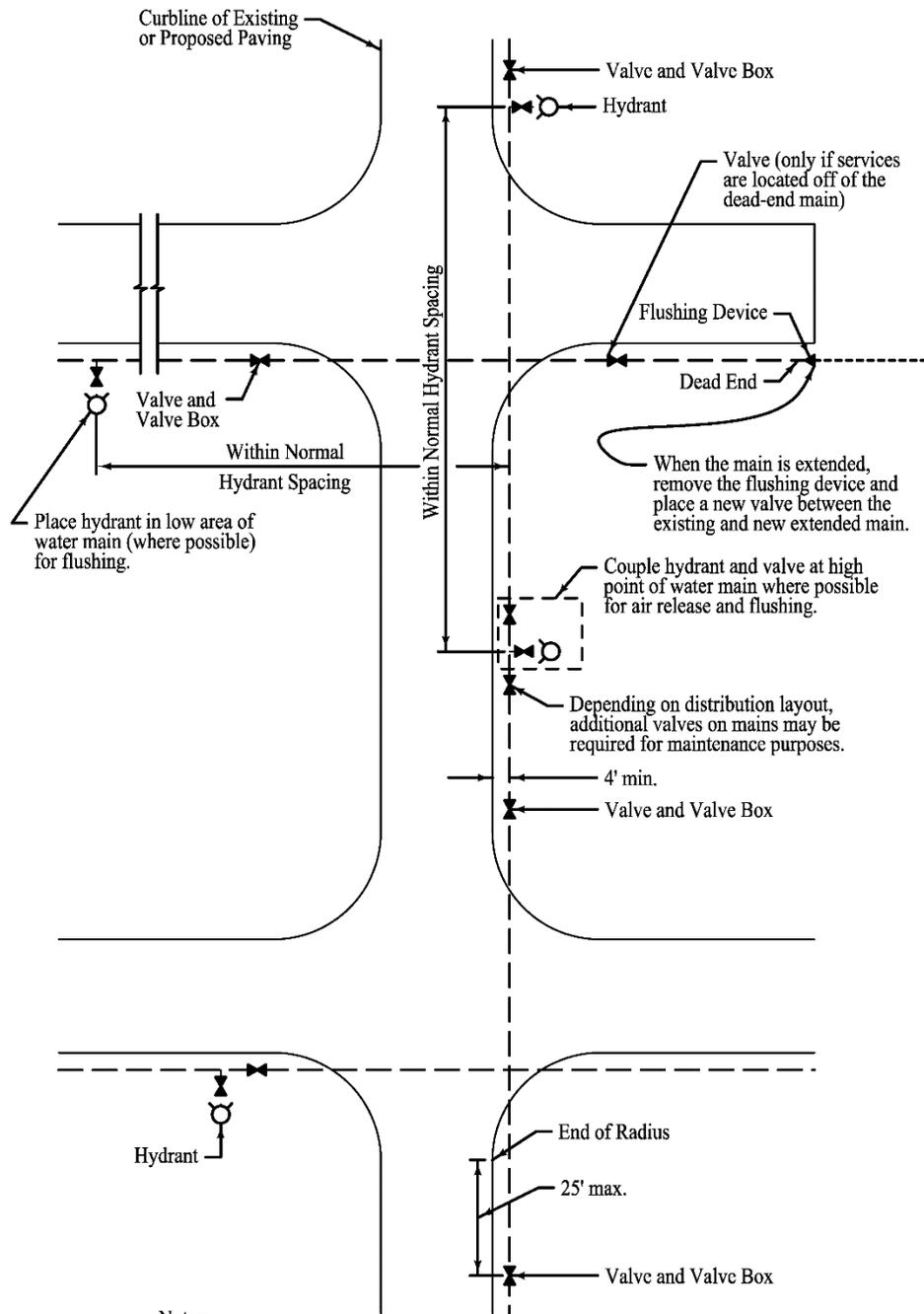


Figure 4C-1.03: Standard Water Main Location



Notes:

1. Install three valves and one fire hydrant at each intersection, except at T-intersections, which will have two valves.
2. Where possible, locate fire hydrant near high point.
3. Locate fire hydrants within 25 feet of intersection return radius, but outside of radius to avoid conflicts with storm sewers and intakes.
4. Where possible, locate fire hydrants on the downhill side of an in-line valve for air release and flusing purposes.