

A. Street Paving

1. Retain the historic brick paving on Jericho Road.
2. Make street paving consistent throughout the district. Avoid the cosmetic patching of surfaces when more substantial repair is needed.
3. Avoid widening existing streets without providing sidewalks, street trees, and other elements that maintain the street wall and emphasize the human scale.
4. Avoid paving over areas that could be used for landscaping.
5. Continue using brick-lined crosswalks at key intersections or crossings.



Retain and repair historic street paving such as found on Jericho Road.



Brick crosswalks highlight pedestrian street crossings and continue the vocabulary of the sidewalks on Main Street.

XI Streetscape

B. Pedestrian Walks and Curbs

1. Retain historic paving, such as the stretch of brick sidewalk on East Main Street.
2. When sidewalks must be repaired, match adjacent materials (except for modern concrete) in design, color, texture, and tooling. Avoid extensive variation in sidewalk and curb materials.
3. When sidewalks need replacement, use a paving unit such as brick or exposed concrete aggregate that relates to the scale of the district. Curbs likewise should be a material such as stone or exposed concrete aggregate. Avoid pouring concrete in continuous strips.
4. Maintain a distinction between sidewalks and streets. Avoid paving sidewalks with asphalt and try to retain the curb strip.
5. Avoid excessive curb cuts for vehicular access across pedestrian ways; where curb cuts are necessary, mark them with a change in materials, color, texture, or grade.
6. Avoid blocking the sidewalk with too many street furniture elements and remove obsolete signs and poles.



The brick-paved Hayden's Lane connects the downtown commercial district to a residential subarea.



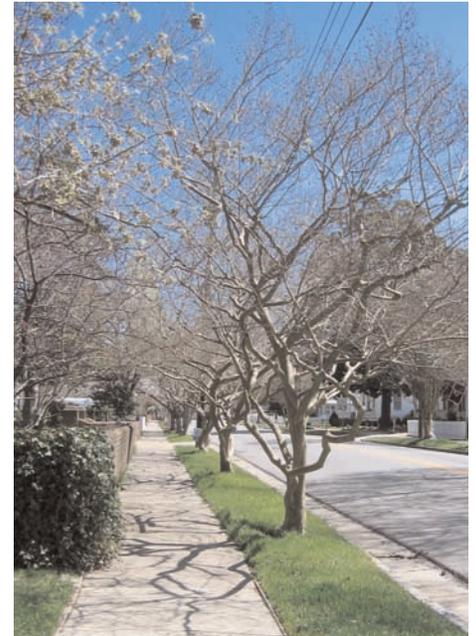
The patterned brick sidewalk is separated from the busy street by a curb planting strip.

C. Street Trees and Plantings

1. Maintain existing landscaping, especially indigenous species like crape myrtle. Plantings are especially appropriate in medians and curb strips.
2. Replace damaged or missing street trees with appropriate species. Use indigenous and hardy species that require minimal maintenance. For example, to retain the tree-shaded atmosphere of South Church Street, replacement trees should be of like species that will mature to a comparable size.
3. Continue the installation of landscaping, including trees, in areas like medians, divider strips, and traffic islands. Site plantings so that they are protected from pedestrian and vehicular traffic, do not block views of storefronts, and meet traffic-safety standards of the Virginia Department of Transportation.
4. Use planters appropriately. Site them so that they do not block narrow sidewalks and remove them in the winter months when they are empty.
5. Do not demolish buildings to provide open-space areas for plantings.



Street trees and planters provide shade and seasonal color along Main Street.



Some residential areas also have curb strips with street trees such as these indigenous crape myrtles.



A bench at the corner of South Church and Cedar streets provides an opportunity for colorful plantings.

XI Streetscape

D. Lighting

1. Expand the use of pedestrian-scaled, historically styled light fixtures replacing the current wooden poles and cobra-head light fixtures.
2. Provide adequate lighting at critical areas of pedestrian/vehicular conflict such as parking lots, alleys, and crosswalks.
3. Encourage selective evening lighting in the downtown.
 - Consider special lighting of key landmarks and facades, such as the courthouse.
 - Encourage merchants to leave their display window lights on in the evening to provide extra illumination and visual interest at the sidewalk level.
4. Keep to a minimum the number of styles of light fixtures and light sources used in the district.
5. Provide outlets on light standards for seasonal lighting and brackets for hanging banners and decorations for special events.



Consistent use of historically styles light fixtures ties the streetscape together and provides a natural location for street signs.



The same fixtures also provide a location for seasonal banners.

E. Traffic and Pedestrian Signals

1. Continue the installation of traffic signals on poles that are placed beside the street and are compatible with the pedestrian-scaled light fixtures.



Traffic signals echo the historically styled light fixtures.

F. Street Furniture

1. Place benches at key locations in the district. Use traditional designs constructed of wood and/or cast iron.
2. Attempt to make street furniture such as newspaper boxes, telephone booths, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, planters, and bollards compatible in design, color, and materials with existing elements.
3. Avoid placing too many elements on narrow sidewalks.



Traditionally styled metal trash containers are placed in appropriate locations in Smithfield's historic business district.



This historically styled bench is located near a public gathering space.

XI Streetscape

G. Utilities

1. Place utilities underground or locate behind buildings. Screen surface equipment.
2. Place necessary utilities such as transformers and overhead wires so that they are as visually unobtrusive as possible.



The placement of utilities underground on Main Street highlights the architecture and results in an uncluttered view of the district.

H. Public Signs

1. Consider using the town logo when developing new public signage in the district. Use appropriate standards of design, color, and lettering styles.
2. Place entry signs directing visitors to the historic commercial district on major highways and streets leading to the downtown.
3. Continue installing plaques or signs commemorating significant events, buildings, and individuals in the district.
4. Avoid placing sign posts in locations where they can interfere with the opening of vehicle doors.
5. Continue the use of oval street signs throughout the district and in any future district expansion.



Street signs mounted on traditionally styled poles define streets in the historic district.



This mounted sign provides an audio-visual account of a portion of Smithfield's history.

XI Streetscape

I. Parking Facilities

1. Avoid demolishing buildings for parking lots or garages.
2. Avoid constructing parking lots that do not reinforce the existing street wall of buildings and the grid system of rectangular blocks.
3. Screen parking lots from streets and sidewalks with trees and landscaping and include interior planting islands to provide shade and visual relief from large expanses of asphalt.
4. Provide water in parking lots for planting maintenance.
5. Provide adequate lighting to provide security in evening hours.
6. Designate special parking areas within the lots for motorcycles and bicycles.



Parking areas in the historic district should be screened from the right-of-way and identified with a cohesive signage system.