



Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

[MPC Comment] Supporting Materials for Case 5-B-15-UR-1, Request to Postpone Application Vote

1 message

'Kelly Ellenburg' via Commission <commission@knoxmpc.org>

Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 11:34 PM

Reply-To: kelly.ellenburg@yahoo.com

To: "commission@knoxmpc.org" <commission@knoxmpc.org>

Cc: "tom.brechko@knoxmpc.org" <tom.brechko@knoxmpc.org>

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please find attached a collection of documents assembled by the residents of the Martha Berry/Ridgecrest neighborhood to support our case against the Branch Towers application. The collection includes the following:

- research regarding the impacts of cell towers on home buyer decisions
- letters from Knoxville brokers regarding buyer habits of homes near cell towers
- research on home depreciation resulting from cell towers
- evidence of inaccuracies in the Branch Towers balloon test and more accurate photo simulations based on tree height and actual proposed tower coordinates
- support from Dogwood Arts organization and bylaws regarding homes on the Dogwood Trail
- coverage maps submitted in the application, which contrast with the below
- coverage maps from T-Mobile's website claiming 4 G LTE coverage in our area
- breakdown of mobile users, with T-Mobile composing less than 15 percent
- possible alternate locations nearby for a cell tower
- map of nearby towers
- information on cell tower ice dangers and towers catching on fire
- documentation of online petition against the tower with over 140 signatures
- petition signer comments
- news coverage on our case from the News Sentinel and Knoxville Focus

As expressed by Carlene Malone in a previous email, we request that the application vote be postponed to allow Branch Towers sufficient time to examine the alternative locations that they agreed to consider during the meeting with their attorney on June 4th. We have contacted Branch Towers requesting that they join us in this request but they have not yet informed us of their decision.

Our supporting materials reveal several weaknesses in Branch Towers's application. Specific examples include the inaccuracy of the balloon test (coordinates and elevation were far off) and the fact that they do not meet any of the qualifiers in the Facilities Plan section of the application. Please consider our request to postpone the application vote until Branch Towers has an opportunity to correct these inaccuracies, so that the decision can be informed by accurate data.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

Kelly Ellenburg
2206 Ridgecrest Drive

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This message was directed to commission@knoxmpc.org



Case Exhibits.pdf
8220K

Exhibit List for Case 5-B-15-UR-1

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**EMF Real Estate Survey Results:
“Neighborhood Cell Towers & Antennas—Do They Impact a Property’s Desirability?”**

03.07.2014 by Emily Category Electromagnetic Health Blog

Accessed from <http://electromagnetichealth.org/electromagnetic-health-blog/survey-property-desirability/>

The National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy’s survey “Neighborhood Cell Towers & Antennas—Do They Impact a Property’s Desirability?” initiated June 2, 2014, has now been completed by 1,000 respondents as of June 28, 2014. The survey, which circulated online through email and social networking sites, in both the U.S. and abroad, sought to determine if nearby cell towers and antennas, or wireless antennas placed on top of or on the side of a building, would impact a home buyer’s or renter’s interest in a real estate property.

The overwhelming majority of respondents (94%) reported that cell towers and antennas in a neighborhood or on a building would impact interest in a property and the price they would be willing to pay for it. And 79% said under no circumstances would they ever purchase or rent a property within a few blocks of a cell tower or antenna.

- 94% said a nearby cell tower or group of antennas would negatively impact interest in a property or the price they would be willing to pay for it.
- 94% said a cell tower or group of antennas on top of, or attached to, an apartment building would negatively impact interest in the apartment building or the price they would be willing to pay for it.
- 95% said they would opt to buy or rent a property that had zero antennas on the building over a comparable property that had several antennas on the building.
- 79% said under no circumstances would they ever purchase or rent a property within a few blocks of a cell tower or antennas.
- 88% said that under no circumstances would they ever purchase or rent a property with a cell tower or group of antennas on top of, or attached to, the apartment building.
- 89% said they were generally concerned about the increasing number of cell towers and antennas in their residential neighborhood.

The National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy (NISLAPP) was curious if respondents had previous experience with physical or cognitive effects of wireless radiation, or if their concern about neighborhood antennas was unrelated to personal experience with the radiation. Of the 1,000 respondents, 57% had previously experienced cognitive effects from radiation emitted by a cell phone, wireless router, portable phone, utility smart meter, or neighborhood antenna or cell tower, and 43% had not experienced cognitive effects. 63% of respondents had previously experienced physical effects from these devices or neighborhood towers and antennas and 37% had not experienced physical effects.

The majority of respondents provided contact information indicating they would like to receive the results of this survey or news related to the possible connection between neighborhood cell towers and antennas and real estate decisions.

Comments from real estate brokers who completed the NISLAPP survey:

“I am a real estate broker in NYC. I sold a townhouse that had a cell tower attached. Many potential buyers chose to avoid purchasing the property because of it. There was a long lease.”

“I own several properties in Santa Fe, NM and believe me, I have taken care not to buy near cell towers. Most of these are rental properties and I think I would have a harder time renting those units... were a cell tower or antenna nearby. Though I have not noticed any negative health effects myself, I know many people are affected. And in addition, these antennas and towers are often extremely ugly—despite the attempt in our town of hiding them as chimneys or fake trees.”

“We are home owners and real estate investors in Marin County and have been for the last 25 years. We own homes and apartment building here in Marin. We would not think of investing in real estate that would harm our tenants. All our properties are free of smart meters. Thank you for all of your work.”

“I’m a realtor. I’ve never had a single complaint about cell phone antennae. Electric poles, on the other hand, are a huge problem for buyers.”

Concern was expressed in the comments section by respondents about potential property valuation declines near antennas and cell towers. While the NISLAPP survey did not evaluate property price declines, a study on this subject by Sandy Bond, PhD of the New Zealand Property Institute, and Past President of the Pacific Rim Real Estate Society (PRRES), *The Impact of Cell Phone Towers on House Prices in Residential Neighborhoods*, was published in *The Appraisal Journal* of the Appraisal Institute in 2006. The Appraisal Institute is the largest global professional organization for appraisers with 91 chapters. The study indicated that homebuyers would pay from 10%–19% less to over 20% less for a property if it were in close proximity to a

cell phone base station. The ‘opinion’ survey results were then confirmed by a market sales analysis. The results of the sales analysis showed prices of properties were reduced by around 21% after a cell phone base station was built in the neighborhood.”

The Appraisal Journal study added,

“Even buyers who believe that there are no adverse health effects from cell phone base stations, knowing that other potential buyers might think the reverse, will probably seek a price discount for a property located near a cell phone base station.”

James S. Turner, Esq., Chairman of the National Institute for Science, Law & Public Policy and Partner, Swankin & Turner in Washington, D.C., says,

“The recent NISLAPP survey suggests there is now a high level of awareness about potential risks from cell towers and antennas. In addition, the survey indicates respondents believe they have personally experienced cognitive (57%) or physical (63%) effects from radiofrequency radiation from towers, antennas or other radiating devices, such as cell phones, routers, smart meters and other consumer electronics. Almost 90% are concerned about the increasing number of cell towers and antennas generally. A study of real estate sales prices would be beneficial at this time in the United States to determine what discounts homebuyers are currently placing on properties near cell towers and antennas.”

Betsy Lehrfeld, Esq., an attorney and Executive Director of NISLAPP, says,

“The proliferation of this irradiating infrastructure throughout our country would never have occurred in the first place had Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 not prohibited state and local governments from regulating the placement of wireless facilities on health or environmental grounds. The federal preemption leaves us in a situation today where Americans are clearly concerned about risks from antennas and towers, some face cognitive and physical health consequences, yet they and their families increasingly have no choice but to endure these exposures, while watching their real property valuations decline.”

The National Institute for Science, Law, and Public Policy (NISLAPP) in Washington, D.C. was founded in 1978 to bridge the gap between scientific uncertainties and the need for laws protecting public health and safety. Its overriding objective is to bring practitioners of science and law together to develop intelligent policy that best serves all interested parties in a given controversy. Its focus is on the points at which these two disciplines converge.

NISLAPP contact:

James S. Turner, Esq.
(202) 462-8800 / jim@swankin-turner.com

Emily Roberson
er79000@yahoo.com

June 2, 2015

4

Knoxville MPC
1816 North Hills Blvd.
Knoxville, TN 37917
865-938-4638

RE: Cell Tower

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my objection of the approval to build a cell tower in the mature residential area of the Martha Berry/Ridgecrest neighborhood.

While commercial properties aren't really affected much by towers of any kind, residential properties experience an astounding negative impact. Approval of this application will cause detrimental effects to the property values for those families who have chosen to make their home in this beautiful area situated on the Dogwood Trail. Families will be adversely impacted by the erection of this tower, because they chose to avoid areas with pollutants (visual, emotional, and/or financial) such as scrap yards, cell towers, manufacturing plants, paper mills, etc. They chose to live on the ridgetop to enjoy the tranquility, isolation, and the beautiful mountain views.

From my own personal experience, I do believe a cell tower will lower a home's value. The majority of buyers would not consider purchasing a home near a cell tower, regardless of how nice the home is. I assisted a young family just over four months ago with the purchase of their forever home. We experienced this exact situation during our home search. We found a nice home in a great neighborhood online, but when we viewed the property in person, there was a large utility tower in the lot behind the house. We literally did not go inside the house. As soon as my buyers saw the tower, they marked the property off the list.

Instead, they ended up purchasing a lovely home on Belcaro Drive, the next street up from Martha Berry, and in line with the lot where the proposed cell tower would stand. In the spring and summer, the view out the front windows of the home is filled with the huge trees that blanket the entire Ridgecrest/Martha Berry neighborhood. In the late fall and winter, when all the leaves are gone, they have a view of the mountains between the bare trees. If this tower is erected, that will be their view instead. That is not the home and view they paid for, and that is not the home and view they should be expected to deal with when purchasing a home in a beautiful, established neighborhood in the heart of one of our city's Dogwood Trails.

Please keep in mind the full impact of cell towers. They do not belong in mature, established residential neighborhoods; they belong in non-residential areas. Surely an area better suited for this tower exists. Please consider this application as if they were wanting to build a cell tower next door to your own home.

I urge you to support the preservation of this wonderful neighborhood by not approving the application.

Sincerely,



Paula Thomas Patterson, Broker, ePro, CRS, GRI, SRES
Remax Preferred Properties, Inc.
10820 Kingston Pike, Suite 14
Knoxville, TN 37934
C – 865-556-6111 . O – 865-694-8100 . E – Paula@PaulaThomasRealtor.com

From: elizabeth.camp
To: [Ellenburg, Kelly \(Kelly\); Carrera Romanini](mailto:Ellenburg.Kelly(Kelly);Carrera.Romanini)
Subject: Fw: Cell Tower/City of Knoxville Zoning
Date: Monday, June 8, 2015 9:04:22 PM
Attachments: [William and Liz Camp Zoning.docx](#)

On Monday, June 8, 2015 1:32 PM, Office <office@brackfieldproperties.com> wrote:

Mrs. Camp,

Buddy Brackfield asked me to email you the attached letter referencing the cell tower issue.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Lisa Cross

Real Estate Coordinator/Office Administrator
Brackfield & Associates
10510 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37922
(865) 691-8195 Office
office@brackfieldproperties.com

June 8, 2015

William & Liz Camp
2210 Martha Berry Drive
Knoxville, TN 37918

City of Knoxville Planning & Codes Enforcement
Board of Zoning Appeals Members
Suite 547
400 Main Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

RE: Cell Tower

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in an attempt to better acquaint the parties listed above with the powerful impact a cell tower of any size or shape affects a residential community.

I have been a Real Estate Broker for over 30 years with training and experience in appraisals, liquidations, investments, development and auctioneering.

The Commercial sector of our business has very little or no negative impact from the development of cell towers. However, in the residential sector, we have quite the opposite.

Families are impacted by their surroundings in different ways (i.e. physical, emotional and/or financial). People choose to live on ridge tops, ocean front, lakefront, lake and/or ocean views and certainly rural farms for the space and tranquility.

They further choose to avoid areas with pollutants (i.e. smoke stacks, pig farms, scrap yards, recycling centers, cell towers, radio transmission towers, wind farms, gun ranges, manufacturing, paper mills, etc.).

Cell towers are a visual pollutant that offer in this case -0- benefit to the immediate area (i.e. Knoxville) due to the umbrella affect that they forecast out.

I can further offer to his board the fact that all future potential buyers looking in this area will steer away if the cell tower is approved strictly for aesthetic issues alone. Due to that, all sellers

are impacted. For the numbers alone will be smaller with parties of less interest which drive the prices of homes and land down.

It really does not matter if we debate the negative impact at 20% to 50% reduction due to the fact we still have to find a buyer out of a small pool of prospects that would even consider living near the cell tower at any price.

It is my professional opinion that cell towers offer such a negative impact to the community that the depreciated value also should be reflected within the property tax values and assessment.

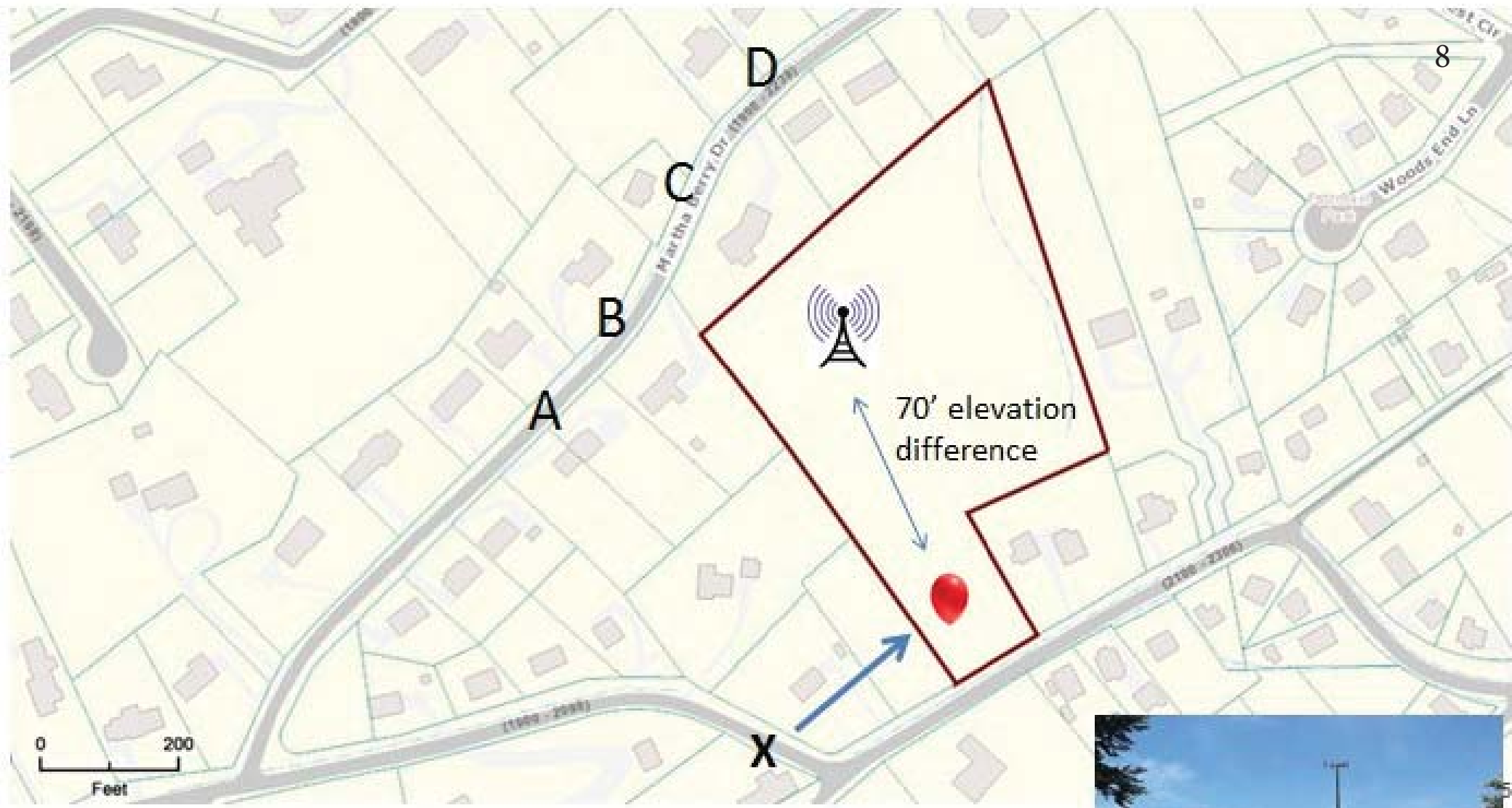
This not only affects the homeowner, but also affects the city and county government. It's all a derivative of cash flow for the cell tower provider with no concern or appreciation for the community.

I hope this information is helpful and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Buddy Brackfield
Broker

BB/lc



MONOPOLE

2000 Martha Berry



PHOTO SIMULATION NOT TO SCALE. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE, AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



Photo position B

TN-0010
Corey

A



B



19226 Martin Henry Dr



Exit Street View

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Google earth

Map data

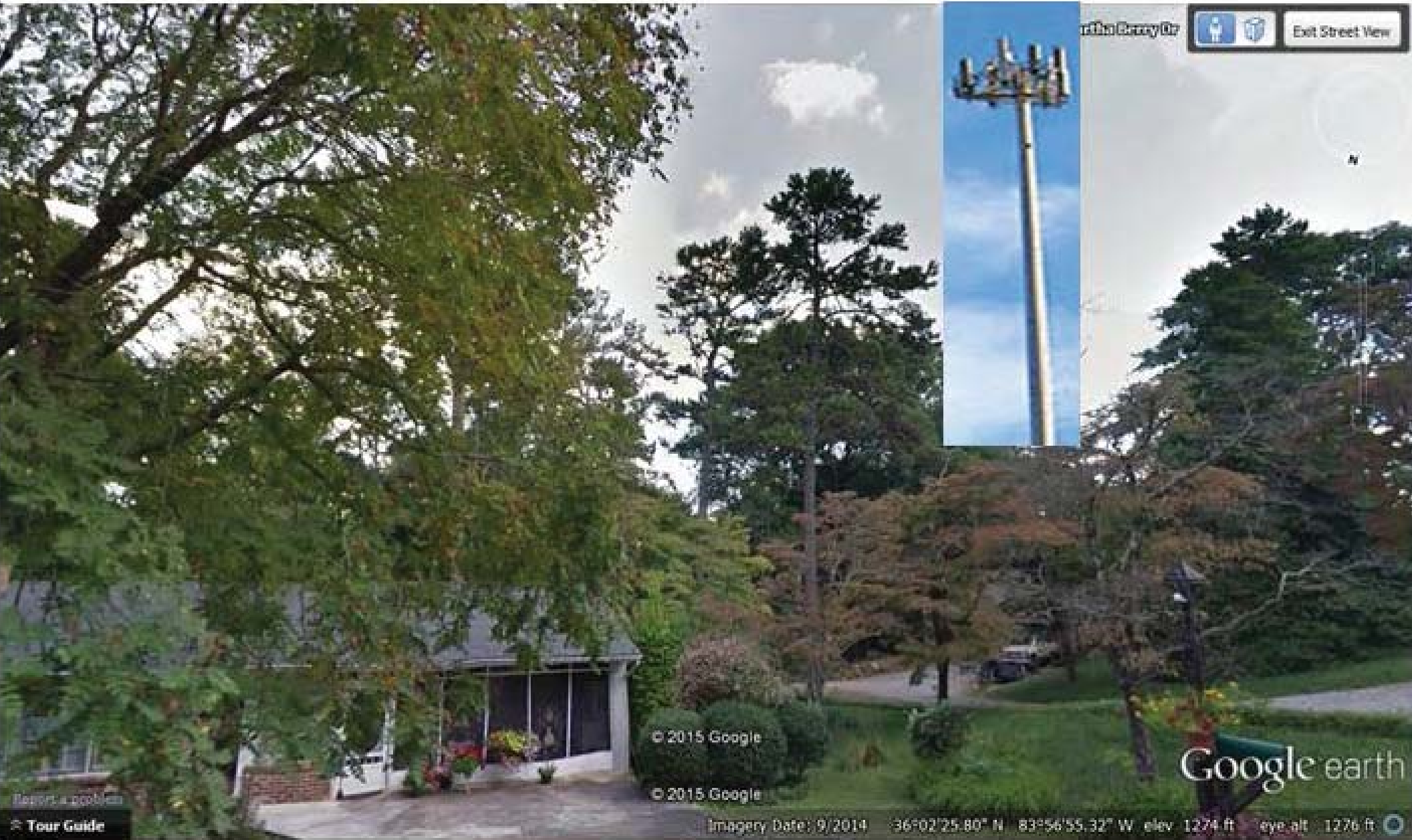
Tour Guide

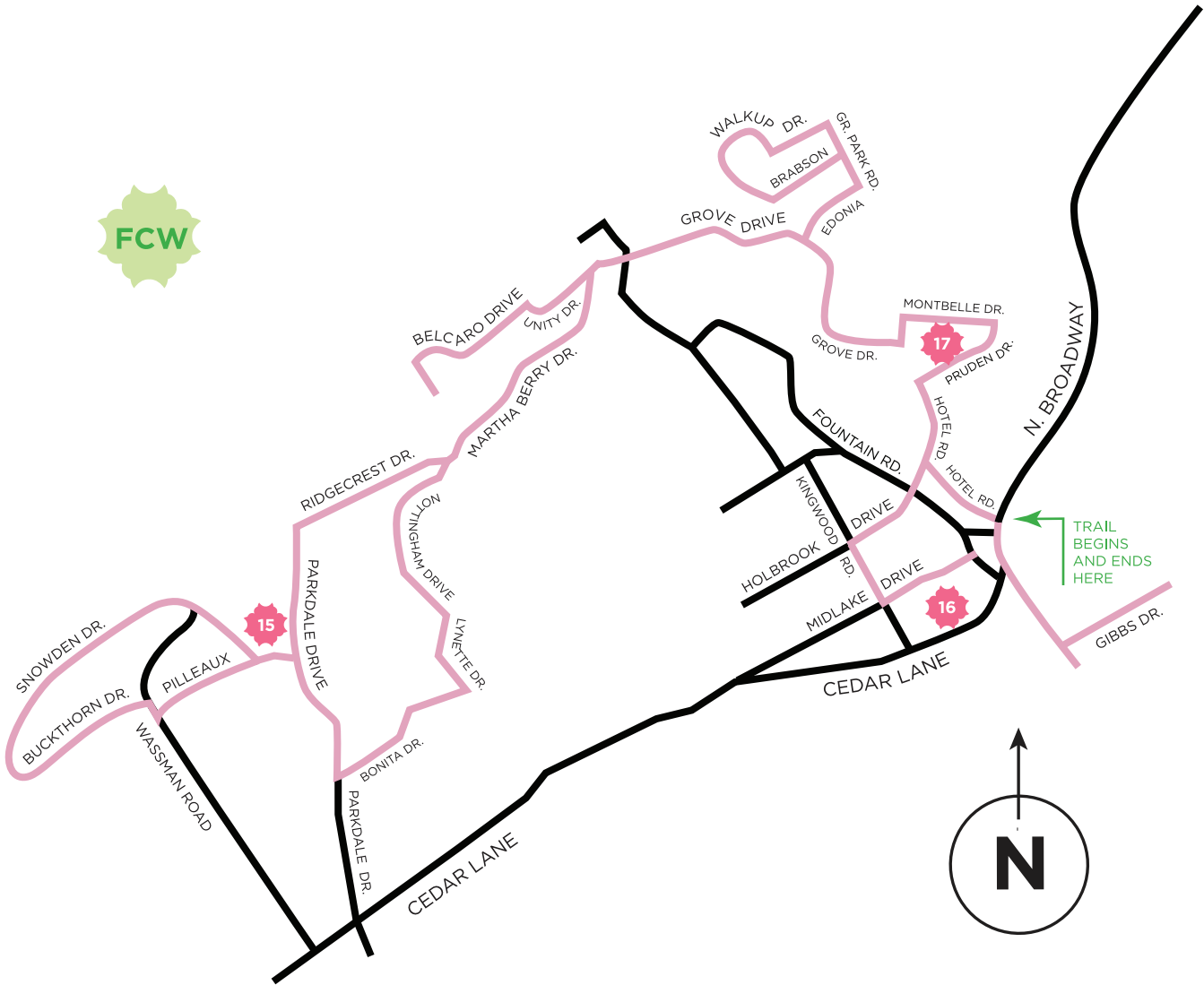
Imagery Date: 9/2014 36°02'22.14" N 83°56'57.76" W elev: 1271 ft eye alt: 1283 ft

C



D





FOUNTAIN CITY (WEST)

TRAIL BEGINS AND ENDS AT **HOTEL AVENUE/WEST SIDE OF BROADWAY**



Carrera Romanini <carrera.harris@gmail.com>

Cell Phone Tower Proposed on Martha Berry

Katharine Torbett <ktorbett@dogwoodarts.com>

Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 9:22 AM

To: Lisa Duncan <lduncan@dogwoodarts.com>, carrera.harris@gmail.com

Carrera,

Our Dogwood Trail maps are listed on our website here:

<http://www.dogwoodarts.com/trails-and-gardens/>

As for verbiage stating why trails are established and the requirements for such, I can quote the Dogwood Arts By-Laws. Here are a couple excerpts that should help: The purpose of the Dogwood Trails is to showcase the natural beauty of the Knoxville, Tennessee area by devising driving routes for seven (7) Dogwood Trails and a limited number of Garden By-Ways which driving routes a) feature the nature *Cornus florida* and other indigenous plants, shrubs, and trees; and b) represent the diverse architecture and topography of the various residential components of the Knoxville area.

One of the ten requirements that could support your case: Trails are located in residential areas where wild, indigenous dogwood abounds. In addition, other established flowering trees, spring-blooming shrubs, attractive flower gardens, and well-groomed lawns are Trail requirements.

Hope this helps!

katharine

Katharine Torbett

Project Manager

Dogwood Arts | dogwoodarts.com

602 South Gay Street, Mezzanine Level

Knoxville, TN 37902

phone :: [865/637.4561](tel:8656374561)

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[vimeo](#) :: Dogwood Arts



Presented by **ORNL Federal Credit Union**

FOUNTAIN CITY DOGWOOD TRAIL PANORAMA SIDE

Welcome to the Panorama Side of the Fountain City Dogwood Trail, that begins and ends in a historic area. On the right is Fountain City Park, maintained by the Lions Club. Behind the park is a steep cliff where the clear spring for Fountain City’s name bubbles out of solid rock.

In the 1890’s the area around this spring developed into a popular resort. Gresham Junior High School (on the left) occupies the site of a large hotel that was surrounded by cottages and annexes. Vacationers reached the resort from Knoxville on a dummy-line railroad with open side cars pulled by a miniature steam engine. By the time the hotel burned early in the 1900’s, Fountain City had grown into a prosperous community connected to downtown Knoxville by an inter-urban trolley line.

By way of Pruden Drive (on the right) is Fountain City Elementary School with an abundance of white and pink dogwood trees. By way of Gresham and Edonia Drives, the Trail comes up to Grove Park. Now a left turn on Walkup Drive affords the first glimpse of a panoramic view from Black Oak Ridge across the city to the distant Smoky Mountains. After circling the large white frame house built by C.H. McClung in 1912, take a second look at the view from Brabson Drive.

Grove Road and Unity Drive lead to “Belcaro”, an imposing Italiante villa built in the 1920’s by Judge Hugh L. McClung. A very sharp right turn brings the Trail onto Martha Berry Drive, where the glorious panorama reappears.

Beyond Ridgecrest and wooded Parkdale drives, the route skirts the western brow of Black Oak Ridge on Snowden and Buckthorn Drives. Charming homes framed by dogwoods continue into heavily wooded valley known as Sherwood Forest. Nottingham Road climbs up to rejoin Martha Berry Drive. Feast your eyes once more on the Great Valley of East Tennessee and the Great Smoky Mountains on the far horizons.

Grove and Gresham Drives wind down from the heights to the early day resort. Holbrook and Kingwood Roads bring the Trail to Midlake Drive. Look for the one-of-a-kind stone well with a peaked roof on the left.

Ahead, at the end of this street, is the heart-shaped Fountain City Lake – a beloved landmark known to earlier generations as “the duck pond”. This was the end for the little train in the 1890’s and for 20th century street cars.

The Panorama Trail bears left around the lake to the end at Broadway. Turn right to reach I-75, I-40 and downtown via I-275.

Be sure to enjoy Dogwood Arts with its scores of special events including the Dogwood Arts Festival on Market Square, Rhythm N’ Blooms, multiple art exhibitions, and much, much more.



www.dogwoodarts.com

DOGWOOD TRAILS

Est. 1955



LEGEND

Customer Verified

OFF ON

- 4G LTE
- 4G
- 3G
- 2G
- Partner
- No Coverage

More

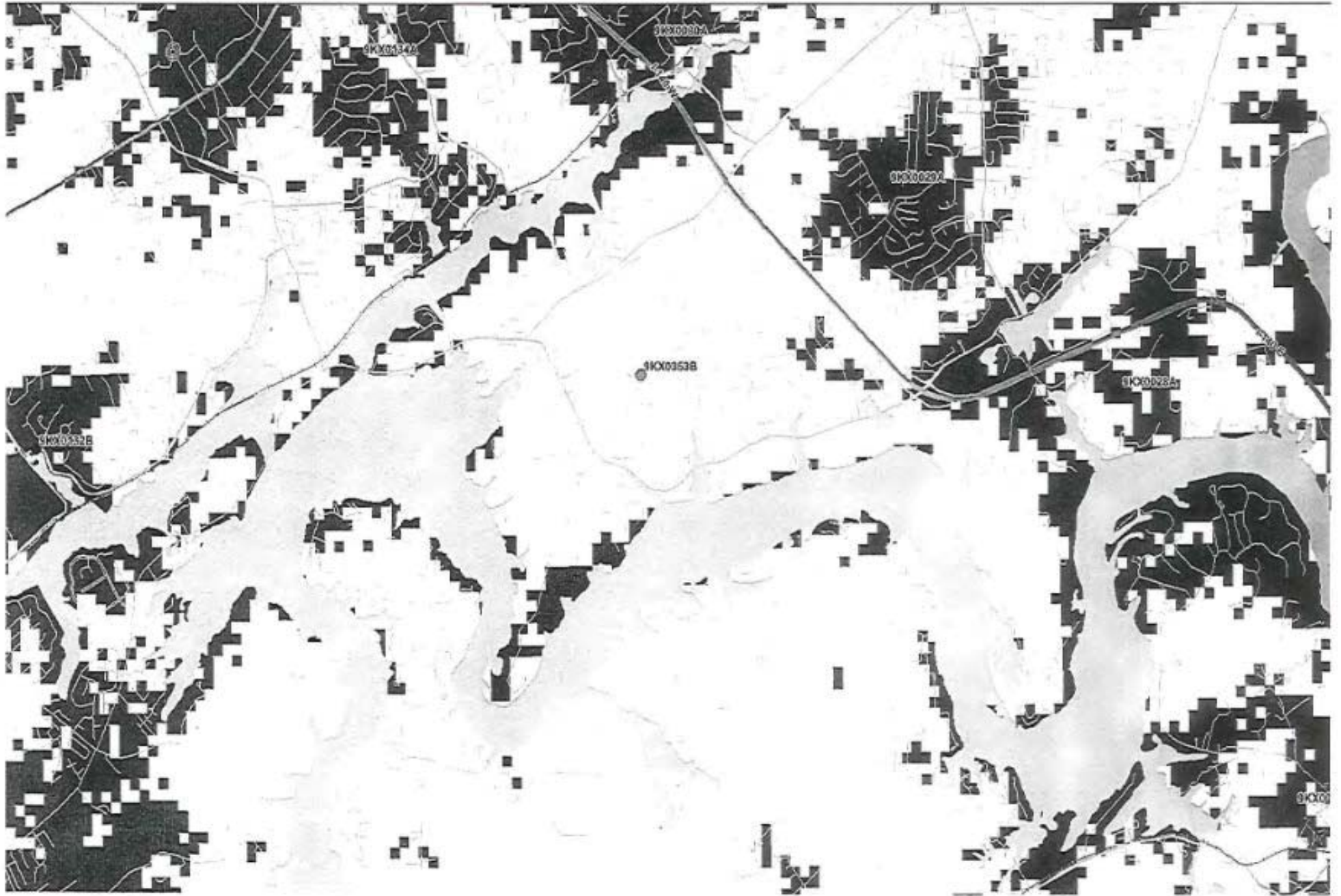
Knoxville, TN 37918

CHECK COVERAGE

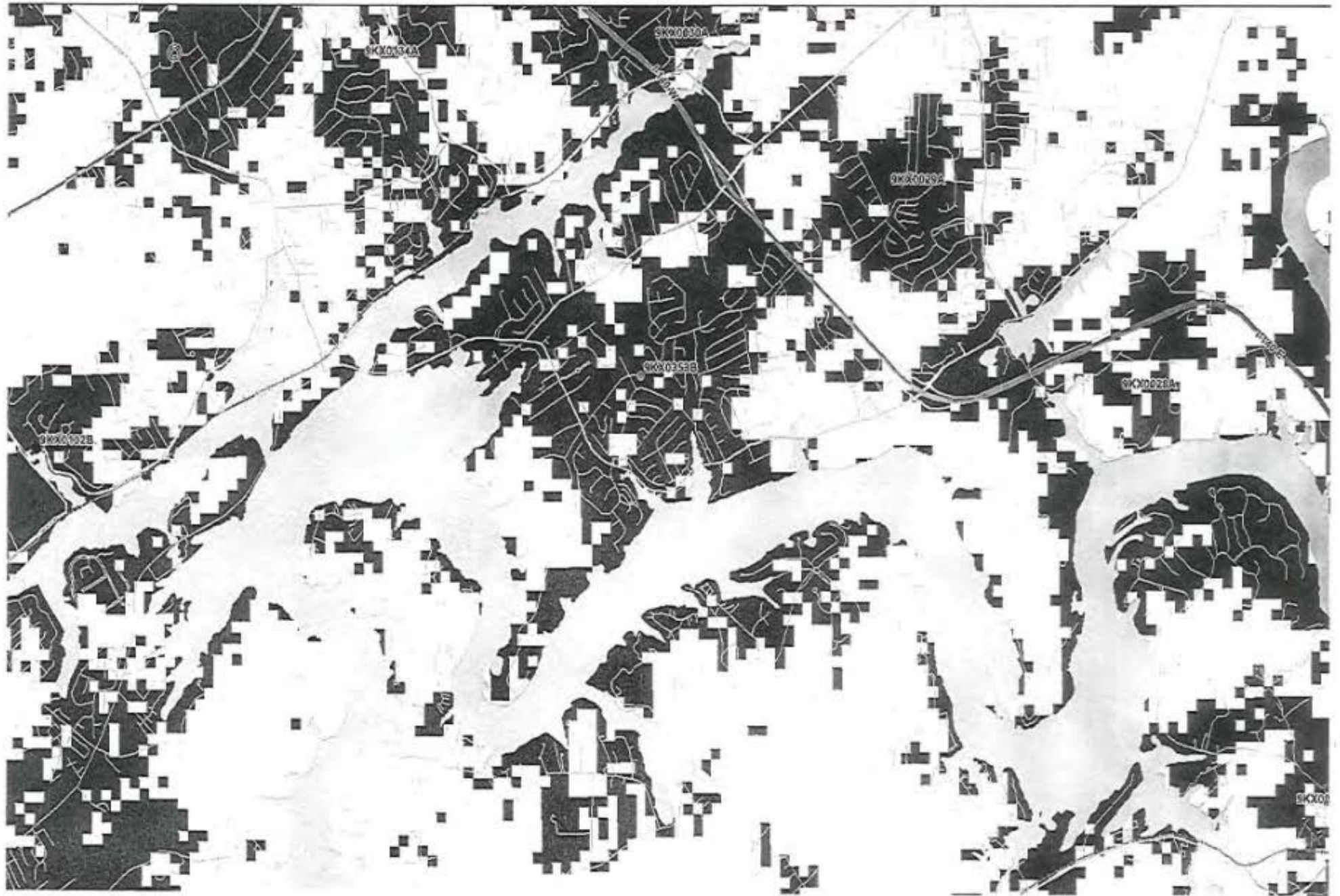
MY PLACES 18 CLOSE



T-Mobile Coverage without 9KX0353B



T-Mobile Coverage with 9KX0353B



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Source

Strategy Analytics; FierceCIO

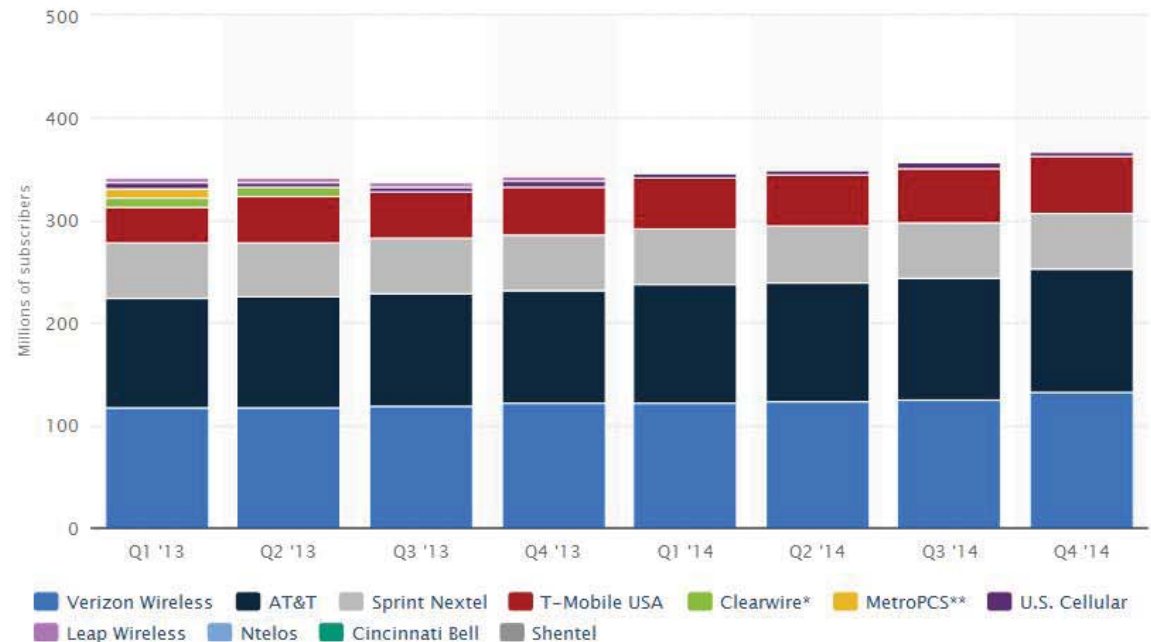
Survey by

Strategy Analytics

Citation (FAQ)

Select citation

Number of subscribers to wireless carriers in the U.S. from 1st quarter 2013 to 4th quarter 2014, by carrier (in millions)



Additional Information:

United States; Strategy Analytics

Sources:
Strategy Analytics; FierceCIO
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f Like 2 t Tweet 7 g+1 2

Reading support

This graph displays the number of subscribers to top wireless carriers in the United States from the first quarter of 2013 to the fourth quarter of 2014. In the first quarter of 2013, Verizon Wireless led the list with an overwhelming 116.75 million subscribers, followed by AT&T who recorded more than 107 million subscribers that same quarter.

Supplementary notes

* Clearwire was sold to Sprint.

** Metro PCS merged with T-Mobile.

More statistics about...

wireless

subscribers

wireless telecommunication carriers

Show more

Relevant Topics & Statistics

Smartphones



Number of apps available in leading app stores 2015

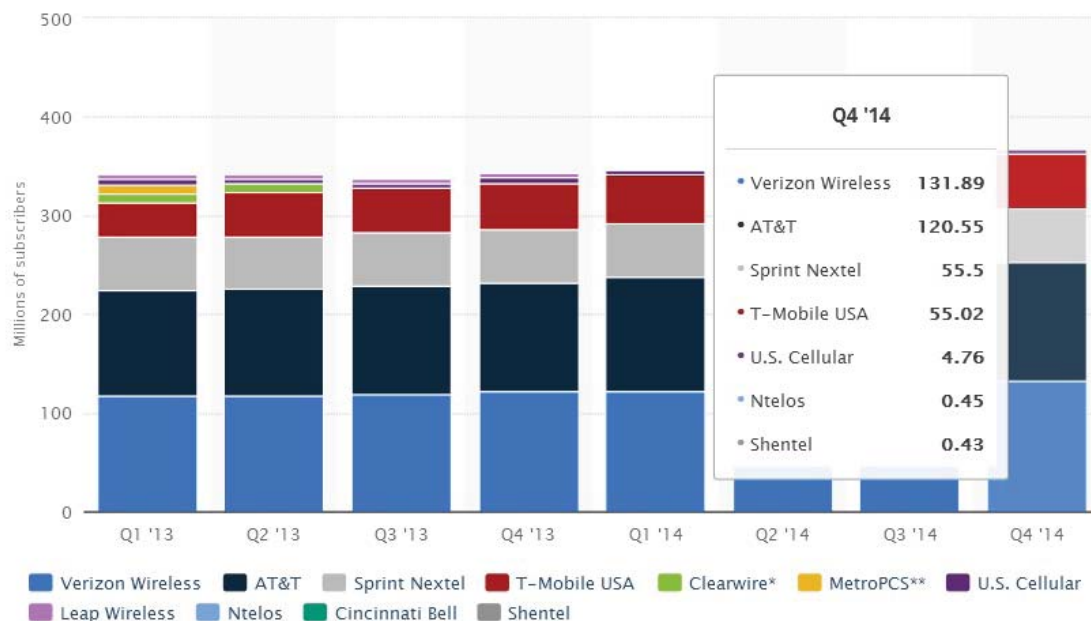
Technology & Telecommunications Telecommunications Wireless carriers in the U.S. by the number of subscribers 2013-2014, by quarter (fee-based)

Options

- Settings
- Print
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Further info

Number of subscribers to wireless carriers in the U.S. from 1st quarter 2013 to 4th quarter 2014, by carrier (in millions)



Additional Information: United States; Strategy Analytics

Sources: Strategy Analytics; FierceCIO © Statista 2015

Like 2 Tweet 7 +1 2

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- * Clearwire was sold to Sprint.
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scribers

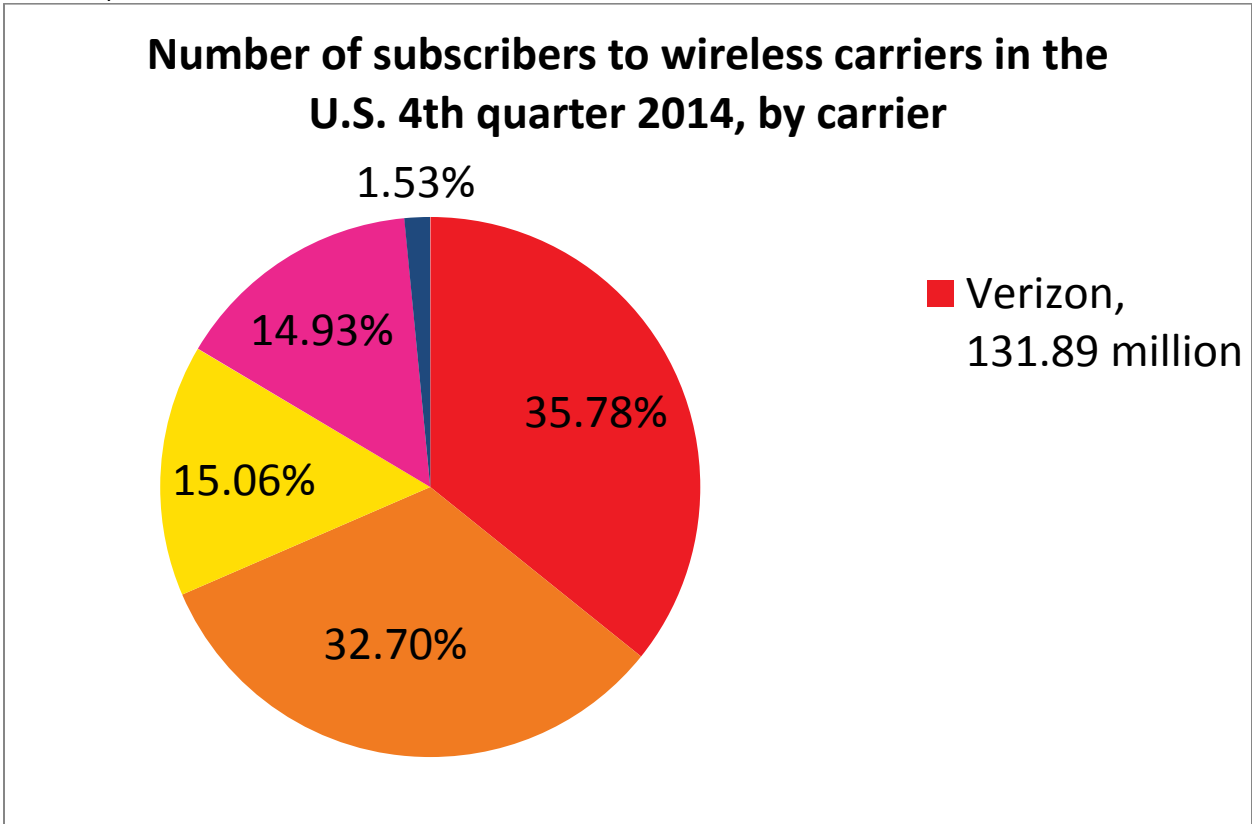
munication carriers

Show more

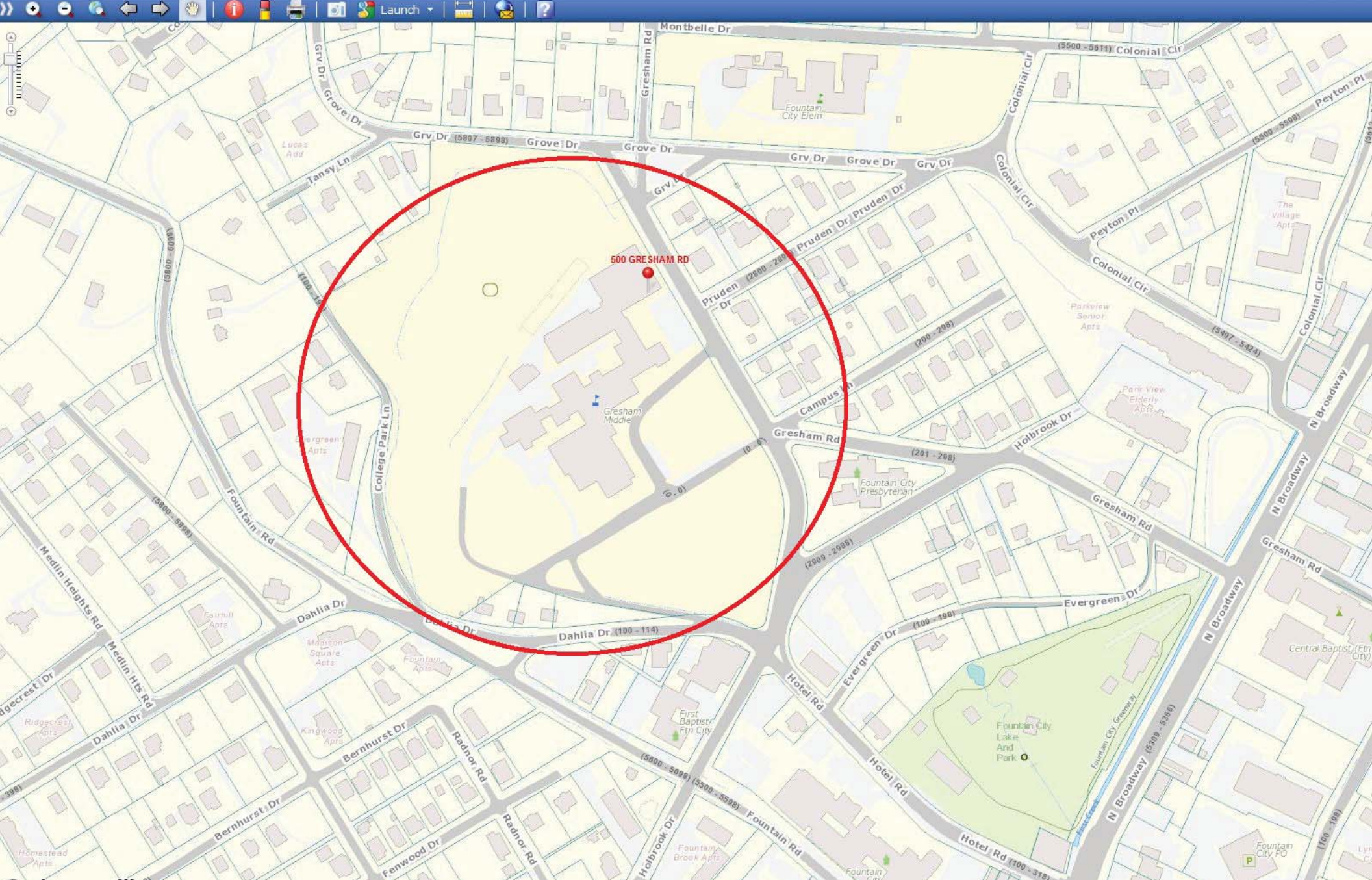
Statistics

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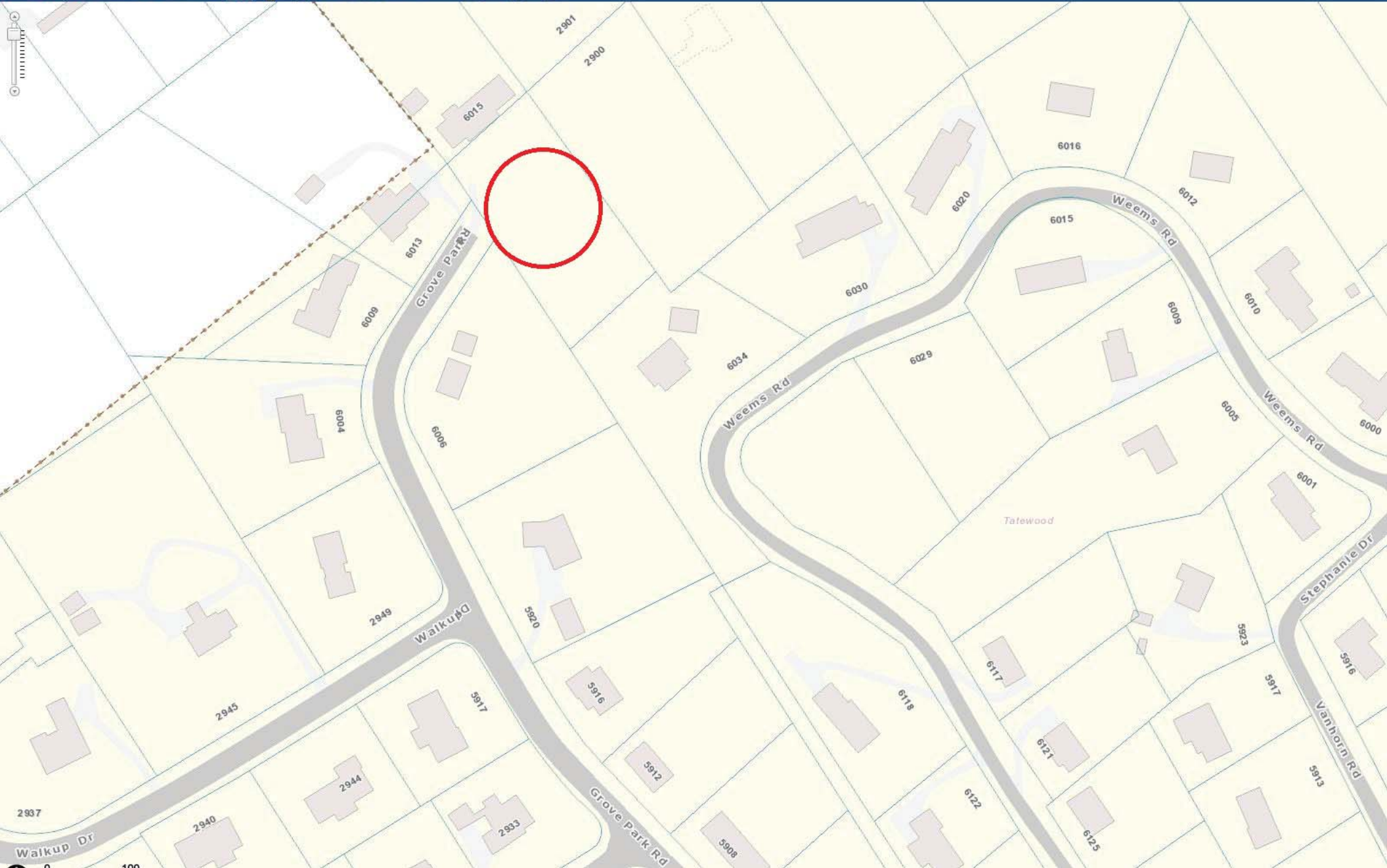
Verizon, 131.89 million	131.89
AT&T, 120.55 million	120.55
Sprint Nextel, 55.5 million	55.5
T-Mobil, 55.02 million	55.02
Other Carriers, 5.64 million (US Cellular, Ntelos, Shentel)	5.64



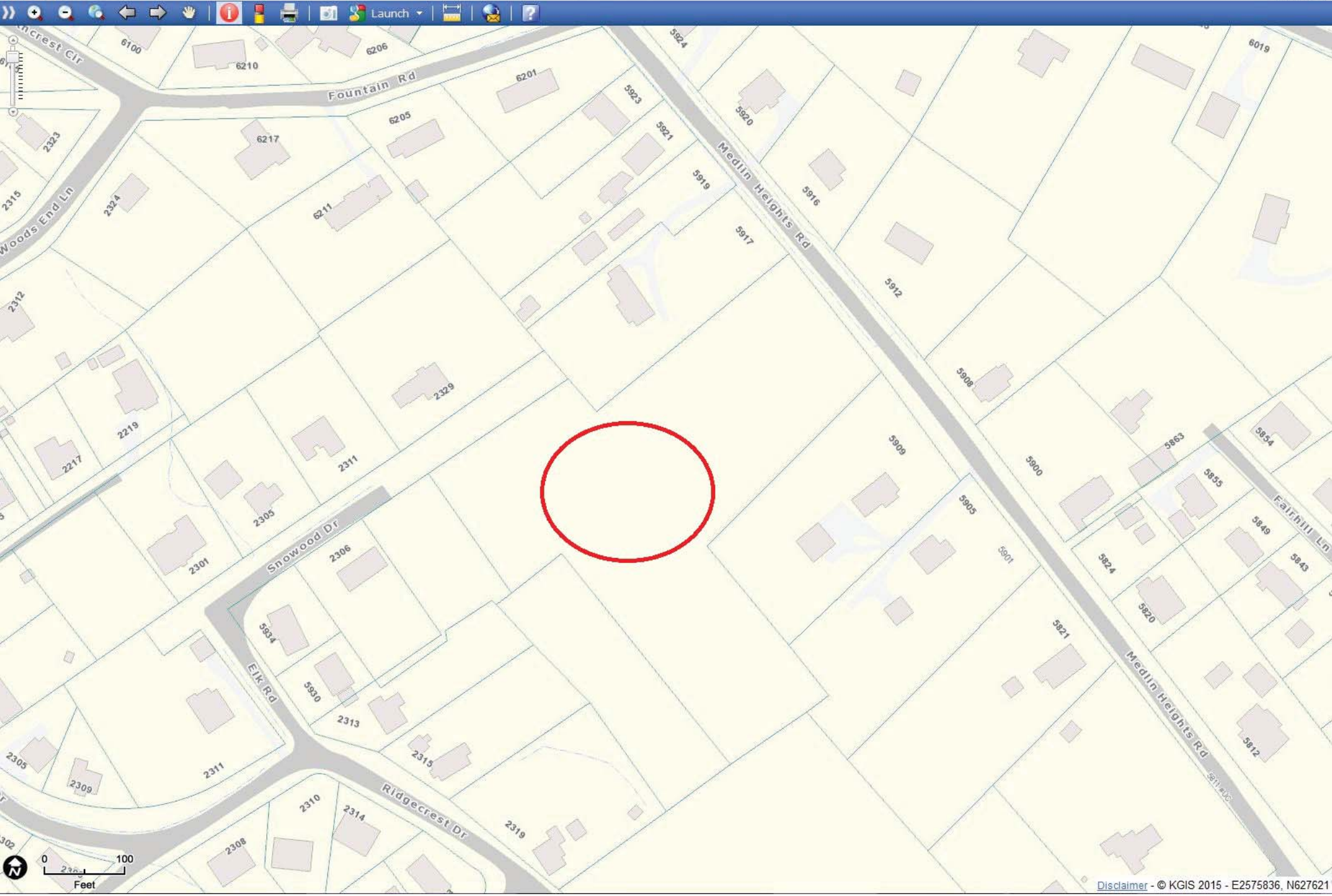
Search By:	Address	Parcel	Owner	Place	Other
Enter Address:	500 GRESHAM				
	<input type="button" value="Search"/>	<input type="button" value="Advanced"/>			

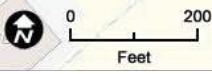
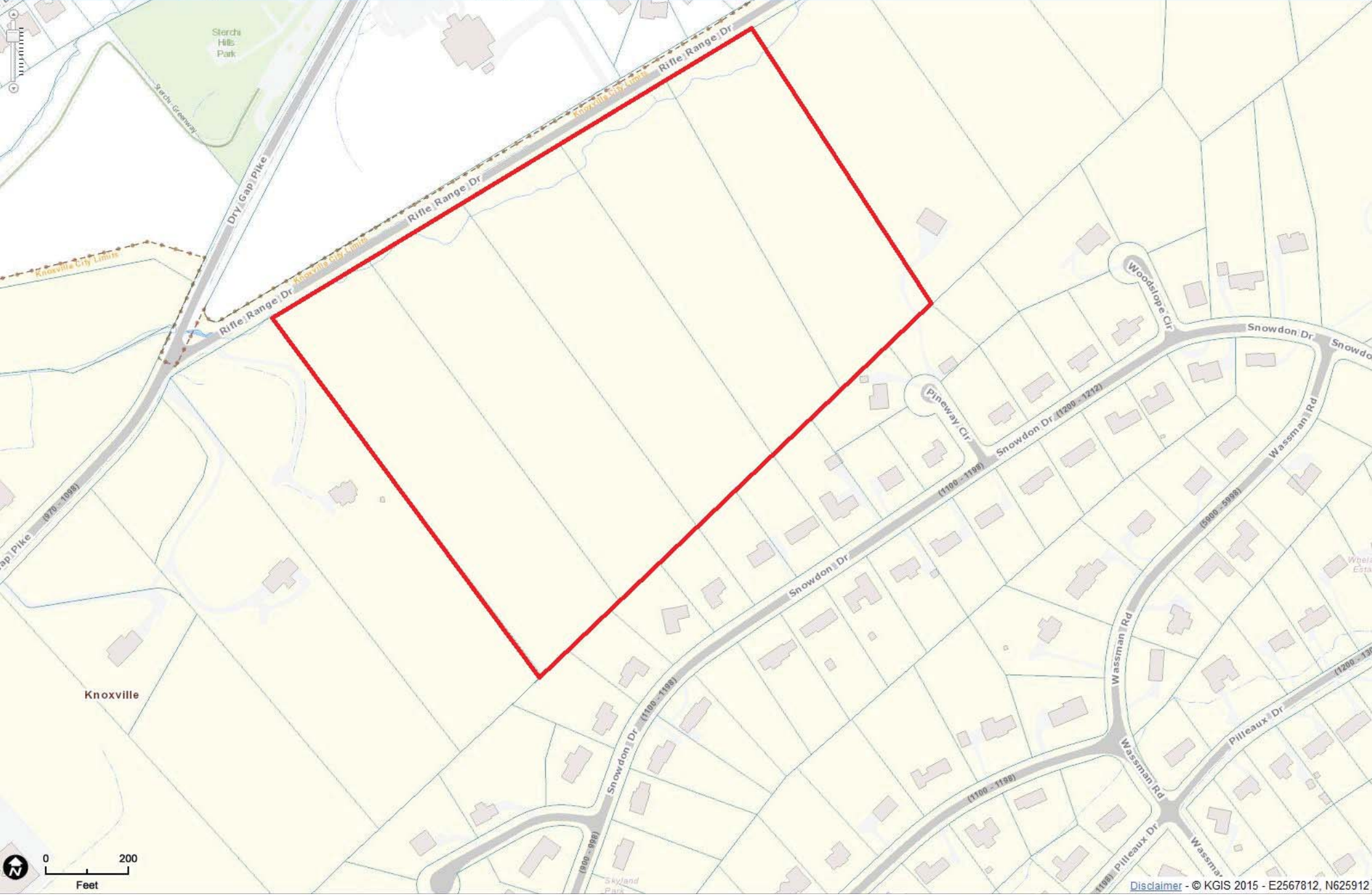


Search By: **Address** Parcel Owner Place Other
Enter Address: GROVE PARK RD

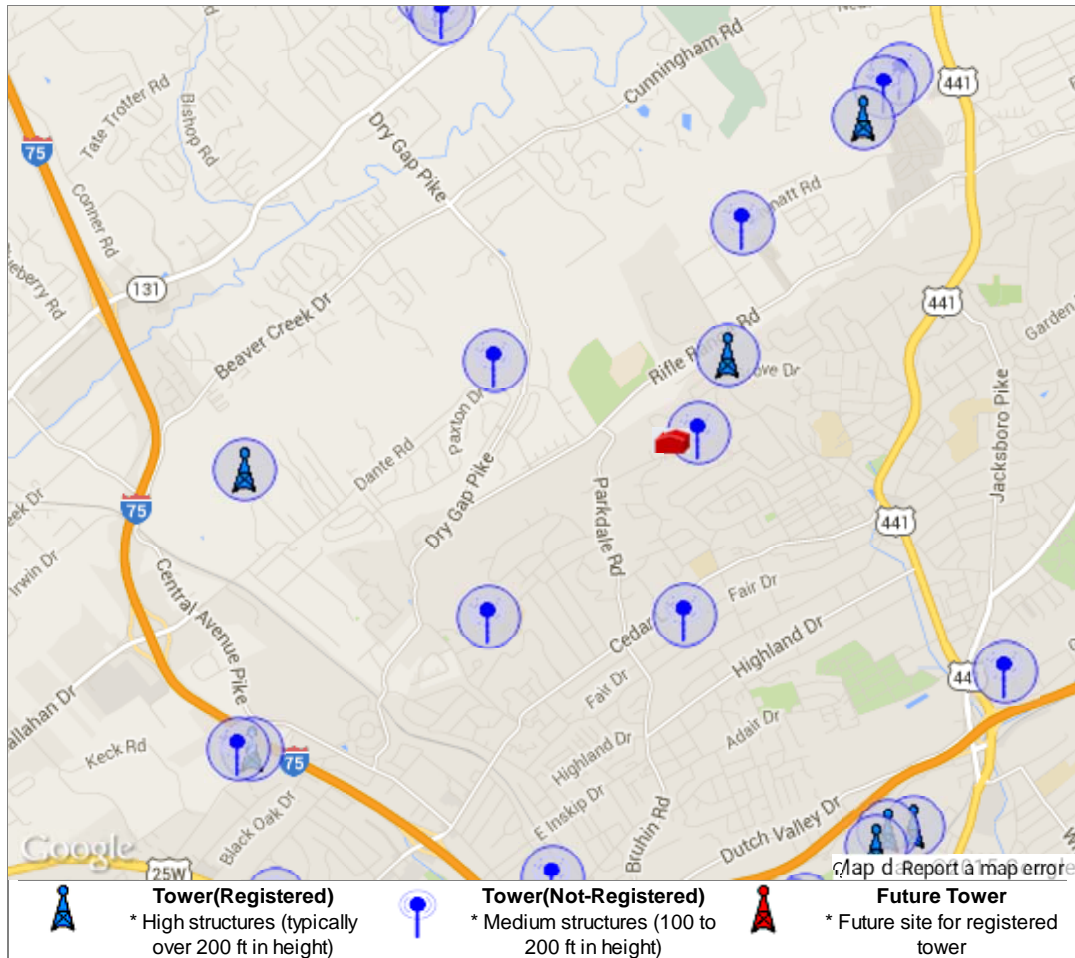


Search By:	<input type="radio"/> Address	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Parcel	<input type="radio"/> Owner	<input type="radio"/> Place	<input type="radio"/> Other
Enter Parcel ID:	<input type="text"/>				<input type="button" value="Search"/>





• Tower Structures - (2016 Hollyhock Ln, Knoxville, TN 37918)



Tower Search Results!

Alert! 38 Towers (17 Registered, 21 Not Registered) found within 3.00 miles of **2016 Hollyhock Ln, Knoxville, TN 37918**.

Info! The NEAREST Tower is .15 miles away and is owned by **Branch Communications, Llc**.

Ok! No Applications for Future Towers detected as of 06/03/15.

Tower Type	ID Num	Site Owner	Height	Dist
 Registered	(1)	United States Cellular Corporation	115 feet	.53 miles
	(2)	Crown Castle South Llc	285 feet	1.82 miles
	(3)	T-mobile Usa Towers Llc	180 feet	1.99 miles
	(4)	Midwest Communications, Inc., = Wjxb	1088 feet	2.01 miles
	(5)	United States Cellular Corporation	333 feet	2.05 miles
	(6)	Gannett Pacific Corp.	707 feet	2.07 miles
	(7)	Verizon Wireless Tennessee Partnership	295 feet	2.11 miles
	(8)	Young Broadcasting Of Knoxville, Inc.	1153 feet	2.15 miles
	(9)	Spectrasite Communications, Llc. Through American Towers, Llc.	1456 feet	2.15 miles
	(10)		460 feet	2.18 miles
	(11)		215 feet	2.20 miles

(12)	Knox County Emergency Communication District	171 feet	2.38 miles
(13)	Sba Monarch Towers Ii, Llc	310 feet	2.44 miles
(14)	American Tower, Llc	1534 feet	2.64 miles
(15)	Sba Properties, Llc	199 feet	2.72 miles
(16)	T-mobile Usa Towers Llc	250 feet	2.86 miles
(17)	Crown Castle South Llc	149 feet	2.95 miles



Not Registered

(1)	Branch Communications, Llc	155 feet	.15 miles
(2)	Knoxville Cellular Telephone Co	195 feet	.68 miles
(3)	State Of Tn Emergency Management Agency	300 feet	1.11 miles
(4)	T-mobile	224 feet	1.14 miles
(5)	Us Cellular Corporation	199 feet	1.29 miles
(6)	Crown Castle For At & t Mobility	175 feet	1.99 miles
(7)	Muayyad Mustafa (mc)	166 feet	1.99 miles
(8)	United States Cellular Corp	145 feet	2.00 miles
(9)	Tennessee St. Board Of Ed.	1504 feet	2.09 miles
(10)	American Towers, Inc.	195 feet	2.10 miles
(11)	Us Cellular Corporation	114 feet	2.17 miles
(12)	L.e. Conte Bc Company Inc.	1559 feet	2.29 miles
(13)	Blount Broadcasting Corporation	260 feet	2.41 miles
(14)	Motorola Communications Electronics	100 feet	2.43 miles
(15)	Blount Broadcasting Corporation	260 feet	2.47 miles
(16)	Blount Broadcasting Corporation	259 feet	2.53 miles
(17)	Sba Inc	230 feet	2.78 miles
(18)	Bellsouth Personal Communications	165 feet	2.94 miles
(19)	Chase Telecommunications Inc	206 feet	2.97 miles
(20)	Wireless Properties Ii, Llc	199 feet	2.99 miles
(21)	Tennessee Valley Authority	185 feet	2.99 miles



Future

(No Towers Detected)

An Analysis of Cell Tower Ice Falls

Dennis Rogers*

March 28, 2013

Abstract: The following is an estimate of the effects of ice falling from cell towers. The velocity of impact and distance of impact from the tower are calculated for the type of ice fragments expected due to freezing rain on the flat surfaces of the tower and antenna structures. These calculations are not intended to be comprehensive but do show the magnitude of effects to be expected.

Introduction: Freezing rain can cause ice to build up on on the flat surfaces of the antenna elements arrayed around cell phone towers and also on the tower itself. The photo to the right shows such an antenna array. Since these surfaces are oriented vertically one would expect the ice to form primarily in almost flat sheets oriented vertically to the ground. The thickness of these sheets could be up to 6 cm thick due to freezing rain. In what follows I will consider the fate of such a sheet of ice that has detached from the cell tower surface. This could be due to heat from the antenna currents melting a thin layer next to the tower or antenna element. Indeed such ice falls have been observed.



Cell Phone Tower Antenna array in Kent NY.

The Physics: The sheet of ice will be subject to two forces: the downward force of gravity and the force exerted by wind resistance. The force of gravity is constant and equal to:

Eq 1. $F_{grav} = M g$

where $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ is the acceleration of gravity, and M is the mass of the ice sheet in kg. In what follows I will assume the use of MKS units in the calculations.

The force due to wind resistance depends on the actual geometry of the piece of ice but is roughly proportional to the area exposed to the wind, A, the square of the velocity, v, at which it falls and the drag coefficient, C_p , which depends on the exact shape of the ice fragment. Using the EIA-222-C standard for calculating wind forces on antenna structures, the wind force can be written :

Eq 2. $F_{wind} = F_0 A v^2 C_d$

where $F_0 = 0.26 \frac{nt - s^2}{m^4}$

No Wind: The simplest case is where there is no wind blowing. The wind resistance is then only due to the velocity at which the object is falling. The downward acceleration, a , is then given by:

Eq 3.
$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{F_{total}}{M} = \frac{-Mg + F_0 A v^2 C_d}{M} = -g + \frac{F_0 A v^2 C_d}{M}$$

For the thin sheets oriented vertically, the second term, the wind resistance force, will be negligible and the ice will fall primarily due to the force of gravity. The cases in which the ice sheet is not oriented vertically will not be considered. Assuming a tower height of 50 meters (about 150 ft) and only gravitational forces, the ice sheet would reach a velocity of 31 m/s or about 67 mph before hitting the ground. Assuming the flat surfaces of the antenna structures are 2 x 1 meters in size and that the ice is 6 cm thick this would result in a piece of ice weighing approximately 108 kg (237 lbs) striking into the ground with a speed of 67 miles per hour.

With Wind: With wind, of course, the ice can move in the direction of the wind before reaching the ground. A sheet of ice can experience considerable force from the wind, especially if the flat side of the sheet is perpendicular to the wind. In this case there is an equation of motion for both the vertical direction and the direction in which the wind is blowing. Vertically the equation is the same as in the no wind case:

Eq 4.
$$a_z = \frac{dv_z}{dt} = -g + \frac{F_0 A v_z^2 C_d}{M}$$

while in the direction of the wind:

Eq 5.
$$a_x = \frac{dv_x}{dt} = \frac{F_0 A (v_w - v_x)^2 C_d}{M} - \frac{F_0 A v_x^2 C_d}{M}$$

where now v_w is the velocity of the wind and v_x is the velocity of the ice in the direction of the wind. The first term is the force on the windward side of the sheet and the second term is the force on the opposite side of the sheet due to normal wind resistance. The amount the ice travels in the direction of the wind depends on the thickness of the sheet, with thinner sheets traveling further. These equations have been solved to determine the amount of travel in the direction of the wind that the ice sheet would travel before impacting the ground. Again assuming a sheet 2m x 1m, the figure below shows the distance from the tower the ice sheet would fall for three different thicknesses and weights:

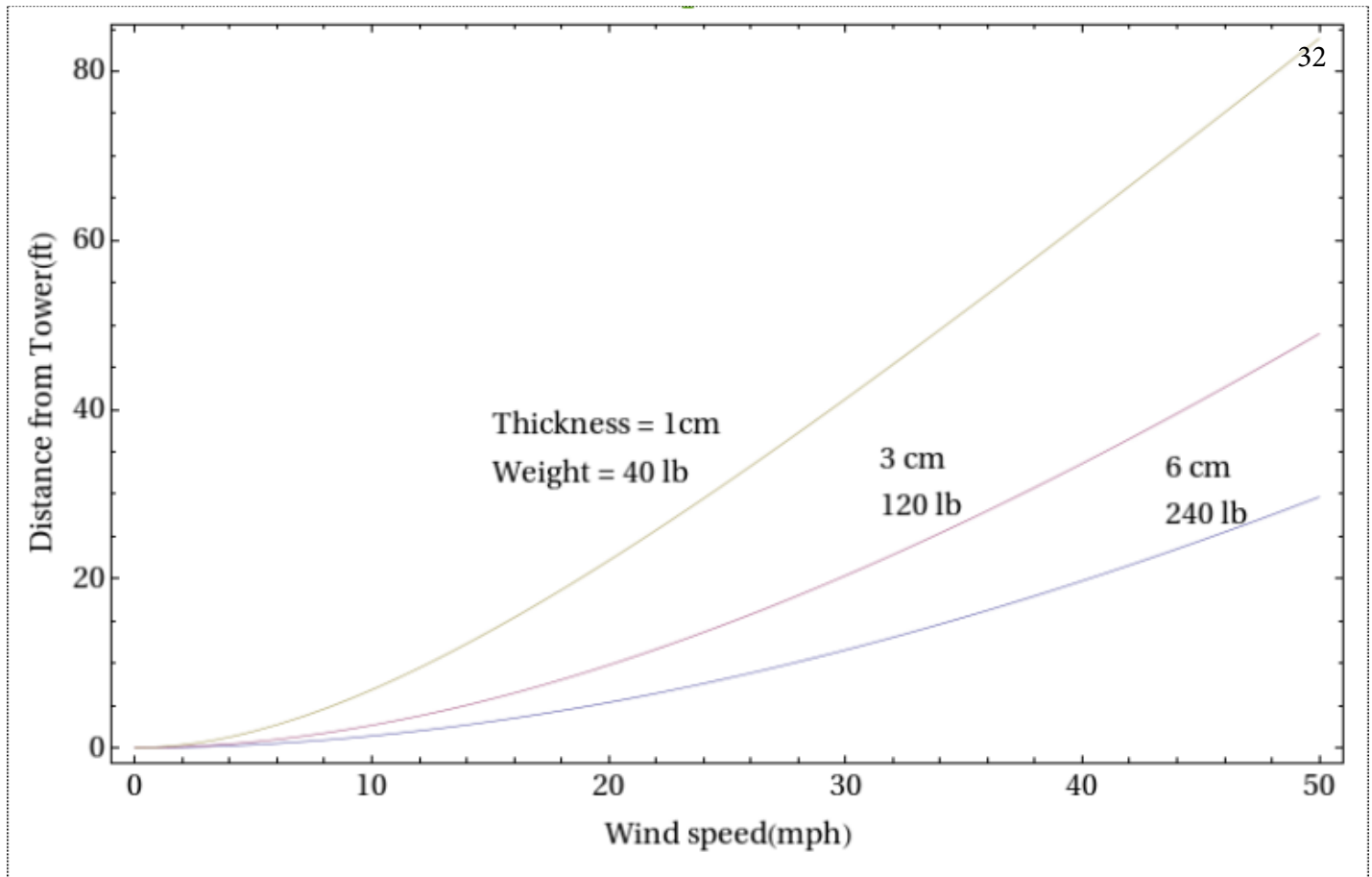


Figure 1. Distance of ice fall from tower vs wind-speed for three different thicknesses

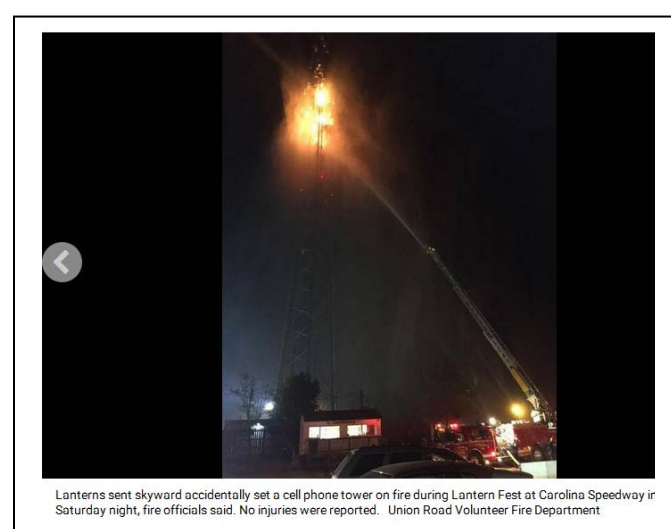
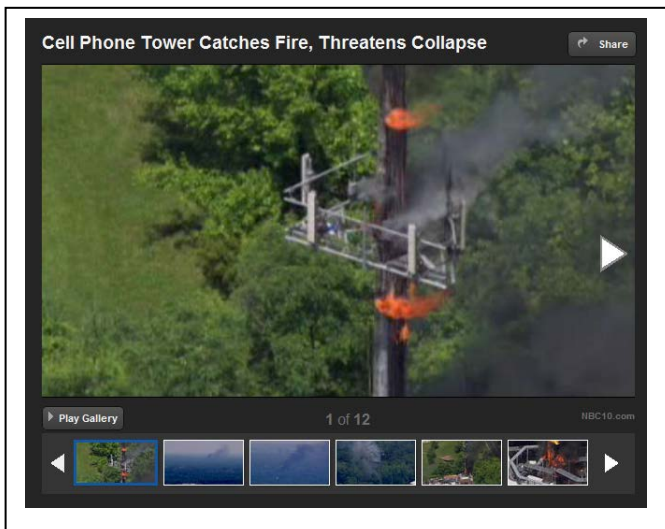
As in the no wind case the ice sheet would be traveling at approximately 67 mph on impact. Obviously, thinner sheets could travel further from the tower.

Summary: This analysis has shown that for one case, that of thin sheets of ice falling from the vertical part of the antenna structures, the ice fall can be a dangerous problem with the ice fragments weighing hundreds of pounds impacting the ground at almost 70 mph. It also shows that wind conditions can cause these fragments to fall as much as 80 feet from a 150 foot tower with smaller thinner sheets falling even further distances. Of course, as the photo to the right illustrates, in reality, the problem can be more complex with the ice fragments being composed of a combination of both snow and ice and the ice build up being more extensive than envisioned in this analysis with possibly more severe consequences. Therefore care must be taken in positioning these towers sufficiently distant from other structures and places where people may work and live.



* Dr. Rogers received his Phd in theoretical solid stated physics from the University of California at Davis in 1977. Since then he has worked at IBM Research in Yorktown Heights NY for 27 years until retiring in 2005. Since then he has formed the company Symbiotic Designs and is developing cell phone applications and energy saving devices.

Dangers of Cell Phone Towers Catching on Fire

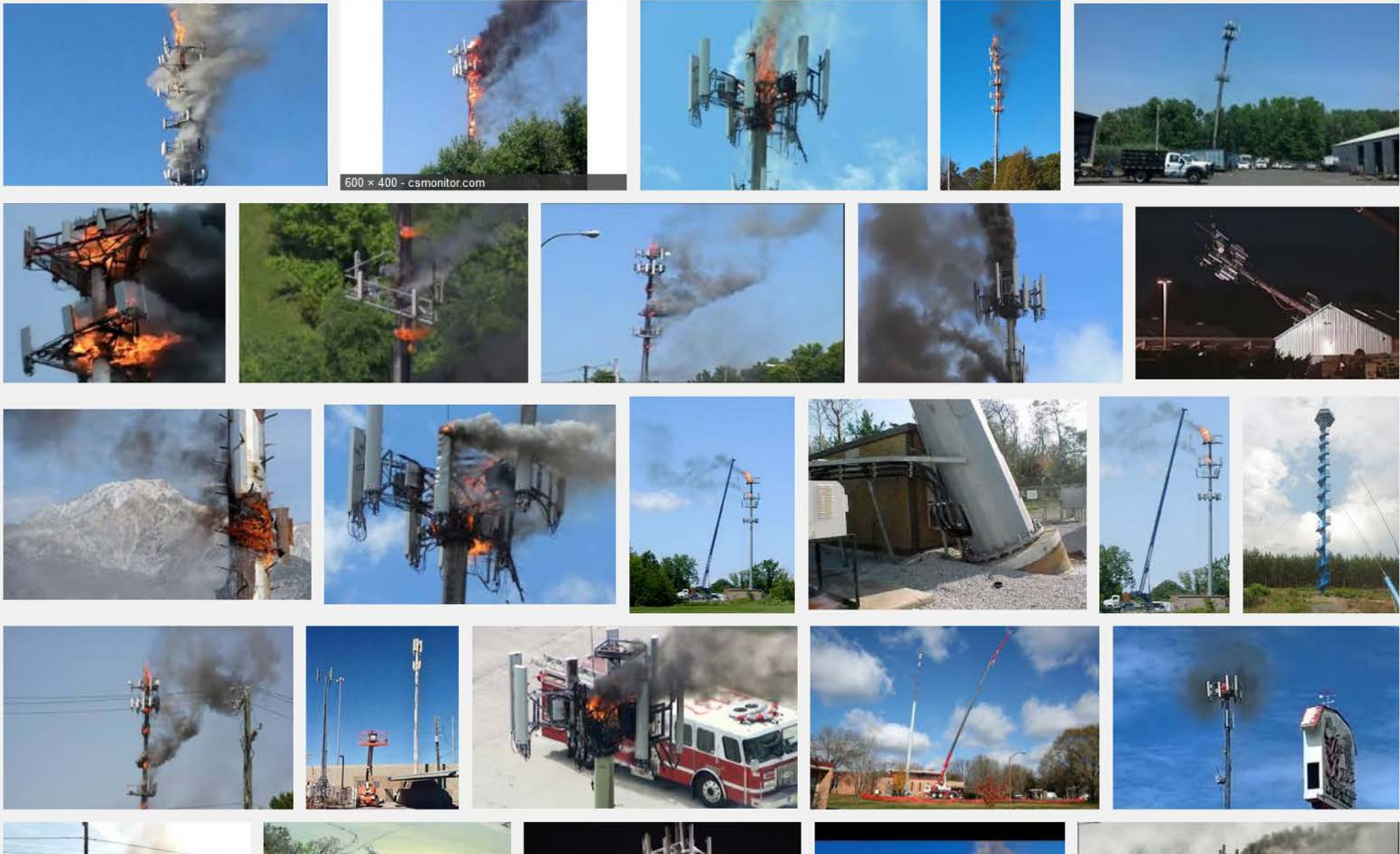




cell tower fire



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Petitioning The Cell Phone Tower on Ridgecrest Drive in Knoxville, TN (MPC case 5-B-15-UR)

Oppose the 150 Foot Telecom Tower on Ridgecrest and Martha Berry Dr.

Carrera Romanini TN



We, the undersigned, represent citizens opposed to the placement of a 150' Monopole Telecommunication Tower north of Ridgecrest Drive, south of Martha Berry Drive, and east of Hollyhock Lane. The proposed tower development would be in close proximity to many residential homes.

We, the undersigned, oppose the cell phone tower for reasons including, but not limited, to the following:

Diminished Property Values and Neighborhood Character

We live in a beautiful and established area. A cell phone tower will mar the beauty and character of the neighborhood and decrease its desirability for residents and homebuyers alike. According to a 2005 study published in the Appraisal Journal, "the results of the sales analysis show prices of properties were reduced by around 21% after a CPBS [cell phone tower] was built in the neighborhood." There are many young families in the area who are trying to build wealth and their homes are their biggest asset. There are also a number of elderly people in the neighborhood, some of whom are on fixed incomes. The residents cannot afford to have our property values diminish by 20 or more percent. The properties to the north of the proposed lot on Martha Berry Drive risk the greatest property value losses, as these homes are among the highest elevations in the City and have magnificent views. A 150 foot Telecom Tower at only 168 feet from the nearest Martha Berry property would destroy these views and be catastrophic to the property values of the homes on the north side of the tower.

INCREASE YOUR PETITION'S REACH

329 views in last 7 days
↑ 78% previous week

Share this petition

148 supporters
52 needed to reach 200

Add a personal message (optional)

No Cell Phone Tower on Ridgecrest Drive in Fountain City...

Post to Facebook

TWITTER EMAIL

Sponsor an ad to show this petition to more potential supporters

Promote this petition

Risk of Unsafe Road Conditions and Decreased Pedestrian Safety³⁷

The location of the proposed cell phone tower is situated on a residential street with light residential traffic. If a cell phone tower is built, it could result in an increase in large commercial vehicle traffic. This increased traffic would make our roads less safe for drivers and could compromise the safety of the road for pedestrian use.

Environmental Threat for Wildlife

The location of the proposed cell phone tower is an undeveloped wooded area. The area is home to a diversity of wildlife, all of whom will be negatively impacted by the building and upkeep of this tower. The tree clearings will destroy the homes of this wildlife and introduce harmful chemicals through paving and emissions from commercial vehicles that would access the tower. Additionally, the deforestation of the area could increase the risk of flooding and result in diminished water quality to this portion of the First Creek watershed. As local stewards of Fountain City, it is our responsibility to protect the flora and fauna from the deforestation and introduction of harmful chemicals into this natural ecosystem.

In summary, the neighborhood residents of the proposed tower location have much to lose with this proposed development. We urge the Planning Commission to act on our behalf to protect our neighborhood from this devastation by voting against the installation of the Telecom Tower.

Sincerely,

The concerned residents, homeowners, and others who have voluntarily signed this petition.

LETTER TO

The Cell Phone Tower on Ridgecrest Drive in Knoxville, TN (MPC case 5-B-15-UR)

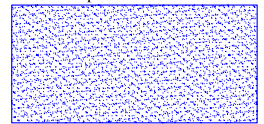
Oppose the building of 150' Monopole Telecommunication Tower on the northwest side of Ridgecrest Drive, east of Hollyhock Lane

Cell Tower Opposition Map

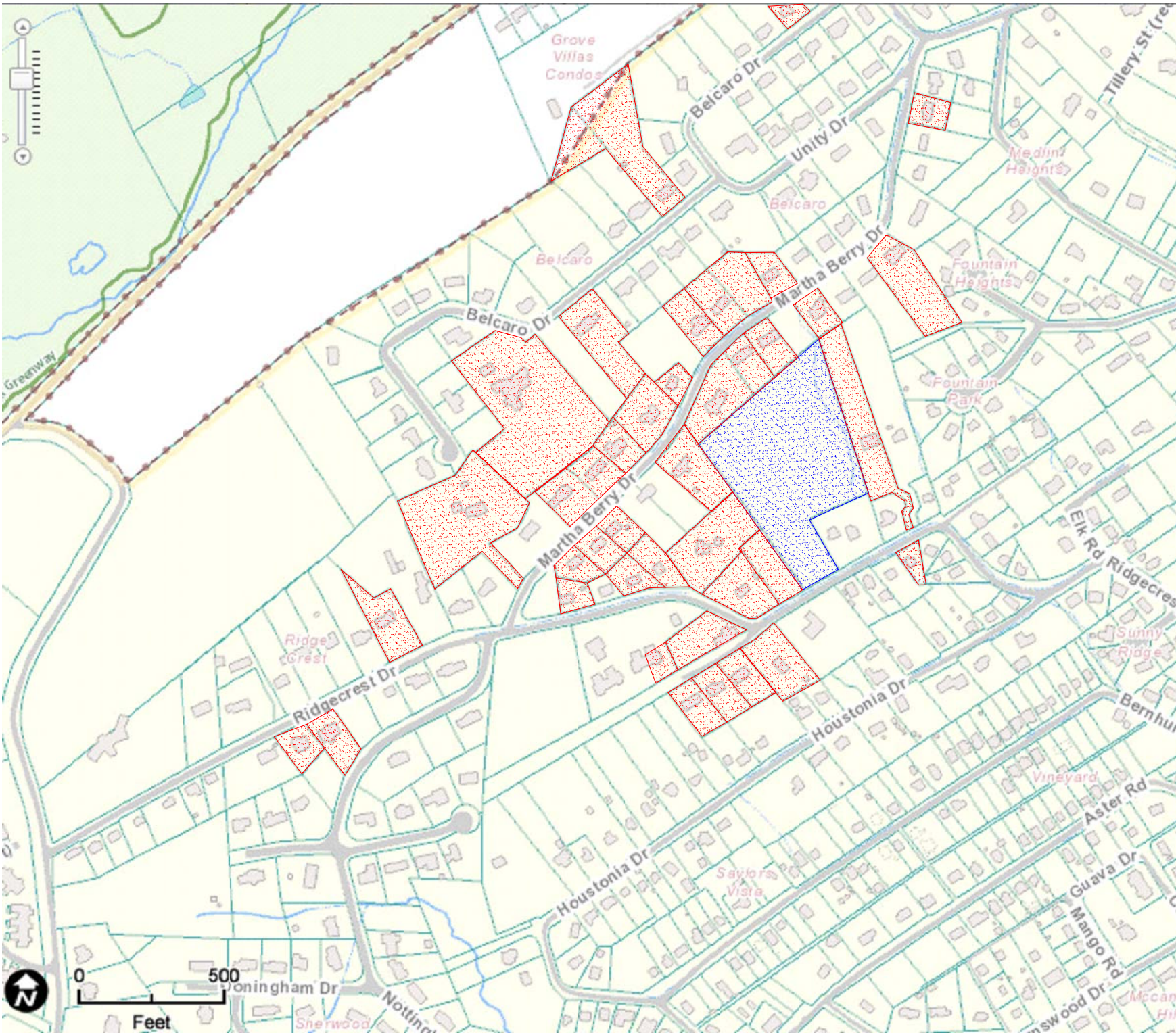
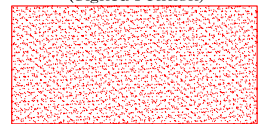
Knox County, Tennessee



Proposed Location



Opposed Residents (Signed Petition)



Petition Signers- 163 total

Name	City	State	Zip Code	Country	Signed On
Tennessee Signers- 131 total					
Melody TenHagen	Knoxville	Tennessee	37938	United States	5/15/2015
Jennifer Harris	Knoxville	Tennessee	37938	United States	5/15/2015
Stephen TenHagen	Knoxville	Tennessee	37938	United States	5/24/2015
Jeneane Stomm	Knoxville	Tennessee	37938	United States	5/24/2015
Amanda Dykstra	Knoxville	Tennessee	37931	United States	5/21/2015
Donald Rickels	Knoxville	Tennessee	37927	United States	5/17/2015
Bonnie Hudson	Knoxville	Tennessee	37924	United States	5/21/2015
Katelyn Finney	Knoxville	Tennessee	37923	United States	5/15/2015
Lauren Bridges	Knoxville	Tennessee	37923	United States	5/29/2015
Marcy Souza	Knoxville	Tennessee	37922	United States	5/16/2015
Bobby Underdown	Knoxville	Tennessee	37921	United States	5/15/2015
Bobby Underdown	Knoxville	Tennessee	37921	United States	5/15/2015
Bobby Underdown	Knoxville	Tennessee	37921	United States	5/15/2015
Bobby Underdown	Knoxville	Tennessee	37921	United States	5/15/2015
Kathryn Edwards	Knoxville	Tennessee	37921	United States	5/29/2015
Josh Underdown	Knoxville	Tennessee	37921	United States	5/29/2015
Josh Underdown	Knoxville	Tennessee	37921	United States	5/29/2015
Cheryl Winter	Knoxville	Tennessee	37921	United States	6/1/2015
Michelle Woodbury	Friendsville	Tennessee	37920	United States	5/15/2015
Jessica Drum	Knoxville	Tennessee	37920	United States	5/16/2015
Ralph Harvey	Knoxville	Tennessee	37919	United States	5/15/2015
Elizabeth Craig	Knoxville	Tennessee	37919	United States	5/17/2015
Michelle Dalton	Knoxville	Tennessee	37919	United States	5/24/2015
Dylan Morrow	Knoxville	Tennessee	37919	United States	5/24/2015
Carrera Romanini	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/14/2015
William Romanini	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/14/2015
James Norris	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/15/2015
Amber Bradley	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/15/2015
Jaime Norris	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/15/2015
Melanie Rea	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/15/2015
Julie Anderson	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/15/2015
Teresa Fisher	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/15/2015
Tami Oakes	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/15/2015
Ruth Sapp	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/15/2015
Diane Carter	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/15/2015
John Duarte	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/15/2015

Michelle Manuel	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/16/2015
Sarah Ellenburg	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/16/2015
James Norris	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/15/2015
Rob Gordon	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/16/2015
Nancy Gordon	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/16/2015
ashley caruso	knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/16/2015
Amber smith	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/16/2015
Paul Johansen	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/16/2015
June Jones	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/17/2015
Michelle Woods	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/17/2015
Suzanne Matheny	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/17/2015
Robert Hillhouse	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/18/2015
Edward Harris	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/18/2015
Bob Davis	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/18/2015
Patricia Wagoner	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/18/2015
Mark Vendetta	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/19/2015
Genell Crawford	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/19/2015
Rachelle Peck-Baumann	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/19/2015
Spencer Harris	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/20/2015
Tammy Harris	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/20/2015
Erik Ingram	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/21/2015
Lawerance Ellenburg Jr	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/21/2015
Mary Lou Freeman	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/24/2015
Charles McLean	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/24/2015
Melinda Jones	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/25/2015
Pam Bennett	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/26/2015
Cindy Thomas	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/28/2015
Marvin Holtzclaw	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/28/2015
Hap Minhinnett	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/28/2015
Phyllis Severance	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/29/2015
Aaron Baumann	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/29/2015
John & Mary Lou Longmire	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/29/2015
Andrew Tessier	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/31/2015
Joh Morris	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/31/2015
Kristi Pendley	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/31/2015
Kevin Fujiwara	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/31/2015
Charlie Severance	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/31/2015
Erica Hydro	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/1/2015

Greg Owens	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/1/2015
Stan Hunter	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/1/2015
Deb Taylor	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/2/2015
Sara Miller	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/3/2015
William Earnheart	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/3/2015
Donald R. Lee	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/17/2015
Rhonda S. Lee	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/17/2015
Charli Riggs	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/17/2015
Carlene Malone	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Richard C. West	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/17/2015
Linda Harris	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/17/2015
Glenn Harris	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/17/2015
Ashley Bradfield	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/18/2015
Georgia Neilson	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	5/18/2015
James Haufe	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Mr & Mrs Tony Lewis	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Chris Cook	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Joseph P. Johnson	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Bobbie Johnson	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Robert Emory	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Matt Ferguson	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Deborah Enloe	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Orpha Leitch Brink	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Paul Newcomb	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Judy Newcomb	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
William Thompson	Knoxville	Tennessee	37918	United States	6/4/2015
Trevor Guntermann	Knoxville	Tennessee	37915	United States	5/31/2015
Danielle radny	Knoxville	Tennessee	37914	United States	5/29/2015
Traci Lyle	Knoxville	Tennessee	37912	United States	5/15/2015
Heather castellaw	Knoxville	Tennessee	37912	United States	6/1/2015
Samantha Bartolomeo	Knoxville	Tennessee	37912	United States	6/1/2015
Sean Ford	Knoxville	Tennessee	37909	United States	5/15/2015
Tressie Brown	Walland	Tennessee	37886	United States	5/15/2015
Hannah DeBusk	Tazewell	Tennessee	37879	United States	5/24/2015
Diana Gresham	Talbott	Tennessee	37877	United States	5/17/2015
Nathaniel Cooper	Powell	Tennessee	37849	United States	5/27/2015
Chele Franxo	Powell	Tennessee	37849	United States	5/29/2015
Tammy Calloway	Powell	Tennessee	37849	United States	5/29/2015
Tina Greer	Mosheim	Tennessee	37818	United States	5/16/2015
Jessica Ducote	Morristown	Tennessee	37814	United States	5/27/2015
Jessica Gupton	Maryville	Tennessee	37803	United States	5/16/2015

Daniel Smith	Lenoir City	Tennessee	37771	United States	5/24/2015
Robin Bell	Rocky Top	Tennessee	37769	United States	5/17/2015
Jason James	La Follette	Tennessee	37766	United States	5/25/2015
Mindy Wheaton	Jefferson City	Tennessee	37760	United States	5/16/2015
Julie Chitwood	Jefferson City	Tennessee	37760	United States	5/18/2015
Crystal McAlvin	Greenback	Tennessee	37742	United States	5/29/2015
Seth owens	Dandridge	Tennessee	37725	United States	5/29/2015
Regina Dalton	Corryton	Tennessee	37721	United States	5/16/2015
Kara Disbrow	Corryton	Tennessee	37721	United States	5/17/2015
Beverly Humphreys	Elizabethton	Tennessee	37643	United States	5/24/2015
Robin Thomas	Bristol	Tennessee	37620	United States	5/24/2015
April berg	Johnson City	Tennessee	37604	United States	5/15/2015
Karen Conner	Johnson City	Tennessee	37604	United States	5/15/2015
James Norris	Johnson City	Tennessee	37601	United States	5/16/2015
Allison williams	Johnson City	Tennessee	37601	United States	5/24/2015
Angela Willis	Whitwell	Tennessee	37397	United States	5/24/2015
Martha Stamper	Hendersonville	Tennessee	37075	United States	5/19/2015
United States Signers (Minus TN)- 17 total					
Delora Cook	Madison	Alabama	35758	United States	5/28/2015
Barbara Gibson	Black Mountain	North Carolina	28711	United States	5/18/2015
Hayley Nelson	Springfield	Virginia	22153	United States	5/16/2015
Michael Triplett	Springfield	Virginia	22153	United States	5/17/2015
Tammy Tomasello	Waldorf	Maryland	20602	United States	5/16/2015
Danielle Peereboom	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania	19104	United States	5/15/2015
Concerned Citizen	New City	New York		United States	5/18/2015
Natalie Van Leekwijck	Beaverton	Oregon	97005	United States	5/15/2015
Chantal Buslot	Hasselt	Texas	78753	United States	5/15/2015
Heather Phillips	Markham	Texas	77456	United States	5/17/2015
Melissa Arnold	Tulsa	Oklahoma	74115	United States	5/16/2015
Bobbi Parsley	Atwood	Illinois	61913	United States	5/15/2015
Maryann Staron	Evergreen Park	Illinois	60805	United States	5/16/2015
Ryanne Hale	Dayton	Ohio	45459	United States	5/20/2015
Bill Powell	Oberlin	Ohio	44074	United States	5/18/2015
Bob Gatton	Elizabethtown	Kentucky	42701	United States	5/28/2015
Susan Tims	Tupelo	Mississippi	38804	United States	5/31/2015
carolyn barnes	Greene	New York	13778	United States	5/15/2015
International Signers- 13 total					
Marco Baracca	Milano		20142	Italy	5/16/2015

Dieter Reger	Nürnberg		90473	Germany	5/15/2015
Kristina Sedic	Zagreb		10000	Croatia	5/15/2015
Leigh Saunders	Hastings		4122	New Zealand	5/15/2015
Elisabeth Bechmann	St. Pölten		3100	Austria	5/15/2015
Jasmina Cuk	Solna			Sweden	5/15/2015
Willem Kom	Hoogezand			Netherlands	5/15/2015
Monique Angela Buijs	Hoorn	Noord-Holland		Netherlands	5/15/2015
AnnMarie Hodgson	Barrie, Ontario			Canada	5/15/2015
Torina Tan	Vancouver			Canada	5/16/2015
Zairê de Fatima Weisheimer	Gravataí			Brazil	5/17/2015
Magali Collart	Namur			Belgium	5/31/2015
ADRIANA CADENA TÉLLEZ	Mexico City		54985	Mexico	5/16/2015

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
James Norris	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-15	I am a resident of this community and directly affected by this tower. I am strongly opposed to this tower.
Jaime Norris	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-15	I don't want this tower in our neighborhood!
Danielle Peereboom	Philadelphiha, PA	2015-05-15	These large towers should not be placed in residential areas with wooded areas and wildlife.
Melanie Rea	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-15	I am highly opposed to this tower. My family has owned this home since the 1950's and 3 generations have enjoyed the bird calls and the sounds and sight of owls, songbirds, and woodpeckers in this wooded wildlife haven. I am a licensed Realtor and it is a fact that property values around a cell tower face steep declines. I know agents who wouldn't even accept a listing for a home near a cell tower. A recent real estate poll showed that 79% of buyers would not even consider buying a home near a cell phone tower, no matter the price. That is a huge number of potential buyers to lose if residents were to try and sell their home, no matter how nice the home or what improvements have been made.
Michelle Woodbury	Friendsville, TN	2015-05-15	I have a friend that lives on Ridgecrest Drive and they enjoy the beauty there , and putting that up will make it ugly it that area and take away the niceness of the area . also they shouldn't have to lose the value of there homes .
Teresa Fisher	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-15	I live there and I have no problems with cell phone coverage, nor have my neighbors. Why would we add another tower?
Tressie Brown	Walland, TN	2015-05-15	I don't want it to block my friends views and the area needs to keep what woods are left. Woods are going away and that takes the wood creatures also which is all bad for our state.
Ralph Harvey	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-15	I lived in this neighborhood as a child and I appreciate preservation of the natural environment still found here.
Tammy Tomasello	Waldorf, MD	2015-05-16	The neighborhood should have a say. And there are many remote areas where cell towers could go
Sarah Ellenburg	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-16	I am a Ridgecrest resident and will face property depreciation as result of the tower.
Regina Dalton	Corryton, TN	2015-05-16	eyesore and more exposure from emf to nearby residents
Jessica Drum	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-16	I'm signing because this tower will negatively affect the neighborhood if the it is built. It is unfair to the homeowners of this neighborhood, to decrease their property values by placing a non-essential phone tower.
Tina Greer	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-16	there should not be a cell tower placed on Ridgecrest.
Rob Gordon	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-16	I moved here about two years specifically picking this neighborhood because of it's quaintness.'Never expecting something like this to try to change it. I have children and grandchildren that someday may live in this house. A tower like that might change their mind.
Nancy Gordon	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-16	This is our home for our family and our neighbors; that is being threatened by a cell tower, that would change our neighborhood forever. We ask you to reconsider.
june JONES	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-17	my neighborhood!!
Michelle Woods	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-17	Do not want this in the neighborhood.

Name	Location	Date	Comment	45
Suzanne Matheny	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-17	Concerns for negative effect of a 150' tower on the natural landscape and wildlife, potential health risks, property value and overall neighborhood morale and quality of life. A 150' tower does not belong in a neighborhood!	
Robin Bell	Lake City, TN	2015-05-17	This is in the community where I teach.	
Elizabeth Craig	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-17	suort for prople on that area	
Barbara Gibson	Black Mountain, NC	2015-05-18	I support any effort to make living better for the world's citizens, and a friend of mine lives in this neighborhood.	
Bill Powell	Oberlin, OH	2015-05-18	I remember this beautiful village and hope and wish it will stay this way. The tower just doesn't fit!	
Bob Davis	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-18	A cell tower is very inappropriate in this residential area.	
Martha Stamper	Hendersonville, TN	2015-05-19	This is the neighborhood that I lived in back in the mid to late 60s. I taught at Fountain City Elementary and took my young boys to that beautiful park. Great memories of a wonderful life there. A large tower is not welcome in that area.	
Mark Vendetta	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-19	I share the same comments. We moved from out of state to live in this beautiful community and to destroy the natural beauty and diminish our property values are a crime.	
Genell Crawford	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-19	I do not want this cell tower in my neighborhood. This will decrease my property value!!!!!!	
Rachelle Peck-Baumann	Leesburg, VA	2015-05-20	I live in this beautiful established neighborhood on the Dogwood Trail, and a huge ugly tower would be detrimental to property values, the lovingly maintained homes, and the gorgeous mountain view while driving up Martha Berry. Please do not build an unneeded tower in our established Dogwood Trail neighborhood!	
Spencer Harris	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-20	I hate to see another beautiful area of our community tarnished by industrial trash.	
Erik Ingram	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-21	It is simply wrong to risk someone's health or cause their property values to drop for the profit of another. This kind of selfish greed has corrupted and ruined our country.	
Lawerance Ellenburg Jr	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-21	I oppose the rezoning of the Ridgecrest Lot and construction of the tower due to the disruption and damage to our valued residential community.	
Mary Lou Freeman	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-24	I live a few doors down from this proposed cell tower site and do not want the devaluation of my property. If a tower must go up - it needs to be NOT in the middle of a residential neighborhood.	
Jessica Ducote	Morristown, TN	2015-05-27	I don't want to see my friends home value diminished and the beauty of the neighborhood destroyed!	
delora cook	Madison, AL	2015-05-28	I feel this is not an appropriate structure for a residential neighborhood.	
Cindy Thomas	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-28	I am a home owner. I do not want the value of my property to decrease. The construction process will effect the quality of living for all if the home owners in the area.	
Marvin Holtzclaw	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-28	Our neighborhood is on the Dogwood trail, it bad enough to see the towers on Sharp's Ridge. Could this group tie into those towers. Do the individuals who own the land even live in the visible area? Please see our side to have to look at this forever.	
Hap Minhinnett	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-28	I am opposed to rezoning our residential neighborhood	
Lauren Bridges	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-29	My grandparents and some friends live there, it ruins a neighborhood. Don't do it.	

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Josh Underdown	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-29	Several of our friends live in the area and would be negatively effected by the installation of this tower.
susan tims	Tupelo, MS	2015-05-31	my son and his wife live in this neighborhood
Kristi Pendley	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-31	I live on this ridge and risk having our home value decrease and out view obscured... This is why we bought in this beautiful neighborhood!
Charlie Severance	Knoxville, TN	2015-05-31	Cell towers are extremely dangerous. We have pictures of cell towers that catch on fire. Cell towers that fall over in 65 MPH winds, which we have on Martha Berry Dr. Ice can form on cell towers. If ice forms on a cell tower height of 150 ft. and falls, it would reach a velocity of 67 MPH. Therefore, care must be taken in positioning these towers to place them sufficient distant from other structures and places where people may live and work. Please take care of your citizens and not Corporate America's financial pocket.
Cheryl Winter	Knoxville, TN	2015-06-01	Enough of compromising residential neighborhoods
Deb Taylor	Knoxville, TN	2015-06-02	I think this would detract from the views and the property values in the neighborhood
Sara Miller	Christiansburg, VA	2015-06-03	I want to stop another ugly thing from happening in my community. Destroying a beautiful historic home, adding more fast food and gym chains, now this...really??? Not if we can change it.
William Thompson	Knoxville, TN	2015-06-04	This is a well established neighborhood. There are other locations available not so near to an established neighborhood.
Erin Daoust	Knoxville, TN	2015-06-08	I don't want a cell tower in my back yard.

Our Neighborhoods: The Tale of Two Towers



Photo by Mike Steely

Can you go anywhere in Knox County without seeing a cell tower in the distance? This one is located in the Corryton area, rising high above the Clapp's Chapel Cemetery.

By Mike Steely

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Suppose you live in a nice neighborhood and you learn a cell tower is being planned there, right smack in the middle of homes and on a high point where it would be very visible. What would you do?

It's a continuing problem for neighborhoods as more and more cell phones are in use and more and more companies compete to provide service.

Such is the dilemma now facing two Knox County neighborhoods. Although they are across town from each other, both share concerns about how a cell phone tower would affect property values, traffic and the general appearance of their neighborhoods.

The neighborhoods of Lakemoor Hills and, across town, Martha Berry are both facing proposed cell towers in the midst of homes there.

A third neighborhood, Sequoyah Hills, is concerned about the proposed Lakemoor tower because it would be directly across the lake from their homes and very visible.

Lakemoor Hills

Lakemoor Hills has been called "Sequoyah South" because the upscale neighborhood faces Sequoyah Hills and the Cherokee Country Club just across the lake. The neighborhood sits on a peninsula that you reach from Alcoa Highway by either Mont Lake Drive or Maloney Road and residents there like the location. Part of that area is in the city and part is in the county.

"We call it the quiet side of the river," said John Haynes, secretary of the Lakemoor Home Owners Association. He's one of the founders of the association and one of the opponents to a cell tower proposed there. The association's president is Dick Graf, vice-president is Rosanne Wilkerson, and Bill Stoess is treasurer.

The well organized group has various committees to oversee beautification, security, health, KUB and an Alcoa Highway Committee.

Support is growing against the 190-foot T-Mobile tower and recently members of the Lakemoor and Sequoyah Hills neighborhoods met with an attorney for the cell tower company. The tower would be unlit and the company is proposing a "balloon test" there so residents can see the height of the tower.

"They don't really need it (the tower)" Haynes said, adding, "We're strictly residential."

Opponents at Lakemoor Hills stress that the tower's possible location intrudes on three historic sites: Speedwell Manor, Sequoyah Hills Park and Cherokee Boulevard, and Lyon's View Pike District.

"We've got some pointed questions," Haynes said, adding that the tower request at the planning commission has already been delayed twice. Currently it looks as if the tower request goes to the planning commission in July.

Lakemoor Hills residents love the scenery and lake frontage there and sacrifice convenient shopping and eating locations to live there. They don't mind the drive out of the neighborhood onto Alcoa Highway and often dine at restaurants at the airport or head downtown or to West Knoxville.

"It is obvious the overwhelming sentiment of the neighbors is against the tower," Haynes.

The neighborhood association meets at the Lake Hills Presbyterian Church and the area is on the Dogwood Trail. You can contact the neighborhood at "Lakemoorhillshoa.org" or "No Cell Tower in Lakemoor Hills" on Facebook.

Martha Berry

Across town the residents of the Martha Berry and Ridgecrest neighborhoods are facing the placement of a 150-foot monopole telecommunications tower at 2119 Ridgecrest Drive, south of Martha Berry Drive and east of Hollyhock Lane, in close proximity of many homes there.

Also on the Dogwood Trail the neighborhood is located atop the ridge northwest of Gresham Middle School. In the valley to the north are Rifle Range Road and Dry Gap Road. Carrera Romanini has a petition against the tower and Ron Gordon is involved in the opposition to the structure.

"We live in a beautiful and established area," the online petition reads "A cell phone tower will mar the beauty and character of the neighborhood and decrease its desirability for residents and homebuyers alike."

Many elder residents in the neighborhood live on fixed incomes and opponents of the towers are concerned about a decrease in property values. Homes to the north of Martha Berry are among the highest elevation in the city and have fantastic views. The proposed tower is only 168 feet from the nearest property.

Opponents say the tower would increase commercial traffic there on what now only carries light residential traffic and would be a threat to wildlife through the destruction of trees and ground disturbance. Gordon recently posted lots of information on the internet about possible explosion of towers, the health hazards, and information about what other jurisdictions and neighborhoods have done to stop the construction of towers.

The question may go before the Metropolitan Planning Commission on June 11 after being postponed once and residents are being urged to voice their opposition by attending the meeting or by contacting the planning commission.

The builder, Branch Towers, proposes an 8-foot security fence on the 5.7-acre site and the tower would initially have four telecommunication antennas. A 16-foot wide paved road would be built to access the tower. If approved by the planning commission for the R-1 (Residential) neighborhood the matter would then go before City Council for approval or denial.

The Top of the Ridge Neighborhood Watch is involved with the effort to stop the tower. Suzanne Matheny of 1710 Ridgecrest is the contact for the group. You can also find the neighborhood on Facebook and sign the petition.



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Neighbors oppose cell tower

■ Fountain City group to attend MPC

By MJ Slaby
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The view from porches in Fountain City is wooded and scenic, but a cellphone tower soon could be added to that view.

A 150-foot monopole telecommunication tower — a single, vertical pole — owned by Branch Towers LLC and used for T-Mobile coverage, as well as a paved access road, is proposed for the northwest side of

Ridgecrest Drive, east of Hollyhock Lane in Fountain City.

After postponing the vote from the May meeting, the Metropolitan Planning Commission is scheduled to vote June 11 whether to approve that site for the tower.

But neighbors are joining together to show opposition and plan to attend the meeting to voice their concerns.

"Why are they choosing a neighborhood?" neighbor Jaime Norris asked. "We're all totally against it."

Along with impeding the view, Norris said adding a cell tower could decrease property values and

lower resale opportunities. Roughly 120 current and former residents have signed Change.org and paper petitions opposing the tower.

Norris and others also have urged neighbors to contact MPC commissioners, join a Martha Berry-Ridgecrest Community-Action Network Facebook page and attend the MPC meeting.

"Don't just be upset about it, take action," neighbor Carrera Romani said. "My perception is we're a pretty passionate group."

Mark Wilson, T-Mobile national-external affairs manager, said the site was

chosen to solve coverage issues where there have been customer complaints. And he said that's typically in residential areas where people use their cellphones for calls and data as well as in emergencies.

MPC Commissioner Michael Kane said the commissioners have received emails and calls from neighbors who are concerned about property values and resale. Those are the same concerns that have arisen with cell towers in neighborhoods before, Kane said.

Although it's always the first choice to use an existing tower or structure, there was nothing tall

enough in this case, Wilson said.

He added that the monopole is not the typical cell tower and is the "least visibly obtrusive" option.

Kane said the commissioners will use the materials presented to them from both sides to see if the tower will meet guidelines. One of those guidelines Kane expects commissioners to key in on is seeing if an existing tower is available to use instead of building a new tower.

And neighbors are hopeful for a solution that won't ruin their scenic view.

"We picked this neighborhood for a reason," Norris said.