LDR Sec. 6.2.2.G. Transportation/Communications/Infrastructure.

3. Wireless Communications Facilities/Towers (excluding facilities in the rights-of-way).

The intent of this chapter is to establish guidelines for the siting of commercial wireless telecommunications towers, structures, antennas and support facilities ("commercial wireless facilities") to minimize impacts to adjacent properties and the visual appearance of Wellington.

- A. The general standards for all commercial wireless facilities are:
 - 1. All commercial wireless facilities shall require permits and be subject to these regulations, and all other applicable regulations except commercial wireless facilities being constructed solely for public safety.
 - 2. No commercial signs or advertising shall be allowed.
 - No signals, lights, or illumination shall be permitted unless required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) or other applicable authority. If lighting is required, the alternatives chosen shall be the least obtrusive to the surrounding community.
 - 4. All commercial wireless facilities shall comply with the regulations of the FAA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
 - 5. Owners of commercial wireless facilities shall certify that all licenses and franchises required by law for the construction and operation of a facility have been obtained. An owner of a facility shall notify Wellington in writing within 48 hours of any revocation or failure to renew such license or franchise.
 - 6. In the event the use of a commercial wireless facility is discontinued, the owner and/or operator shall provide written notice to Wellington of its intent to discontinue use and the date when the use shall be discontinued.
 - 7. Wellington may require removal of any abandoned or unused commercial wireless facilities by the owner within 30 calendar days of confirming abandonment. A commercial wireless facility shall be considered abandoned if use has been discontinued for 180 consecutive calendar days as determined by Wellington.
 - a. Where a commercial wireless facility is abandoned but not removed within the specified timeframe, Wellington may remove it and place a lien on the property following procedures for demolition of an unsafe structure.
 - b. Where a commercial wireless facility is utilized for other purposes, including but not limited to, lighting standards and power poles it shall not be considered abandoned if still being maintained in good condition.
 - c. Where a commercial wireless facility is removed by an owner, the owner shall restore the area to as good of a condition as prior to the placement of the facility, unless otherwise instructed by Wellington.

- 8. Owners or operators of commercial wireless facilities shall comply with the frequency emissions standards of the FCC.
- 9. Commercial wireless facilities shall be maintained in good condition. Maintenance or construction shall be performed by licensed personnel. The owner/operator shall inspect the condition of commercial wireless facilities at least annually and perform necessary maintenance. Inspection reports shall be provided if requested by Wellington. If review of the inspection reports and/or Wellington's inspections indicates a need for further maintenance, Wellington shall notify the owner/operator in writing as to what maintenance is required. Failure to complete noticed repairs or maintenance within 30 calendar days of notification may result in revocation of approval/permit and/or removal of commercial wireless facilities. Any person aggrieved by an administrative decision may file an appeal
- 10. No equipment or materials shall be stored or parked on the site of a commercial wireless facilities unless used in direct support or for repairs of a commercial wireless facilities.
- 11. Wellington reserves the right upon reasonable notice to the owner/operator of a commercial wireless facilities to conduct inspections for the purpose of determining whether the commercial wireless facilities complies with the LDR, the Building Code and construction standards provided by local, state, or federal law.

12. Security.

- a. The commercial wireless facilities shall be secured and enclosed with wall or fence to prevent public access.
- b. If necessary for the operation of the facility, warning signs including "HIGH VOLTAGE DANGER" and/or "NO TRESPASSING" signs, shall be permanently attached to the fence or wall and shall be spaced no more than 20 feet apart on each fence frontage as necessary. The letters for the warning signs shall be at least six (6) inches in height. The signs may be combined into one (1) sign. The warning signs shall be installed at least four and one-half (4½) feet above the finished grade of the wall/fence.
- 13. Wellington has no obligation to accept an application for the use of Wellington property for commercial wireless facilities, regardless if the site is listed as preliminary approved on Wellington's Wireless Communication Tower Map. If an application is accepted, a lease agreement acceptable to Wellington shall be executed. Wellington has no obligation to execute such a lease.
- 14. Setback and separation distances for commercial wireless facilities shall be measured from the base of the proposed commercial wireless facilities to the property lines, residential district property line, base of other commercial wireless facilities, or as required in this section.

B. Existing commercial wireless facilities.

 Owners of existing commercial wireless facilities shall comply with the procedures herein to replace or re-locate a commercial wireless facility, co-locate an antenna on a commercial wireless facility, or expand a commercial wireless facility.

- 2. Expansions in height or dimensions to an existing commercial wireless facility, or the conversion of an existing commercial wireless facilities to another design, shall require Wellington Council approval if the site or structure does not comply with the current requirements, or be treated as a new commercial wireless facility if the expansion exceeds the threshold for a substantial change per 47 CFR 1.40001(b)(7)(i). Expansions to existing commercial wireless facilities that do not exceed the threshold for a substantial change shall utilize the Special Use Permit process pursuant to Article 5.
- 3. Owners of existing commercial wireless facilities shall comply with applicable requirements of the commercial wireless facility section.
- C. Commercial wireless facilities may be mounted on alternative structures including utility and street light poles, buildings and rooftops, and meet the below standards.
 - 1. Pole-mounted facilities within rights-of-way are regulated by Wellington Code of Ordinances.
 - 2. Commercial wireless facilities mounted on parking lot lights, or similar poles, or athletic field lights shall not exceed a height above an additional 40% of the height of the pole structure or 10 feet, whichever is less, and shall be designed and mounted by the least visually obtrusive means including minimizing the dimensional width of antennae.
 - 3. The location, design, and screening of the associated equipment boxes shall be approved by the PZB Director and Wellington Engineer.
 - 4. Generators associated with commercial wireless facilities shall comply with the requirements of the Wellington Code of Ordinances.
 - 5. Commercial wireless facilities shall only be permitted on non-residential buildings that are at least 24-feet in height. Commercial wireless facilities may extend a maximum of 20 feet above the highest point of a roof/parapet wall.
 - 6. If an equipment building associated with the commercial wireless facility is located on the roof of the building, the equipment building shall not exceed 10 feet in height and 400 square feet in area.
 - 7. Antennas and related equipment/buildings shall be located or screened so they are not visible from adjacent properties and rights-of-way to the greatest extent practicable. The antennas and equipment/building shall be consistent in colors and/or materials of the structure it is mounted to, as determined during permitting and/or inspection, to achieve maximum compatibility and minimum visibility. Wellington shall approve the stealth or camouflage design before a permit can be granted.
 - 8. Antenna dimensions.

- a. Omni-Directional (whip) antennas, and their supports, shall not exceed 25 feet in height and 12 inches in diameter and shall be constructed of a material or color that matches the exterior of the building.
- b. Directional or Panel antennas and their supports shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height or two (2) feet in width and shall be constructed of materials and coloration that achieves maximum compatibility and minimum visibility.
- c. Satellite and microwave dish antennas located in the Commercial, Open Space Recreation, Equestrian Commercial Recreation and the Community Facilities Future Land Use Map designations may not exceed 10 feet in diameter.

D. Commercial wireless facilities.

- 1. Preliminary approved sites:
 - a. Wellington's Wireless Communication Tower Map is hereby adopted and as amended, with the locations of preliminary approved tower sites and all approved tower sites within the municipal boundaries.
 - b. Preliminary approved tower locations are Wellington or Acme owned properties, the Florida Power & Light (FP&L) major transmission line corridor, and other properties as illustrated on the adopted map. Towers proposed on a preliminary approved site on the Wireless Communication Tower Map may be allowed with the property owner/easement holder approval, and administrative site plan approval for the tower and support facilities if the below standards are met.
 - i. Setback from all property lines and separated from residential property lines by 100% of the tower height. The PZB Director may reduce the setback and separation requirement up to 50% of the tower height if the tower site property lines are not directly adjacent (within 50 ft.) to residential lots and/or if the proposed setback will not increase any visual impact from adjacent properties or public rights-of-way.
 - ii. Separated a minimum of 500 feet from any other tower.
 - iii. Shall be stealth or camouflaged, except towers within the Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section 24) and FP&L corridor may be a monopole design with externally attached wireless communication facilities as approved by the PZB Director.
 - iv. Public notification of the proposed tower shall be provided (by regular mail) to property owners within a 300 feet radius of the site prior to site plan approval.
 - v. Other applicable standards as required by the PZB Director for the proposed site and tower.

2. All sites:

a. Minimum setback and location standards are indicated in Table 6.2.2.G-1 below for all sites, and preliminary approved sites as noted.

Table 6.2.2.G-1 Wireless Communication Tower Standards

Future Land Use Map Designation	Minimum Separation from Residential Land Use B-H	Minimum Setback from Property Line (1)	Maximum Height	Stealth or Camouflaged Required ⁽²⁾
All (3)	110% of the tower height.	25' or the certified tower fall/collapse area, whichever is greater.	59'	Yes, expect in Flex and Residential A land use. A waiver to this standard may by be approved as a Conditional Use per the proposed tower design and/or the location or acreage of the proposed site.
Flex, Commercial, Open Space Recreation, Equestrian Commercial Recreation, Community Facilities, and Residential A.		50' or the certified tower fall/collapse area, whichever is greater.	160', expect 200' is allowed for Flex and Residential A land uses.	

⁽¹⁾ The setbacks of tower compounds and the appurtenances within them shall conform to setbacks for the zoning district or Master Plan.

- b. Tower designs shall be certified by an engineer specializing in tower structures and licensed in Florida. The certification shall state that the design is structurally sound, and in conformance with the Building Code and other standards in this Article.
- c. Measurement of tower height shall include the tower structure, base pad and attached facilities measured from grade. Lightning rods are excluded from the height measurement. The height requirements may not apply if the applicant can show that Federal Communications Commission rules require operation at a specific height. The maximum tower height shall otherwise be as indicated in Table 6.2.2.G-1 above.

⁽²⁾ Self-supporting or guyed lattice towers shall be permitted as a replacement of similar facilities.

⁽³⁾ All other land uses not listed above and preliminary approved sites. Tower 60 feet or more in height that meet all standards for the proposed height may be approved as a Conditional Use.

- d. Separated a minimum of 500 feet from any other tower.
- e. A commercial wireless facility owner shall permit other wireless communications providers to co-locate facilities on a tower if space and structural capacity exists subject to mutually agreeable terms between the parties. Co-location requirements shall not apply to towers erected within the FP&L corridor easements that are designed to look like power transmission poles or structures. Towers over 100 feet in height shall accommodate two (2) providers with an additional provider required for each additional 10 foot in height. The number of co-location providers may be reduced if reports are provided showing factors limiting the ability to co-locate on the tower, which may include insufficient tower height to meet coverage demands for the area with multiple providers, wireless facilities/equipment design and upgrades, and natural/manmade environmental limitations that will affect a provider's service area/signal.
- f. A landscape buffer shall be provided to minimize the view of the tower and compound, internally to the site and from surrounding property. The buffer shall consist of a landscaped strip at least 10 feet wide outside the perimeter of the compound. Landscaping shall include, but not be limited to, canopy trees with a minimum height of 14 feet and a hedge with a minimum height of 48 inches, three (3) feet on center when installed and maintained at the fence/wall height. Existing mature growth, not including exotics and natural land forms, shall be preserved to the extent possible. All areas disturbed during construction shall be replanted.
- g. A tower compound shall provide an opaque wall or fence, along with landscaping, to screen all equipment, mechanical facilities, etc. for all proposed providers based upon the capacity of the tower. The tower compound shall contain sufficient area to accommodate the equipment/mechanical facilities for all providers. The wall/fence height shall be a minimum of two (2) feet above all objects within the compound to ensure sufficient screening. To ensure safety of the facilities and surrounding area, the PZB Director or Wellington Engineer may require a concrete wall.
- h. An applicant seeking to construct a commercial wireless facility greater than 60 feet in height may be required to submit a visual impact analysis as determined by Wellington during the pre-application and/or review process per the tower design, height, location within the site, and site location and acreage. The applicant shall utilize digital imaging to prepare a visual analysis in a manner acceptable to Wellington.
- E. In addition to the requirements of Conditional Use, Special Use Permit and Site Plan applications, as required, the below shall be provided for specific types of wireless communications towers/facilities.
 - 1. Tower/structure application shall contain the following:
 - a. A scaled site plan indicating the location, type, and height of the proposed tower, site land uses and zoning, design elevations of the proposed tower,

topography, and other information deemed by Wellington to be necessary to assess compliance.

- b. A statement from the engineer of record that the facility will comply with FCC standards as required for the proposed facilities.
- c. The applicant shall submit any technical information requested by Wellington.
- d. If co-location is not available the applicant shall submit an affidavit stating that the applicant made diligent efforts for permission to install or co-locate the facilities on all existing support structures located within the search ring (coverage area) for the proposed facility. The applicant shall establish in the application that they are unable to provide service at existing sites, including co-location nearby, no other suitable existing structure is available including utility poles, or that no reasonable alternative technology can accommodate the facility.
- 2. Wireless communication facilities mounted on alternative structures including utility and street light poles, buildings, and rooftops shall meet the below standards.
 - a. Shall require a Special Use Permit approval, pursuant to Article 5.
 - b. The application shall contain a scaled site plan indicating the location, type and height of the proposed facility, site land uses and zoning, design elevations of the pole or building structure showing how stealth design is incorporated, dimensioned profiles of antennas and mountings on the structure, topography, survey, landscape plans and other information deemed by Wellington to be necessary to assess compliance.
- 3. The PZB Director may waive the Conditional Use, Special Use Permit and Site Plan application submittal requirement for the expansion or replacement of an existing tower/facility if due to maintenance or industry upgrades. The requirement to submit an application may be waived, at the PZB Director's discretion, if the proposed expansion or replacement is:
 - a. No more than 10% or 30 feet increase to the existing tower/facilities, if the increase does not exceed the supplementary regulations for Wireless Communication Towers/Facilities. This waiver provision shall be used only once during the life of a tower/facility, and any further increase in height will require a Conditional Use, Special Use Permit or Site Plan approval, as required above.
 - b. Located within the same site as the existing tower/facility and in compliance with existing setbacks/separation. If the replacement will be relocated within the same site, all existing tower/facility shall be removed within 90 days of completion of the replacement.
- F. Temporary portable wireless communication tower (maximum 100 feet height) may be allowed during the Conditional Use approval and construction process, and/or expansion/replacement of an existing tower with a Special Use Permit and building

permit(s) approval for a site with a pending application or during construction/replacement work. The temporary tower shall be removed within 30 days of an application being denied/withdrawn or final inspection approval, or within one (1) year of the Special Use Permit approval. The Special Use Permit may be extended up to six (6) months at the PZB Director's discretion. Temporary tower shall be located on-site to minimize on and off-site impact and in compliance with tower setback/separation requirements.

- G. Construction and Maintenance of Commercial Wireless Facilities.
 - 1. Shall be constructed in accordance with the Building Code, including obtaining all required building and engineering permits. It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, construct, enlarge, alter, move, or convert any commercial wireless facilities in Wellington, or cause the same to be done, without first obtaining permits.
 - 2. Shall be kept in good condition and operational. The facilities shall be compliant with all local, state and federal regulations, present a neat appearance, and be maintained free of debris, stains, mold, discoloration, or deterioration.
 - 3. The repainting, changing of parts/equipment, and other normal maintenance of approved commercial wireless facilities shall not require a permit, provided such maintenance is consistent with the approved plans and is not modified in any way consistent with this section and applicable codes.
 - 4. Any graffiti or other unauthorized inscribed materials shall be removed or covered in a manner consistent with the original exterior finish. Wellington may provide the tower owner and/or operator written notice to remove or cover graffiti within a specific period of time. In the event the graffiti has not been removed or painted within the specified timeframe, Wellington shall have the right to remove or paint over the graffiti, and in that event, the owner or operator of the facility shall bear all costs incurred.
 - 5. Failure to construct and/or maintain commercial wireless facilities in accordance with the LDR shall be a violation of the LDR.