

Traditional Town Center (TTC)

When most people talk about Swansboro, they are talking about the historic district, businesses on Front Street and surrounding “old town” residential neighborhood. Homes and businesses stand side-by-side in a historical development pattern and complement, rather than detract from each other. Many older residential homes have been converted into businesses, with second-story residential, with a working marina directly adjacent. This is an area where uses are mixed both vertically and horizontally.

This active, vibrant part of the community is both a window into the past and provides character that defines the community. Using traditional pattern and character to influence future development of small-lot single family homes in other parts of Swansboro, fulfills a strong desire by many in the community to connect people to destinations, especially by non-motorized means.

Character

A traditional town center district translated to other areas of Swansboro should incorporate the following characteristics to the extent possible. These areas would be mixed use pedestrian-oriented districts with a mixture of small to mid-size retail, restaurants and multifamily residences intertwined with civic and institutional spaces. Upper story residential uses are encouraged. Pedestrians would be prioritized, and automobiles are accommodated.

Access And Circulation

The rights-of-way within these districts may be narrower than typical local streets of Swansboro with two-way traffic and on-street parking but will not be as narrow as those in the historic downtown. These roads are meant to handle slow speed traffic and serve a similar purpose as a parking aisle so that people can park-and-walk to their destinations. Sidewalks flank the roads and buildings built up to or within a few feet of the right-of-way line.



Historic downtown Swansboro

Setbacks

Typical of a downtown district, buildings are set close enough to interact with the street. Minimal setbacks accommodate a greater density and intensity of uses and promote social interaction.

Massing And building heights

Buildings are “human-scaled,” meaning not more than three stories tall, but also should be a minimum of two stories to create a street presence.

Blocks

Block length of no more than 400 feet further promote walkability and discourage automobile use for short trips. Crosswalks and mid-block pedestrian connections should be used throughout.

Parking

Off-street parking requirements for nonresidential uses may be lessened due to the walkable district and availability of on-street, shared or lots for parking. Front-loaded parking is discouraged.



Example of Traditional Town Center (TTC)

Appropriate Density / Intensity

This district should replicate the densities and intensities of those in downtown to provide an alternative to other housing and retail experiences in Swansboro. The norm should be:

- » Compact residential - Up to eight dwellings per acre single family or 12 for multi-family, with an exception of up to 18 for multifamily for B-3 Zoning.
- » Ground floor retail is encouraged but lobbies and entrances would be allowed.
- » Development of this intensity should employ stormwater control measures with extensive Low Impact Design



Example of downtown development.



Example of downtown development.