

Palmyra Community Plan

Overview

Palmyra serves as the centrally located county seat and governmental center. The village proper has abundant natural and social resources that together form a vibrant village atmosphere. These assets include the historic courthouse and Old Stone Jail as well as the Main Street residences and businesses, the county administrative offices and courthouse, and the businesses that front Route 15 and Route 53.

Growth in the Palmyra area should occur at a village scale, with economic and residential development complementing the existing conditions and fostering street life. Existing and new development must be served by a safe, efficient, multimodal transportation system that respects pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. Finally, new development and improvements to the transportation system should not compromise the underlying natural and social fabric unique to Palmyra and Fluvanna County.



Figure CD-13, Sign for Village of Palmyra

Development in the immediate area of the village of Palmyra should reflect the unique village style of development that currently exists. The area to the immediate south and southwest of the village should develop as a neighborhood mixed-use area.



Figure CD-14, Old Stone Jail

Existing assets within the community should be properly integrated with new development in order to promote a cohesive, well-planned community. New housing should be allowed that complements existing historic resources and provides an expanded population base for local businesses. Economic development is appropriate in this area, and opportunities for tourism, including commercial uses that complement the historic aspects of Palmyra and its government center, should be promoted.

The recommendations of the Palmyra Community Plan aim to fulfill the following goals:

- To enhance and maintain the village-scale atmosphere of Palmyra.
- To improve the safety, efficiency, and diversity of the transportation system.
- To protect the social and environmental resources of the area.

Recommendations

Enhance village character.

- Encourage active use of Confederate Park by improving access to the park.
- Improve the streetscape by burying utility lines, completing the sidewalk network through the existing village, installing streetlamps, and constructing a centrally located town clock.
- Install a gateway median and welcome signs on Route 15.

Guide village-scaled development.

- Develop guidelines to foster village-scaled developments that include a mix of building types, commercial uses, local jobs, increased retail options such as shopping, cafés and restaurants, and affordable housing.
- Seek out commercial uses that complement historic features and integrate new development with existing assets.
- Explore expansion of the historic district to include the area south of Stoneleigh Road and east of Route 15.
- Provide sewer and water service to existing and new village areas to make desired compact form possible.



Figure CD-15, Historic Courthouse

Improve the safety and efficiency of the transportation system.

- Coordinate short- and long-term transportation recommendations with the forthcoming Northwest Fluvanna / Southwest Louisa Corridor Study.
- Increase transportation choices by improving bus service, increasing participation in RideShare, and developing visible and accessible park-and-ride locations.
- Implement a coordinated plan to improve safety on Route 15 that includes roundabouts or other safety and capacity improvements, a median island, and curb and gutter enhancements for access management.
- Create short- and long-term solutions to improve connectivity to Pleasant Grove.
- Enhance the pedestrian network by improving access and coordinating pedestrian improvements with streetscape enhancements and traffic-calming measures.