

Andrew Leon

From: Ashley Kline <ashleyakline@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 12:57 PM
To: Mona Davis; Andrew Leon; Alison VanGorp
Subject: Proposed Ellis Pond small cell installation

Hello,

(I attempted to submit a shorter version of this comment to you via the "Let's Talk" site, but it does not appear to be working. I kept it under 1000 chars, so perhaps that should be looked into.)

I live at 46th and 91st in the Ellis Pond neighborhood and have major concerns over the Verizon 5G cell tower that has been proposed for this location.

This is a beautiful, quiet, residential neighborhood anchored by Ellis Pond, with no existing utility poles or visible lines. The pond is a city park, a gathering place, and an oasis of tranquility and beauty in our busy world.

My husband and I purchased our home to raise our small children here because of the pond, the woods surrounding it, and the natural beauty of the neighborhood. We often visit the pond multiple times a day. Our son's first word was "duck". Neighborhood children love counting the ducklings in the spring and comparing notes to see how many have hatched. Ellis Pond is home to frogs, turtles, owls, woodpeckers, bald eagles (hunting ground), and a year round population of Mallard and Wood ducks.

This is a rare asset to be preserved. Placing an ugly, noisy, 35' cell tower here will be extremely detrimental to the neighborhood, residents, wildlife, and everyone in the community who visits. It will negatively impact the character and quality of our neighborhood.

Approving the permit for a small cell at this location would irreparably damage the beauty, quality, & character of our neighborhood and reduce our property values. Placing a tower and lines here also introduces liability with the proximity of equipment to the heavily wooded Ellis Pond park. ([See PGE / Paradise, CA case.](#))

I am not sure if one could find a worse place to permit this installation. It's as if Verizon and the vendor/installer are picking points with a map and an algorithm and are not considering the residents and community at all.

My understanding is that in order for the tower to go up, some portion of land would need to be rezoned to commercial, even if it's just a 10'x10' pad. As you know, the citizens of Mercer Island have been vocal in their opposition to converting park land to any other use. This should weigh heavily in your decision.

Other communities have been successful in finding reasonable alternatives that work for all parties involved. ([Please see the Medina case.](#)) I urge you to stand firmly with your constituents and community in working towards this goal.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration regarding this critical matter. Our neighborhood appreciates the action that the city took to put emergency regulations into place in January to help protect our unique city. We want to continue to work together to ensure that the rights of our residents are considered and preserved as new technologies emerge and are rolled out nationally.

Best regards,
Ashley Kline

425-829-3003 (mobile)
4558 91st Ave SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040