

SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY (SWF) HISTORIC GUIDELINES

Developed By: City of Omaha Planning Department
Omaha/Douglas Civic Center
1819 Farnam Street, Suite 1100
Omaha, Nebraska 68183



*THE FOLLOWING PROVIDES SPECIFIC CRITERIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT WHICH IS
CITED IN THE OMAHA MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 56, ARTICLE I, SEC. 56-11 (12).*

- A. The city desires high quality wireless services to accommodate the needs of its citizens, at the same time strives to minimize the negative impacts these facilities can create.
- B. The city finds that the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of historic resources that reflect a historically significant pattern, event, person, or architectural style at the local, state, or national level is required in the interest of the prosperity of the city and its citizens.
- C. The applicant shall comply with all reasonable conditions imposed by the city to accommodate the design, appearance or intended purpose of the facilities to avoid the intangible public harm of unsightly or out-of-character deployments.
- D. Purpose:
 - 1. Minimize the impact on the character of landmarks, landmark districts, and resources listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;
 - 2. Avoid impacts to important view sheds and vistas within historic districts or near historic resources;
 - 3. Minimize visual clutter within the streetscape of historic districts or near individual historic resources.
- E. Location and Intervals:
 - 1. Any new SWF in historic districts are strongly discouraged, and will only be considered in cases where there are no existing unoccupied poles within 300 feet radially of the proposed location.
 - a) Consider placement just beyond the historic district boundary.
- F. Placement in Historic Districts:
 - 1. If placement of a new SWF within historic districts or adjacent to an individual resource property is necessary then the following order of preference shall be observed:
 - a) *Existing Standard Poles:* Utilization of an existing standard city light fixture, utility or other suitable pole.
 - 1. Existing historic streetlights shall not be used.
 - b) *Building Mounted:* If building mounted, it shall not be located on a primary street fronting facade.
 - 1. Group utility lines. Install vertical runs where they are not visible on primary elevations.
 - c) *New Pole:* Any new SWF shall not be within twenty (20) feet of a site unless the application meets the majority of the following criteria:
 - 1. Located in inconspicuous areas such as side streets, alleys or other similar locations.
 - 2. Located towards the side or rear of the site.
 - 3. Located to align with architectural breaks/transitions, adjoining facades or property lines.
 - 4. Does not obscure significant architectural features or views.

G. Design Standards:

1. Designed to be visually unobtrusive and blend seamlessly into the surrounding context.
2. Non-concealed freestanding SWFs are not permitted.
3. The preferred structure would be one with SWFs within a Transformer Base. Or a new combined pole with transformer base and antenna preferred over an equipment shroud, if possible.
4. As a condition of approval, new SWFs must use stealth techniques to match or complement the district and/or resource. Utilize building materials, colors, textures and screening to effectively blend it with the surroundings.
 - a) All equipment shall fit within an enclosure, be mounted behind a shroud, or be sufficiently concealed.
 - b) Be fully integrated to include the equipment cabinet, upper pole, antenna enclosure, and all hardware and electrical equipment necessary for a complete assembly shall be integrated into a single structure.
 - c) Pole mounted equipment shall maintain a minimum eight (8') foot clearance above established grade.
 - d) Any ground equipment related to SWFs must be placed underground, if possible. Limit all exposed cabling and mounting hardware to the greatest extent possible.
 - e) Ground mounted cabinets are not permitted.
 - f) Any equipment shroud or enclosure shall create a seamless visual appearance of the pole exterior and include easily removable paneling or other cladding to allow for ease of access for maintenance and such.
 - g) Stealth techniques to be submitted with the application to demonstrate impact minimization to resources.
5. Additional standards:
 - a) Height is less than or equal to twenty-two (22) feet.
 - b) Diameter standards intended to guide a sleek, integrated design:
 1. Pole base (including cover) diameter shall not exceed eighteen (18) inches.
 2. Cantennas diameter shall not exceed twelve (12) inches.
 3. If shroud diameter exceeds the pole section immediately adjacent, then it shall be tapered to meet it.
 4. All pole-mounted equipment installed as flush as possible; no equipment or other fixture shall protrude beyond eighteen (18) inches.
 - c) Pole base shall include a decorative cover installed over it; shape shall be tapered with a trapezoidal, truncated cone section or cylindrical shape.
 - d) Finish to be non-reflective, matte paint. Per city standards, the color shall be a black, Pantone Cool Gray 1C (or equivalent), or bronze/brown.
 - e) No artificial illumination directly or indirectly.
 - f) No signage, logos, decals, symbols or messages beyond that required by the FCC.
6. Replacement of existing SWFs shall comply with current standards.
7. The additional standards may be rectified if the wireless provider can provide sufficient evidence submitted with the application that demonstrates the provider is materially inhibited in the provision of service.