

Olympia Heritage Commission
Principles to consider for wireless facilities

OHC's list of principles to consider:

- The expectations/requirements must be clear to the applicants in advance. The use of the Secretary of the Interior Standards will make the expectations clearer to applicants, because they are a national standard.
- Sometimes it is appropriate to locate a wireless communication facility (WCF) on a historic structure, because it is the best way to preserve the historic integrity of the property or district. This applies to both privately and publically owned properties.
- Rather than being prescriptive on the type of location/site for the WCF, review and approval should be linked to the application of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Rehabilitation)* in Heritage Review. For example, granting a permit in a national historic district – where currently prohibited – can only be granted if found to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.
- Local Historic Districts and properties on the local Register should be treated the same as National Historic Districts and properties on the National Historic Register.
- Contributing properties in a historic district should be treated the same as individual Register properties. A contributing property either meets the criteria for the Register or adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archeological values for which a property is significant because it was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period.
- A new WCF location should be a conditional use, while an existing location should be a permitted use.
- The code on WCF should explicitly state that any WCF on a historic property or in a historic district would be reviewed by the Heritage Review Committee in the same way as any other alteration to such properties.
- The definition of a "concealed" antenna must be clarified. Concealment should be done in a manner that is compatible with historic properties. The City of Sammamish has a good definition of concealed in its ordinance:
<https://www.sammamish.us/regulations/Ordinances.aspx?ID=204>.
- The site selection hierarchy should be simplified, more similarly to the Yakima ordinance. Historic properties and districts should be less preferred, but still possible locations.

* <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/treatment-rehabilitation.htm>