

5.05.00 TELECOMMUNICATION TOWERS

5.05.01 Purpose

It is the intent of Lowndes County to allow telecommunication facilities (telecommunications towers and/or antennas) in compliance with State and federal regulations. It is further the intent of the County to protect the public health, safety, and welfare through regulating the placement and design of allowable wireless communication facilities. The regulations in this section are designed to:

- A. Enhance the ability of the providers of telecommunications services to deliver such services to the community effectively and efficiently
- B. Preserve the character and appearance of Lowndes County while allowing adequate wireless telecommunication services to be developed;
- C. Locate telecommunications towers and antennas in areas where adverse impacts on the community are minimized and to promote harmonious co-existence of telecommunications towers with other land **uses**;
- D. Encourage the location of towers in non-residential areas and to minimize the total number of towers within **residential** areas;
- E. Provide standards and requirements for the operation, siting, design, appearance, **construction**, monitoring, modification, and removal of wireless communication facilities and towers;
- F. Encourage the innovative **use** of alternative tower **structures**, such as church steeples, outdoor advertising **signs**, electric transmission towers, and other such **structures**, where technologically feasible;
- G. Minimize tower and antenna proliferation by requiring the sharing of existing communications facilities, towers, and sites where possible and appropriate;
- H. Encourage the design and **construction** of towers and antennas to minimize adverse visual impacts and promote visual quality; and
- I. Minimize the potentially adverse visual effects of towers and other facilities through careful design and siting standards.

5.05.02 Consistency with Federal Telecommunications Act

- A. It is specifically the intent of Lowndes County that the regulations set forth in Section 5.05.00 shall be construed in such a manner as to maintain consistency with the Federal Telecommunications Act. Therefore, these regulations shall not be construed to:
 - 1. Prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the provision of wireless services;
 - 2. Unreasonably discriminate among providers of functionally equivalent services; or
 - 3. Regulate personal wireless services on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that the regulated services and facilities comply with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations concerning such emissions. The Federal