

Capacity and availability of parking spaces								
Commercial core of the Historic District - March 2018								
Block	On-street	Off-street	Total capacity		Reserved	All day users	Total available	% "lost"
Wharf Hill	25	8	43		0	-8	35	19%
N. Church St.	10	0			0	0		
100 block	17	71	88		-3	-12	73	17%
200 block	28	57	107		-9	-16	76	29%
Mason & Institute	19	3			0	-6		
300 block	50	49	99		-8	-28	63	36%
Total	149	188	337		-20	-70	247	27%
	44%	56%			-6%	-21%		
Notes								
Wharf Hill:	Church St to Commerce St to Luter Dr, including public lot next to Booth's Cleaners.							
N. Church St:	Main St to Luter Dr / Thomas St. Excludes Chamber & Mansion on Main / Mansion House Antiques. NOTE: Only area with 2 hour parking 8am - 6 pm.							
100 block:	Includes BSV / both sides and "back lot"; excludes areas behind Smithfield Inn.							
200 block:	Includes Perfectly Natural Soap (3 spaces), lots behind Taste and Laura & Lucy's, lot next to Woody Crook's office. Excludes lots behind north side buildings, including Smithfield Times.							
Mason:	Approximately 1/2 of N. and S. blocks counted (9 on N. Mason, 6 on S. Mason).							
Institute:	Spaces at Town Hall excluded, Post Office spaces included.							
300 block:	Institute to Underwood / Cary. Included: Visitor Center (6), Joyner's Field (15), BofA (26). Off-street counts exclude private / residential properties.							
Impact of Sfd Foods' gym in 100 block on "Reserved" and "all day users" has not been quantified.								
Lots at Trinity UMC and public lot at Joe White's Bottom not included in off-street capacity counts.								
Handicapped parking: Two on-street and five off-street spaces located.								

Online survey - February 13-15, 2018
> 515 responses, 61% from IOW County and 20% from Coastal VA
> Customer service: 94% rate Excellent or Very Good; 0 rate Poor
> Unable to shop because venue was closed: 48% of respondents
> Top three reasons for being unable to shop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Shop closed on Monday > Shop closed on Sunday > Shop closed mid-week
> Difficulty finding parking: 45% said yes, 55% said no.
> Unable to shop because of no parking: 18% said yes, 82% said no.
> Reasons for difficulty finding parking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Special events > Farmers Market > Construction
> How far are you willing to walk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Two to three blocks: 54% of respondents > As far as necessary: 22% > One block: 21% > Directly in front: 3%
> If there was a time limit to parking, what should it be? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 3 hours: 31% of respondents > 2 hours: 30% > 4 hours: 19%

<p>Online survey - February 13-15, 2018</p> <p>Sampling of comments submitted by respondents</p> <p>to question on difficulty in finding a parking space.</p>
Parking is always a difficult issue in a small town. We've had difficulty finding parking, but have always been able to find something however it hasn't been convenient.
...I just walked farther; difficult as I am handicapped assigned.
there is also no parking for those who are handicapped to get to the stores and some stores there is no way to get into them.
Weekend: all street parking and adjacent lots were full
At lunchtime it can be difficult to find parking. Weekends during holidays and any time during special events parking is challenging.
Special event!! Can't walk long distance!! But next time got a wheelchair!! Love Smithfield
We only have problems when Main Street is closed for a Special Event.
Special event parking for handicap. Had nasty gram from bank for parking next to building.
Special events make parking unbearable. Would love to attend but we stopped going because of parking issues. Even on normal days business do not have adequate parking especially restaurants.
Special event days are handled fabulously!! Never a problem. The town does a great job!!
Parking is a major problem for local residents during special events
On weekends it's impossible to find parking and when the Farmers Market is going on or event that includes downtown ... no parking at all.
Sometimes issues at the Saturday Farmers Market but it never stopped us from coming
Farmers' Market Saturdays are sometimes difficult times to find parking, but I'm excited there is so much activity downtown that it really doesn't bother me.
Just limited parking on weekends and events, but it is expected.
On busy days in Smithfield, for whatever reason, there can be no parking on the street or in the few lots available for general parking, unless you want to park far from your destination.
The main road is not marked so cars parking on the side of the road either leave too much room between cars or not enough room.
I think painted parking spaces would be helpful; it seems some people take up too much space to park.
Unfortunately, some individuals working @ tourism using parking on street, instead of side of bldg.

Online survey - February 13-15, 2018

Sampling of comments submitted by respondents to question on reason not being able to shop.

During the summer concert series, it seems that the small shops along Main St. would benefit by being open, at least until the music starts. We attend almost every concert, and come down early for dinner and to walk around.

Many shops are closed on Monday and/or Tuesday. If you live here, these are days you would expect stores to be open and available.

There is very little consistency for days / hours shops have downtown.

While staying at a local hotel on business during the day, shops are not open in the evenings to explore after the work day

Monday- some stores are closed on Mondays. Most of the shops and restaurants close early.

It was a Saturday, late afternoon. I can understand why they were closed.

Ice Cream Parlor, Bakery, and Taste of Smithfield close too early.

Friday night - the business was closed for the evening

I've also been surprised to find shops closed during other events (like Evening Christmas Market).

I will still comment. I know the general hours of business for most places. I simply go when they are open. Stores of the nature of downtown Smithfield (with the exception of restaurants) need only to keep daily "business time" hours. The exceptions to that would be on certain special occasions, such as special market days, holiday weekends, etc. Most places of business already perform this way, so in my opinion, all is well.

I live downtown, but observe the traffic and had a business on Main Street for almost 5 years. There were always complaints from people who said that they came on a Monday or Tuesday to find very few options for shopping. I also understood that there was less reason to be open and create additional payroll expenses, because we did not bring in the revenue on those days to support it. So, I opened Wed-Sun. Eventually, I had to reduce my hours and open later and close earlier. We would sit for hours just waiting for a customer to walk in. I feel that there is interest in shopping, but the main focus is to have a nice lunch and shopping is not the primary reason that people visit our town.