

# Let's Talk Albemarle: Court Square

## Overall Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS	SUBSCRIBERS
3,418	239	299	719	352

# Court Square Virtual Tour

## Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS	SUBSCRIBERS
402	29	12	48	62

What did you learn from the tour?

I learned that the area where the park is had been an a black community whose land was confiscated in the 1920's to build an all-white school. I didn't know that.

one month ago

👍 2 Agree

I learned about the different historical uses of the Court Square and the modern day relics of its past. I learned the names and saw a lot of drawings/pictures of white people in history who continue to be memorialized and celebrated for their achievements, and the name of one Black person, John Henry James, who was lynched. From the Monacan Tribe to the enslaved Black people who built the courthouse and the inhabitants of McKee Row, the space has a long history with communities of color. But the resilience of those communities is not being celebrated and memorialized to the extent as the white historical figures.

20 days ago

👍 1 Agree

I didn't know, but am sadly not surprised, about the obliteration of the Black neighborhood McKee Row.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

More information was needed about Court Square Park!  
Numerous complaints about McKee Row prompted the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors to give the 30 ft. wide dirt alley used principally for horse sales and hitching racks to the City of Charlottesville provided that the City should purchase the "old McKee property and erect on it a school for white children." But letters poured in to the City objecting to the construction of a school so near the courthouse and the City acquired title to the street without taking any further action. Almost 4 years later Paul Goodloe McIntire offered to but the McKee property if the City would permit the street to become part of a park in which to locate his proposed sculpture of Stonewall Jackson. This was agreed to be a good plan and McIntire shortly purchased ythe property from four different owners. On January 19, 1919 the McKee property was deeded to the City of Charlottesville. The deed stipulated that the area would never be used as anything but a park and that no statue except that of Jackson should ever occupy it.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Leave the monuments and statues in place where they are. Burning books and tearing down statues changes nothing.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Very useful to understand the history of the square and the strange collection of historical markers there. Wonder why there is not commentary about the statue?

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I did not know that enslaved humans beings were sold at the courthouse. I thought that was across the street. That set of horrifying events needs to be prominently marked (and not with a marker on the ground that is easily missed).

22 days ago

The auction of enslaved persons belonging to Thomas Jefferson was conducted at Monticello not at the courthouse

one month ago

LEAVE THE STATUES IN PLACE. IF YOU DON'T LIKE OUR HISTORY THEN LEAVE. THE TRUE HATE IS IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO WANT TO REMOVE THEM.

one month ago

LOL U FUNNY GIRL

one month ago

The video was good to a point but it left out the fact that the city did a major renovation that was dedicated in 2006 with a new lengthy marker on the east side of the courthouse that tells more of the local history. I proposed and helped in that renovation project. As part of that, we added new markers to buildings surrounding Court Square one of which was on Number Nothing that added some local black history in the early period.

one month ago

What is the source for your repeated statement that the Monocans "abandonned" Monasukaponough? I find this narrative suspect, at minimum.

one month ago

"Monacan Millennium: A Collaborative Archaeology and History of a Virginia Indian People" by Jeffrey L. Hantman is a good reference on this. The key qualifier here is that they abandoned it \*in the face of White settler-colonialist expansion\* in order to avoid the violence that so many other Indigenous communities faced.

one month ago

What, if anything, surprised you about the memorials, markers, and history at Court Square?

The Monticello marker needs to be corrected or removed.

one month ago 👍 3 Agree

It comes across as a rather half-hazard collection of things. A more deliberate and balanced exposition of our history would be better. The Monticello marker seems unnecessary since it just points incorrectly to another location; The Confederacy receives outsized and one-sided attention given the very short period of our long history that it represents. "Johnny Reb" needs to be replaced with a balanced marker explaining that part of our history, and augmented with other memorials and markers about important events. Otherwise it just tells visitors that the racist Confederacy is the aspect of our history and identity that we cling to and admire above all others, which is not the message we want to send.

one month ago 👍 1 Agree

NOTHING. They are history of the state and the community. They need to stay in place and we should remove all those who want to erase history.

one month ago 👍 1 Agree

These monuments do not represent the history of the state or community -- they represent a fabricated historical memory created by White elites for social and political control at the times they were erected.

one month ago 👍 1 Agree

I believe you did not mention the date the Lynching of John Henry James historical marker was unveiled, yet all others dates were mentioned. It was July 12, 2019.

22 days ago

I was surprised to hear that the Monacan tribe "abandoned" the area. Perhaps it might be more accurate to say they were driven away? No one abandons their land willingly.

22 days ago

Agreed. Given that the Monacan tribe's other option was to stay and face genocide, there needs to more context regarding the larger forces that drove displacement. 'Abandoned' without context is sanitized, guilt-free, colonial language.

20 days ago

Where is there a marker that memorializes another monument to Lewis in Richmond? This seems pointless. Also, that the Monticello text not only erases the fact that Monticello was a forced labor camp, but is factually incorrect about just about everything on it.

one month ago

That the park had been a black community that was razed with the intention of building an all-white school. I did not know that.

one month ago

I am surprised that the marker to remember those who died in the civil war lacks almost any information about it. It seems to me to be appropriate to keep it to honor so many dead from the Charlottesville community, but needs more explanation as to why it is there, and personally, I think it could also tell the problem of slavery and oppression of African-Americans as the origin of the war. I always thought the marker for a site where slaves were sold should be right on court square because more slaves were sold there than on a stone "block" at number nothing. It wasn't just a commercial matter but a legal and civil one, and that could be presented as a way to understand the profound debacle of so many lives lost (marked by the monument to confederate soldiers). Although the Jackson monument is artistically of value and should be preserved somewhere, it is out of place in this spot. He was not a resident or even visitor to the city and glorifies the Confederate side in the war as heroic (and this obviously offends some people today). Since the McKee neighborhood was the first commercial district of the Charlottesville, and became a predominantly black neighborhood, it should have markers that tell that story on what is now Court Square Park. That absence of the story is glaring to me. I think the history of the surrounding properties outside the square is also worth telling more as well. I am also surprised that there are no monuments to Jefferson, Madison and Monroe on Court Square, since they were the most nationally-important people to actually visit the square for various purposes. They are mentioned on other markers there and probably there is not interest in erecting monuments to them, but still I find it surprising since it is one of the most historical court houses still standing in America from the founding era of America. I think the modern city hall today has the sculpture of those three men but really that sculpture would be better at court square, not on the downtown Mall. I personally wonder if people will complain about them someday being prominent in the modern city hall, and perhaps if they are to be retained it would be best in a historical context where the city government began - Court Square. I think the square could try to tell local history in a more chronological way if the east side of the square had markers mainly for the city's first century (1762-1858, with Jefferson and founders along with slavery), and then the south side of the square for its second century (1859-1959 with civil war monument and post civil war history, becoming a city, lynching, etc), and the west side of the square for the most recent history (1960-present; civil rights movement, first African-Americans in city government, etc). Walking tours could flow around the square telling that story. I served on the Court Square renovations committee in 2006 that put up the marker on the east side, but would like to see a fuller marker like that on each side. By the way, I also served as co-chairman of Charlottesville's 250th anniversary in 2012 and wrote a diverse history of city that was in the Daily Progress.

one month ago

The lack of organization/connection/context.

one month ago

Reflect on Court Square as a public space. What do you think Court Square says about our community in its present state?

We continue to only value the White elite historical memory. The Confederate soldier statue, depicting a man about to kill in order to keep the 52% of Albemarle residents who were Black in 1860 enslaved, is the literal embodiment of this historical memory.

one month ago

⬆ 1 Agree

It does not tell a comprehensive story. (See my post for the previous question.) When attempting to do so, it should tell something positive of achievements and something critically honest of failures about all periods in the city's history.

one month ago

⬆ 1 Agree

That this space is an afterthought and lacks a connection to both the past and present.

one month ago

⬆ 1 Agree

It lacks coherence without a unified plan. A lack of a clear message of hope in justice, made worse by one of the most prominent statues being a mass-produced confederate soldier armed to fight. Rebellion is important for textbook history that all students are taught, not for glorification in a statue next to a courthouse that today upholds some laws that the Confederacy would have fought against.

8 days ago

With its Johnny Reb statue and the cannons pointing outward it continues to glorify the Confederacy (even as the statue was produced in Chicago!). It is not a welcoming place. I applaud the addition of the marker noting the lynching of John Henry James, but as public space Court Square is not welcoming, and inclusive. It certainly does not suggest equal justice.

22 days ago

Those that do not remember history are doomed to repeat it.

27 days ago

I was curious why there was no mention of the fact that is still a functioning courthouse where citizens of all colors come with an expectation of justice being administered. Especially with the discussions just within the past year of Albemarle County moving the court functions out of the City

one month ago

It says we respect the past and those who fought against the NORTHERN AGGRESSION. The slave era has died and no one from that era is alive today. LEAVE THINGS ALONE.

one month ago

Well A) The Union didn't fire on Ft. Sumter, so NORTHERN AGGRESSION sounds silly. And B) the slave era died ONLY because of what you described as "Northern Agression."

one month ago

What or who is missing from this public space?

A coherent narrative about the factual history of our City and County.

one month ago

1 Agree

Maybe a listing or recognition of 20th century residents of all colors who fought in WWI, WWII Korea and Vietnam who may have died or survived. Let their descendants come see the place as a source of sacrifice for them.

one month ago

1 Agree

I agree with the comments of the co-chairman of Charlottesville's 250th anniversary that more markers are need to contextual the statues and the history of the square from the viewpoints of various cultures. The "At The Ready" statue should have a marker to Charlottesville role in the Civil War. Never have so many fought so valiantly for such a ignoble cause

8 days ago

A transcendent statue depicting justice in a prominent place to demonstrate the purpose of the courthouse today. Markers about the past, including about groups discriminated against on these grounds, tell an important history on the grounds (and more should be added for the gaps). But without a prominent image of our purpose and goal today in ensuring justice, equality, and respect for all, the "take home message" of the other items can be lost.

8 days ago

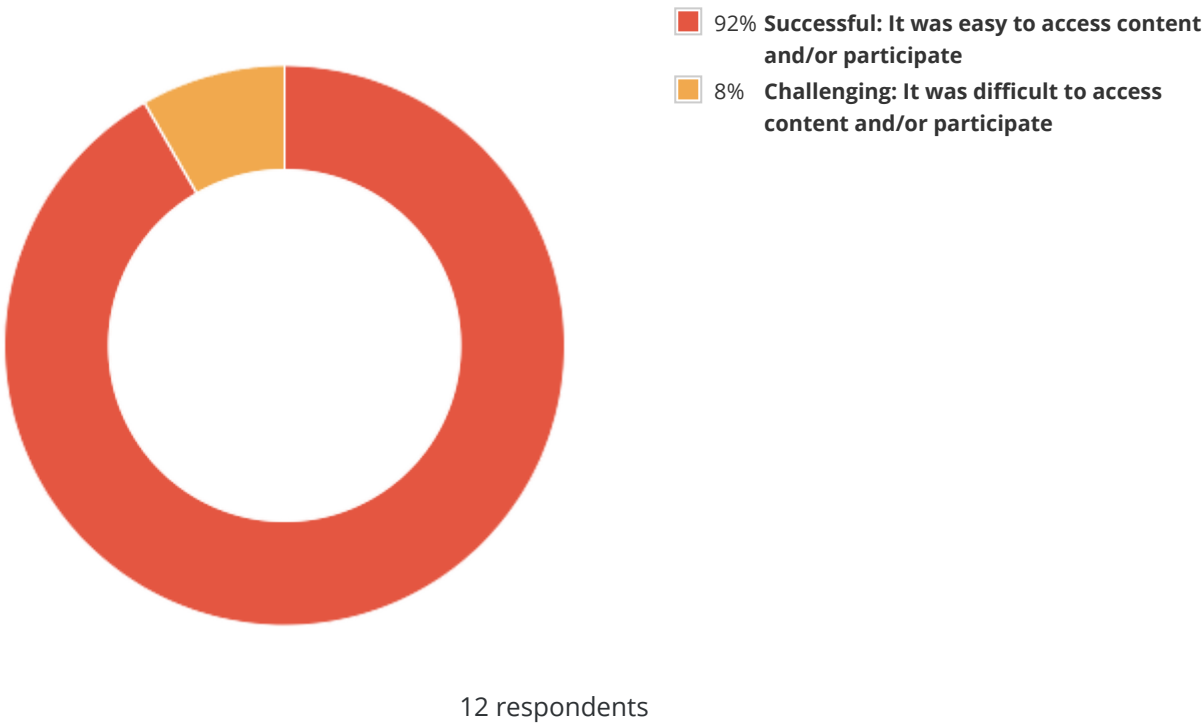
A prominent marker or memorial to the enslaved human beings who were bought and sold. Why has it taken so long to do this? Also an acknowledgment that African Americans and Monacan Indians before them were driven off this land to create a whites-only public space and a courthouse that dispensed justice only to white people.

22 days ago

Sally is missing. Where is Sally?

one month ago

Please rate your experience participating in this questionnaire.



Please share any details about your experience here.

In my comment to the first question I submitted an answer that addressed some of the questions that came later in the survey. I did not know in advance what the question break-down was going to be, so after my first comment I didn't feel the need to comment on any of the other questions. I also couldn't edit my first answer to make its content distributed across the questions.

I also thought the virtual tour was dry and boring. I am a fan of history and tour-guiding. But getting through the 12 minute video was difficult. It wasn't engaging.

20 days ago

Court Square Tour was nicely done - narrator was excellent.

20 days ago

I think we need to respect all members of our human society.

28 days ago

There are to many people who want to erase history for their own feelings and the statues are harmless. I say let the people in NOV vote on the statues not some scum back in a county or city office.

one month ago

# Share Your Experience

## Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS	SUBSCRIBERS
1,136	214	287	671	290



What do you believe is the purpose of public space?

To be a welcoming space for \*all\* members of the community.

one month ago 👍 4 Agree

Public space should be a space that all our citizens feel welcome in. Public space that is near and around a courthouse should additionally celebrate equal justice under law.

26 days ago 👍 3 Agree

I strongly support removal of the Johnny Reb statue. It does not represent who we are or want to be as a community. Not only is it the right thing to do, but it sends a message to visitors and prospective residents that we are not welcoming or inclusive. As a human resource professional I have had numerous conversations with individuals contemplating relocation to our area. I have spoken with Black candidates for jobs who have shared that they do not feel comfortable because of the visual reminders of slavery. I have also spoken to individuals who have moved here, then decided to leave because of these obvious symbols of white supremacy. Removing them IS the right thing to do, but retaining them also keeps us from growing into a more diverse and inclusive community, prevents us from attracting talented professionals, and limits the richness of voices.

28 days ago 👍 3 Agree

To welcome and inspire. To provide common space that is accessible, healthy and safe for all members of the related community. To be a support for the communal vision of the future. For all these reasons, we have to take down those Jim Crow statues now.

28 days ago 👍 3 Agree

A space where community members can gather in celebration or for a common purpose - all should be welcome. The space should be accessible to all and not provide any displays of materials which could be interpreted as offensive, racist, or implying partiality to a particular race, gender, age, etc.

26 days ago 👍 2 Agree

To offer places for reflection and respite and learning.  
I believe that statues honoring or memorializing Confederate figures are antithetical to a society that embraces freedom and equal rights for all. I believe the heritage they claim to honor is the heritage of Jim Crow. We can do better than this.

27 days ago 👍 2 Agree

Confederate statues do nothing to promote justice and everything to support unequal justice

They reflect a distorted history

We spend tax money lighting and maintaining them

They do nothing to indicate that we are a welcoming, diverse community

Taking them down is a small symbolic action, but symbols matter - otherwise they would not have been put up and placed there specifically

It is offensive to the ideals of racial justice to have a Confederate statue in any public space. But the Johnny Reb statue is especially offensive because it is on the grounds of the courthouse, which is supposed to be the community's house of justice.

The courts operate under the rule of law according to the U.S. Constitution. So why is there a statue on courthouse property which is dedicated to enemy combatants that tried to overthrow the U.S. Constitution?

The Confederates fought in a war to maintain and extend chattel slavery, which is forbidden by the 13th Amendment. The 14th Amendment guarantees equal protection and equal justice under the law. But the Confederate statue seems to indicate that the scales of justice are tilted against people of color.

27 days ago 👍 2 Agree

Public spaces should be used to foster and reflect the ideals of our community. These areas should bring us together. Statues and memorials of the Confederacy work against these purposes and should be removed immediately.

27 days ago 👍 2 Agree

A public space is one where all citizens can feel welcome. It is one that is supported by the public. Such a space should not glorify anyone who seeks to or sought to separate and divide us as a people.

28 days ago 👍 2 Agree

In her 2007 book, "Designs on the Public: The Private Lives of New York's Public Spaces", Kristine F Miller states: "public space is not a concrete reality but rather a tenuous condition. What we believe are its essential and enduring qualities—openness and accessibility, public ownership, and ties to democratic life—are at best temporary conditions, and more often are completely absent."

I believe this well describes the situation of Court Square. My hope is that it can be recontextualized to focus on the concept of justice for all people. (It is, after all, a Court Square). What is justice but making things right, equitable, and trustworthy? This would mean removing the statues of Jackson and the "Johnny Reb" Confederate soldier. It would mean bringing to the fore how justice itself has been treated in this space, past, present, and looking to the future - with hope. It would mean a place where people could gather, speak, rest, ponder what has happened here, and what might happen here if justice is truly served.

28 days ago

👍 2 Agree

The purpose of a public space is to provide an experience that all citizens can relate to and provides them with some knowledge or appreciation of a shared message. The confederate statues do not provide a shared experience, they are only appreciated by a small group of hateful people so they do not serve a public good, in fact they are a bad influence on the public. This country fought a long bloody war to free the African American slaves. What reason is there 160 years later to glorify the Confederates who wanted to keep people as property? The very fact that there are still a vocal group of people in this country who feel that these statues are symbols worthy to display in public spaces is an important reason why we must take them down. Part of the impact of removing these symbols of hate will be to stifle their voices and continued influence on generations to come. We must put out the flame of hate that persists against African American people by mostly uneducated white people.

28 days ago

👍 2 Agree

I am well familiar with the History of the Civil War along with the Names and States that endeavored to secede in order to maintain their ownership of Negro Slaves who did their bidding. This bidding was mostly done under duress of at times inhumane treatment where all individual rights of humanity was suspended. It was a very short period of time in history where the Hierarchy of the leaders of the Confederate attempts at Secession were literally Treasonists to our democracy. All, or most of the statues in their name were erected from the Wives and Daughters of the Confederacy. The maintenance and Presence of any such Confederate Statutes in our nation today serve only as a Symbol of the terror they spread through out the Ill fated means they sought to achieve. As such, not a single member of that movement be it a Soldier Or General, A President or weapons supplier, a wife daughter or Grand children should have the right to herald these sinister legends of the past by their presence as statues Plaques or otherwise. I call for immediate disruption of these meaningless scraps of metal and that they be tore down and replaced with real hero's of our Historic nations battles world wide to preserve our freedom and democracy

28 days ago

👍 2 Agree

I believe that symbols in public spaces are very important in conveying our ideals and in commemorating our shared history. A statue of Johnny Reb in our public square glorifies the Confederacy, a movement of rebellion against the United States who's purpose was to insure the continuance off slavery. Furthermore, in our community conversation about the statues since the Unite the Right Rally, I've learned that the statues were erected with the intention of furthering the continuance of white supremacy and the subjugation of African American citizens. Removing the statue would be a seminal moment of healing, a small gesture of reparation to African American members of our community and represent a commitment to further efforts towards making our founding ideal that all are created equal and entitled equally to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

28 days ago

👍 2 Agree

A place where the community can gather and not feel threatened and/or reminded of a tormented past. I can't even imagine how horrible it would feel to see leaders/fighters of the confederacy up on monuments as a African American. I hope we can be inclusive and look forward to a future that respects all people.

28 days ago

👍 2 Agree

It is offensive to the ideals of racial justice to have a Confederate statue in any public space. But the Johnny Reb statue is especially offensive because it is on the grounds of the courthouse, which is supposed to be the community's house of justice.

The courts operate under the rule of law according to the U.S. Constitution. So why is there a statue on courthouse property which is dedicated to enemy combatants that tried to overthrow the U.S. Constitution?

The Confederates fought in a war to maintain and extend chattel slavery, which is forbidden by the 13th Amendment. The 14th Amendment guarantees equal protection and equal justice under the law. But the Confederate statue seems to indicate that the scales of justice are tilted against people of color.

The recent MGT Consulting Group report on the Charlottesville-Albemarle County legal system--a study which was commissioned by the city and the county--concluded just that: Racial disparities exist at every level of the local system of justice

29 days ago

👍 2 Agree

A place to gather, to see and be seen, to communicate, to display public art, other things depending on amenities. To sit in the shade.

one month ago

👍 2 Agree

Public space is for building community and fostering connection. Thus, public space should be welcoming to all. It should be free from statues that were erected to support white supremacy. It should not celebrate the confederacy or slavery. If public space feels safe and welcoming only to some members of the community but not to others then that undermines fairness and equality in the community.

one month ago

👍 2 Agree

The courts operate under the rule of law according to the U.S. Constitution. So why is there a statue on courthouse property which is dedicated to enemy combatants that tried to overthrow the U.S. Constitution? As far as I'm concerned, the Confederates were American traitors, so why remember them at all with memorials? Makes no sense.

one month ago

👍 2 Agree

Public space should be welcoming and inclusive to all people and particularly to vulnerable groups that have been historically marginalized and/or made to feel unsafe in public space.

one month ago

👍 2 Agree

Public space should be accessible to and should welcome all members of the community. It's historical fact that most public spaces in the South generally and in Virginia specifically have been de facto WHITE spaces, built with only the comfort of white citizens in mind, and that this has been true for centuries. Public space in the South has in fact been a site of great and sometimes mortal violence against black citizens. It's time for the State itself to acknowledge that, and for white citizens to begin active partnership with black citizens to dismantle the most visible aspects of white supremacy in our public spaces. To do anything less is to perpetuate a long legacy of bigotry and racist violence.

one month ago

👍 2 Agree

Public spaces should be intersections of the community. They should be safe spaces for everyone and should NOT include monuments glorifying a lost cause. The confederate monuments need to go. Public spaces should be conducive to freedom of speech and the right to assembly. They should be well designed with the health, safety and welfare of the community in mind.

one month ago

👍 2 Agree

To reflect local history...  
Please do not "modernize" the area...or burden it with "messages".  
Find some where else for any modern impulses.

22 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Public space should showcase our ideals, promote  
The general welfare of the community - all members of the community.

23 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Public space is dedicated to the use of the entire community.

23 days ago

👍 1 Agree

The purpose of public space is serving the common good of the community—the entire community.

24 days ago

👍 1 Agree

To create a space in which all members of our society feel welcomed, respected, and heard.

During the Jim Crow era, statues and monuments were set up to memorialize and valorize Confederate soldiers and the Confederate cause, and these statues were designed to remind people of and reinforce the continued legal subjugation of the county's Black citizens. They were part of the system of intimidation that made up Jim Crow.

These statues have no role in our current public spaces except to continue to celebrate these horrible, immoral laws and messages, and they -- including the statue currently in the Albemarle County Courthouse Square -- should be removed.

25 days ago

👍 1 Agree

To offer a space to build community and the relationships that define community

27 days ago

👍 1 Agree

The study of racial disparity completed by Charlottesville & Albemarle found that racial disparity exists at all levels of City & Albemarle's justice system. Promote justice by removing the racist symbol of Johnny Reb. There is much work to do towards racial justice in our community.

27 days ago

1 Agree

I believe public spaces should be welcoming to all members of the community and visitors to the community. They should be attractive and iviting to all.

27 days ago

1 Agree

Public space is a space in which all community members feel welcome. A welcoming space with no other message but “welcome”.

27 days ago

1 Agree

Given the tax-money to light and maintain public spaces, they should be spaces that are welcoming and representative of our community. Furthermore, these spaces are designed to serve all community members and should represent our community's ideals (e.g., striving for an unbiased justice system). Given MGT Consulting Group's recent report on the Charlottesville-Albemarle County legal system, which found that racial disparities exist at every level of the local system of justice, local government officials should take actionable steps to remove Confederate statues as a small, symbolic action that is marking the beginning of intentional conscious-raising and measurable actions toward community betterment.

27 days ago

1 Agree

We very much need public spaces for people to enjoy and come together (when we can do that again.) Especially green spaces. Cities are also sad places without public green spaces. (See Houston!) They should be spaces that make all feel welcome. Confederate statues do not belong.

27 days ago

1 Agree

To inspire and unify, not to intimidate or divide.

27 days ago

1 Agree

To be inclusive of all and reflect the highest values and ideals of the community. Public space \*should not\* be a place in which a our government promotes or maintains distorted representations of history that glorify those who fought for oppression and were traitors to the United States. The "Johnny Reb" statue, and other confederate monuments of it's time, were put up well after the Civil War as a means to intimidate Black people and (falsely) rewrite history during the Jim Crow era. They belong in a museum with proper context and information as to their true purposes, and not in a tax-payer supported public space. A memorial or statue that commemorates the enslaved people who the Confederacy fought to keep in chains would be a far better use of land and money.

27 days ago

1 Agree

A public space is a commonly shared space. It should not contain symbols designed to intimidate or exclude anyone from peacefully sharing that space. The confederate monuments in particular were put up to intimidate others and to enhance the caste system in the US. They should all be removed from public spaces.

27 days ago

1 Agree

The purpose of having a public space is for the public to respectfully express their thoughts and perspectives in a manner that others can absorb without being offended.

27 days ago

1 Agree

Public spaces serve multiple purposes -- generally allowing a space for social participation and enjoyment, but they are also used for symbolic expression of what other values (besides allowing the former) the society considers important.

28 days ago

1 Agree

To create an inclusive and comfortable gathering place for all

29 days ago

1 Agree

To create a welcoming, inclusive space that promotes community for all residents and visitors.

29 days ago

1 Agree

Public space should bring people together for the common purposes of community - fellowship, mutual aid, and shared work.

29 days ago

1 Agree

A place to be enjoyed and shared by all residents

29 days ago

👍 1 Agree

It should be welcoming to all, a place where all feel comfortable and included; where no one is excluded. It should reflect who we are as a community, as well as our ideals and values and aspirations. It should show what binds us together in our common life in this place. It should be a place to gather to share news - to rejoice and grieve together and to celebrate and support one another. It should be a safe place, where children can play and old people can sit on benches, where young people can learn and everyone can give voice to their opinions - and listen to those of others. It should be a place where our individual histories come together to form what is, now, who we are, together, now.

29 days ago

👍 1 Agree

To be welcoming to all, safe, and to reflect the good values of our community; to be a place where equity and justice are affirmed and racism and oppression are not. I support immediate removal of Johnny Reb statue from Court Square

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I call for the immediate removal of the Johnny Reb statue from Court Square. Our public spaces should be safe and welcoming to all members of our diverse community; the Johnny Reb statue sends the exact opposite message, as a racist symbol of systemic injustice. Thank you for listening to the public, and helping to make Albemarle's public spaces more inclusive.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I feel like the confederate statues should be removed. It's a sign of what we prioritize and truly care about, and I think that demonstrating that we are a community that prioritizes and cares about being inclusive, making all feel welcome, and recognizing that our history is one that doesn't always need to be idolized and memorialized. That it's appropriate to have history that we keep in the history books and instead have statues of what we are proud about. The statue of Reb in front of the courthouse is harmful to the community we are trying to demonstrate that we want.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

To create a hospitable site for people to reflect, relax, and/or gather for public purposes

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

The purpose of a public space is to provide for the whole community. A public space should be welcoming to all and offer something to everyone.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

A place where everyone can feel welcome and comfortable

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

To be inclusive and make everyone feel welcome. To create a sense of community. Having statues, or any items to honor confederates or slave-holders, is antithetical to building community, inclusivity, and a sense of safety or trust.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

The history of court square is an history of racism and injustice. The statue of Johnny Reb must go. It sends a clear message that justice will not be done for black petiole in our courthouse.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

The term "public space" means, to me, property not privately owned but owned by a governmental entity, and therefore by all of us as citizens. It means parks, trails, and streets; it means spaces surrounding public buildings such as government offices where citizens are served by employees of their elected government. These public spaces should be welcoming and easily accessed by all citizens. Court Square fails at least the welcoming test completely with monuments to Stonewall Jackson and the confederacy. Court Square is a beautiful space, with impressive trees as well as buildings of historical significance. I hope that as soon as possible the Civil War monuments (and the cannon) will be removed, and that the public space surrounding the court house complex can be reimagined to serve all people.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

A space for everyone to come, to share, to honor veterans, important men and woman of our area.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I believe that public space should be a place where everyone can feel like they belong there and are welcomed to be there

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

For the public to enjoy peacefully without being harassed by other members of the public or government.

one month ago

🔒 1 Agree

To invite people into historic or difficult places for some to be with as much welcoming architecture and objective signage/ language as possible.

2 days ago

To inspire, educate, and unite

4 days ago

To be utilized by all members of a community and at times, to commemorate an accurate depiction of history and the richness of an area

8 days ago

To represent what is best and/or aspirational about our community, by amplifying and/or celebrating under-recognized aspects of local society, e.g. documenting past/present racism so it's known, or celebrate anti-racist activism

8 days ago

To be utilized by all members of a community and at times, to commemorate an accurate depiction of history and the richness of an area

14 days ago

To accurately inform local history, & create an area of Beauty & Pride.

14 days ago

A place for shared community that is enlightened, non judgemental, and supportive.

17 days ago

To benefit all citizens and to never offend anyone based on race, religion or sexual identity.

18 days ago

To provide a space/area where ALL members of the public feel comfortable and welcome

19 days ago

It should be a space for all to use and for all people to feel comfortable using. It is for the benefit of the entire community.

19 days ago

Regarding Court Square Confederate statues symbolizing defense of states rights. The rights, heritage and way of life the statues represent is slavery. The south's economy was built on the backs of slaves. Soldiers went to war to keep slaves and should not be memorialized in public.

20 days ago



It is a public space that means different things to different people. There is no right or wrong. And, since ignorance is already popping up , the confederacy was no more treason than the war against the British Empire that founded this country. A memorial to the dead harms no one. Celebrate Thomas Jefferson, Monticello and UVA but, scared of the dead what a joke... Put it to a vote.

21 days ago

Memorials reflect what the living honor — and here, as in so many other places, the intent is clear - it's to promote the Lost Cause narrative and as a symbol of white supremacy. The memorial was erected in 1909, when Jim Crow was at its height. 111 years later, it's time for it to go.

18 days ago

Nope, you were not around then so you are repeating from a script. It is a memorial to the dead. It is harder to tear down when you tie it to something else. What do the cemeteries promote? And, Thomas Jefferson, UVA and Monticello? What are the real monuments to slavery in Albemarle County? It is just easier to pick on the dead soldiers, the vast majority which never owned slaves.

18 days ago

You can go to the Daily Progress archives and read contemporaneous news reports of the Confederate monument's installation, where the lead speaker praised the restoration of (white) rule and argued that the emancipation of slaves was overrated, with thousands of people (including schoolchildren) waving Confederate flags and singing Dixie. So yes, it's absolutely a monument to white supremacy, and it needs to go. <https://medium.com/@JalaneSchmidt/what-you-need-to-know-about-charlottesvilles-courthouse-confederate-soldier-f6f5e2cee5d4>

16 days ago

It's a place where all people feel welcome and safe. A place that residents can feel proud of taking out of town friends.

22 days ago

A place to gather, sit, reflect, escape rom work.

22 days ago

To remind us of our shared ideals.  
The confederacy was treason to the ideals of our founding. Our founders didn't always live up to those ideals, and we have revised them from time to time; they are expressed in the living documents of the constitution. The Jim Crow era celebration of the confederacy is repugnant to our ideals and must be overthrown. Taking those symbols down from their tyrannical heights is a commitment to our shared project as a people. Black Americans have shown and continue to lead us to better recognize our ideals and embody them more fully. Public space must be configured to support the public life we want—for the better fulfillment of the equality of all people and their lives, liberties, and happiness insofar as they are not at the expense or harm of others.

22 days ago

As a means to address grievances to government authorities; a place for public discourse.

22 days ago

The purpose of public space is for the common use and enjoyment of the entire community. In other words, it should be a space that is welcoming to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, etc.

24 days ago

For all in our community to gather, discuss, celebrate and mourn and for all in our community to feel comfortable doing so.

24 days ago

To be shared and enjoyed by all.

25 days ago

A nice place to meet people, rest, tour

25 days ago

to have a welcoming space for all. A place where citizens can gather and support each other.

25 days ago

Coming up 4th Street To Court Square and seeing the statue with its cannon and ammo is very disconcerting and unwelcoming. It has nothing to do with an open inclusive society. It must go.

27 days ago

I believe the purpose of public space is a community space that allows citizens to gather in a safe and respectful way for festivals, concerts, protests, educational events, or whatever seeks to engage the community. The purpose of public space is also engage the community about the historical progress of our county as it pertains to all races and cultures in our community. The purpose of public space is NOT to celebrate events or people in our history that remind minorities they are valued as second class citizens. The purpose of public space is NOT to house homeless people either.

27 days ago

To share some of the history of the local area, a place to gather, think, talk, learn  
The confederate statue could be be joined by a union one and context could be added to acknowledge history and educate about the civil war.

27 days ago

Public spaces are gathering spaces that should make everyone in a community welcome. The Lee Statute is a monument to the Jim Crow era. The statute and the park were donated to Charlottesville. It is the right of the Charlottesville community to decide what it's public spaces should symbolize and the used for. There is no place for outside voices. The statute no longer belongs in a public space.

27 days ago

I believe all public spaces should reflect the core values that underlie the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Whether buildings. public sculpture or markers, or public events, such spaces should reflect the best in America and be conducted with civility and honor positive contributions to our history.

27 days ago

To honor worthwhile people and events, not traitors and promoters of slavery

27 days ago

Public space should serve as a balm or refuge from the business of our untidy worlds. It should be a place where all feel comfortable and honored. And, it should inspire citizens to be civic-minded, welcoming, kind, and patriotic. It should honor a democratic ideal, shared sacrifice, science, beauty, and the better angels of our nature.

28 days ago

I believe the Johnny Reb statue should be removed.

28 days ago

To welcome members of the community and to reflect the community's goals of being diverse and welcoming to all

one month ago

I'm writing to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors to let them know that I support the removal of Johnny Reb from Court Square immediately. It is unacceptable to have confederate monuments that support and promote white supremacy. It is important to remember that the confederates fought in a war to maintain and extend chattel slavery, which is forbidden by the 13th Amendment. Although the 14th Amendment guarantees equal protection and equal justice under the law, confederate statues and monuments are a visceral reminder of the systemic racism and injustices that have and continue to marginalize and disenfranchise BIPOC (e.g., see the recent MGT Consulting Group report on the Charlottesville-Albemarle County legal system--a study which was commissioned by the city and the county, which shows the racial disparities that exist at every level of the local system of justice).

one month ago

An inviting area with plaques that represent an accurate history of the space - answering the when, why, and by whom regarding the existing confederate statues. The statues themselves must come down as they undoubtedly reflect an unwelcome narrative of white supremacy over Black people.

one month ago

Free for all, which includes being an inclusive and inviting space. A monument to racism does not provide this.

one month ago

Public space, maintained by our local governments, should be safe, inclusive, attractive clean and respectful place that all citizens may use and enjoy.I support the removal of confederate statues. They represent a support of our shameful history of slavery, white supremacy, treason and divisiveness,.

one month ago



I support the removal of Johnny Reb from Court Square immediately. Thank you for your service to our community.

one month ago

Gathering, communicating, enjoying the environment... Other things, depending on the amenities. Display of public art.

one month ago

I believe public space should make everyone feel welcome, and should remind everyone who uses it of our fundamental equality. Confederate monuments, celebrating a white supremacist nation that fought for the right to keep buying and selling other people's children, have no place in our public spaces. We have better ways to celebrate our heritage.

one month ago

Public space is for fair and equally use for everyone. It is a space that is for expressing free speech and for the community to share.

one month ago

To create a space that is shared by all, welcome to all in our community (And those outside of it), and reflects our community values.

one month ago

Because of this, public space cannot be a site where people feel unwelcome. Statues commemorating white supremacy, which is what the Jim Crow/Confederate statues commemorate, definitely make people feel unwelcome.

one month ago

I feel strongly that inclusiveness and rejection of homages to those who were traitors to our country and fought for the horrendous cause of slavery should be removed from public grounds. Such statues should either be melted down or place in a museum where context could be given to their place in history.

one month ago

This space should be welcoming to people of all backgrounds and ethnicities. There should be no confederate nor slaveholders memorialized. I support statues of ideas/concepts/values, rather than of people.

one month ago

To provide a safe place for use by all the community for positive purposes. Ideally it should include trees, attractive landscaping, seating, well maintained restrooms and other details necessary to properly maintain the space. Community meetings, educational and musical programs representing a cross-section of interests, along with a balance of quiet time for reflection and renewal would be the purpose of having the designated public space.

one month ago

To provide a beautiful place where everyone in a community can gather in safety.

one month ago

A public space is for everyone to feel safe and welcome. It should be completely devoid of political leanings or statues or any other object that may convey a message for only a certain segment of the population at the expense of another.

one month ago

To reflect, refresh, and inspire to self and community improvement.

one month ago

I believe that public spaces need to be safe for all, green, and include benches & landscaping. It does not need to make a political statement one way or the other.

one month ago

A public space is a safe space for everyone to gather and participate in their community.

one month ago

A multi purpose open space for people to gather or meet.

one month ago

Primarily a space where the community can gather to share ideas, entertainment, business, etc

one month ago

Public space is for the public to decide what to do with it. It is a gathering place by nature and has been for decades. It is for leisurely lunches on a spring day and Black Live Matter protests whenever organizers want to do one.

one month ago

It is an area that is open and accessible to the public. The purpose is for freedom of movement.

one month ago

For individuals and communities to use in the way(s) in which the space is intended to be used (for recreation, expression, movement from one place to another, etc.)

one month ago

A safe space for all in the community, a place for community engagement.

one month ago

Leave it the way it is.

one month ago

A place dedicated to remembering history.

one month ago

A gathering spot for the community.

one month ago

A place where people can come anytime.

one month ago

A place to gather and be enjoyed by all people. A place where all people can feel comfortable. A place that retains the natural beauty of Albemarle and Charlottesville.

one month ago

To uplift, celebrate and enjoy community.

one month ago

A place for community to gather

one month ago

Depending on the venue to conduct public procedures or events

one month ago

For all community members to enjoy outdoor space peacefully and to provide space for community gatherings

one month ago

A space to be used by everyone

one month ago

Public space should be a safe place for any and all to come together and meet, interact and celebrate the community. It should not be dominated by any particular group, religion, or ideology. It should be a place where people can get along, or at least tolerate each other, despite their differences.

one month ago

When not

It can be a meeting place, a green spot to walk through, a calming environment.

one month ago

A public space is an area to be admired and enjoyed by everyone.

one month ago

I believe the purpose of public space is for the community to come together and function cooperatively. It should be a place for everyone to enjoy and feel safe.

one month ago

To identify the best ways to make our public spaces safe and welcoming for everyone.

one month ago

Provide a sense of place with a common history.

one month ago

to be a space for everyone to use and enjoy

one month ago

Generally, spaces that are accessible to the public and provide benefits such as recreation opportunities, educational opportunities, points of interest, connections to other spaces / places

one month ago

To bring people together

one month ago

To provide the community safe spaces to socialize, connection points to other locations, recreation opportunities, and education if spaces are in proximity to points of interest

one month ago

I've always thought of public spaces, parks, recreational areas as all part of the history of the community. What makes this particular area/region different or unique from another. What part of history happened in this community - good/bad/indifferent. And maybe we need to be willing to acknowledge multiple times in history and multiple views; back to the good/bad/indifferent.

one month ago

For people to come and feel connected to their community.

one month ago

A place that people can enjoy individually or in groups.

one month ago

Public space should be a place where every member of the community feels comfortable and welcome. It should reflect the values of the community we are and want to become. It should not be a history museum that memorializes obsolete values in perpetuity.

one month ago

To gather; either for entertainment or education, or just to relax alone.

one month ago

The confederate statues need to go. They were erected to intimidate people of color, to assert dominance. Public spaces are for everyone to enjoy freely.

one month ago

I have lived in Albemarle County for the past 7 years. I am originally from the Midwest. I see the statues as historical markers that need to be kept. It is important to have reminders of our past so that we can bring them up and talk about them. Taking them down, simply takes the reminder to talk about the past away.

one month ago

To share history of the area both good and bad.

one month ago

It depends on where the public space is located. The court square area should allow for outdoor seating of citizens in relation to courthouse function. The purpose of parks is for recreation and outdoor activity. So, public space is generally connected to purpose.

one month ago

A Place for members of the public to freely use, within reason, for the purpose intended by the authority governing that space.

one month ago

Leave it the way it is. It is historical if we start tearing down our history Everything UVA is will be next on the list.

one month ago

Public spaces are for the use of all residents in the community. To the extent reasonable, the areas should be free of language, signage, and displays that are racist, bigoted, and demeaning to one or more populations. All should feel welcome and safe.

one month ago

That's an absurd, emotionally leading question. Public spaces include outdoor museums, zoo's, botanical gardens, playgrounds, cemeteries, parks and yes, tiny postage stamp areas around courthouses. The purpose is just that, to serve a purpose.

one month ago

For all Public to share in it's being. To take in and explore all that is there. Public should mean just as the word say's Public, for everyone to have and gain access.

one month ago

It should be a place for public interaction: social, speech, arts and culture. It should be an opportunity to interaction and be united.

one month ago

To provide a safe place in nature for community members to enjoy the outside, meet with friends, share time with family, and collaborate in support of topics relevant to the community and beyond.

one month ago

To provide a place where all members of a community can enter and enjoy without reservation or intimidation.

one month ago

Its a space where everybody can enjoy meeting people in a tranquil environment

one month ago

A place to share ALL ideas and perspectives to the history of this county, city and state. Present messages, exhibits and statues related to all sides of history and do not try to contextualize today's perspective on historical facts. If we hide a side of history, it denies all the chance to learn the good and bad of history, thus not allowing growth and change.

one month ago

A place to share ALL ideas and perspectives to the history of this county, city and state. Present messages, exhinits and statues related to all sides of history and do not try to contextualize today's perspective on historical facts. If we hide a side of history, it denies all the chance to learn the good and bad of history, thus not allowing growth and change.

one month ago

As our set of justice, it should reflect an our values of universal human freedom inclusive of all our citizens, not just white people.

one month ago

Trying to generalize, public spaces should serve to welcome everyone and help them accomplish things they can't do in their private spaces. It depends: there are lots of different public spaces, from the Virginia Beach boardwalk and the Lincoln Memorial to the Scottsville farmers market.

one month ago

A public space should contribute to a narrative of what the public is, in fact and in history and in aspiration. It should include instead of exclude. The statues and monuments (even Johnny Reb) can be moved and recontextualized to create an inclusive narrative that brings us all together.

one month ago

The purpose of public space is to provide an area for community members and visitors to temporarily inhabit for an event of their choosing or for no reason at all. It gives the public a place to be idle. It is a break from private residences, private businesses, and from the roads and side walks. In many ways public space is a place of refuge and a place of collaboration.

one month ago

Park like atmosphere. Also: “@Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Those who do not remember their past are condemned to repeat their mistakes. Those who do not read history are doomed to repeat it.” Do not erase. Study, learn, reflect. What we were. What we are. Where we are going as a community.

one month ago

To build a sense of community and shared space, a place for everyone. Confederate monuments are appalling In so many ways and not appropriate for public spaces. Replace them with monuments of actual American heroes, nor racist traitors.

one month ago

It should be available and representative of all people; all of our history, but in historical context. It should not glorify the Confederacy. Yes, it happened, they lost; they held slaves; the slaves were freed, segregation and racism happened. All of it should be reflected or none of it. As Court Square is already a historic site, I think it should be used to teach all of our history going back to before the revolutionary war, including appropriate plaques, statuary, along a timeline walking tour.

one month ago

Leave the space alone, as is.

one month ago

A gathering place for all....all people matter!! The monuments and statues are a part of history and a learning tool. If all are removed then what is to say slavery ever happened? Please keep our county historically preserved and admired!!

one month ago

In a democracy the public space reflects what each generation of public spirited people choose to put there. It may end up a hodgepodge. Heroes and narratives change. That is democracy. Leave it alone.

one month ago

Green space, relaxation, community building (events and festivals, for example)

one month ago

Anything that people care to make of it.

one month ago

PARKS are for public spaces for recreation, experiences with the natural world, relaxation from work, obligations and stress, exercising, etc. ROADS and SIDEWALKS/BIKE PATHS are public spaces for travel to/from work and other obligations, travelling recreation, sightseeing, etc. GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS are public spaces for public business and other public functions. Courts are government buildings for public civil and criminal justice proceedings. THEREFORE the EXPERIENCE of the public space of a court and the open public GROUNDS adjacent to the court should echo the functions and purposes of civil and criminal justice proceedings. This might help understand what NOT to put there: we would not likely put a swing and slide set, or a tennis court, on the grounds of the court: those are about the functions and purposes of recreation; we would not likely put a trash transfer station on the grounds of the court; those are about the functions and purposes of public waste management;etc. WHAT ARE things that would on the grounds of a court - a public space for civil and criminal justice proceedings? We should only have those things on the grounds of the court that echo the functions and purposes of civil and criminal justice proceedings. Once upon a time stocks were put on the grounds of courts because they were directly related to the functions and purposes of criminal justice proceedings. Albemarle County Court Square might put up a stocks with good explanation of historical meaning. Currently Albemarle County Court Square does have a historical marker explaining lynching. That is entirely appropriate. The stocks and explanation would also be entirely appropriate. The 'let us now praise famous men' statues are NOT appropriate. Just as 'let us know praise famous' women, or gender non-binary/non-conforming persons ,would not be appropriate. Removing all the 'famous people' statues/monuments would leave space for other purposes the echo the functions and purposed of the court to include: various seating arrangements , both covered and uncovered; coincidental to welcoming people who must be at court or who come to court, should be a public restroom. It if widely remarked and easy to see something about the feckless elite snots who run the City, with all their ridiculously hypocritical 'woke' talk, 'inclusive' talk about welcoming everyone to the Downtown (Mall): after decades (MANY DECADES) of the 'Downtown Mall' these hypocritical, feckless, elite snots still have NO public restrooms that are always available, clean and safe. The County Court Square should have restrooms that are always open, clean and safe during daytime hours.

one month ago

To enjoy the outdoors with harassment or undue influence.

one month ago

For people to come together in a mutually respected area that promotes the town vibe both culturally and spiritually.

one month ago

A place where people can get together to have fun, talk, relax, and enjoy being in the presence of others.

one month ago

How do you want to feel when you are in a public space?

I want to feel that everyone in my community can come, feel comfortable and enjoy the space. Especially with this space being dedicated as a seat of justice, it should be clear that all citizens will receive justice regardless of the color of their skins. That people will not fear and be intimidated.

one month ago

⬆️ 3 Agree

When I am in a public space I want to feel safe, I want to feel free, and I want to feel like I belong.

one month ago

⬆️ 3 Agree

Connected to the community and it's people. I want to see positive and uplifting representations of our community.

one month ago

⬆️ 2 Agree

The statues remind me of events and people from the past and help me to remember where we have come from and that which we've been through.

one month ago

⬆️ 2 Agree

I want marginalized and persecuted communities to feel safe from oppression. That can't happen with monuments glorifying white supremacy prominently displayed all across the county and city.

one month ago

⬆️ 2 Agree

I wish to feel Free from Big Brother and shouting ideologues of all stripes

one month ago

⬆️ 2 Agree

Free. Not oppressed by an an Orwellian government dictating what "narrative" I am allowed to experience. The juxtapositions of different things from different times and erected for different purposes is refreshing, even inspiring.

one month ago

⬆️ 2 Agree

connected to my community

24 days ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

curious

27 days ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

I want to feel welcome and I want to feel like anyone would feel welcome there.

27 days ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

That it is open, welcoming, safe, inspiring

28 days ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

Safe and welcomed- EVERYONE is entitled to feel that way and we should work to make that true.

one month ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

That this space is comfortable and welcoming for everyone in the community.

one month ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

It depends on the other people present in the space. I've had picnics and walks in court square and felt relaxed. I've seen protests and demonstrations in court square and felt inspired by the American spirit of dissent.

one month ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

Where everyone has the same rights and all opinions can be expressed openly.

one month ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

I want to feel safe and I want all my fellow citizens to feel safe as well. And if they can't then it needs to change.

one month ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

Enlightened. Safe and respect for ALL, not just those with the loudest voice.

one month ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

Comfortable and welcome, and I want to feel that everyone in the community also feels comfortable and welcome.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I enjoy the historic feel of the downtown/court square area as it is. My Great Grandfather worked on the crew of most of the buildings in the area.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

In an open and Democratic society which values free expression, how one "wants to feel" is a dangerous question. I expect the public space to reflect the purpose and the history of the location / region. I also hope that new themes and ideas--including expressions of current art, beloved figures, ect will also be reflected. But, if I have to choose a feeling of oppression, sadness, outrage over the cleansing of offending objects and ideas, I will choose the negative feelings over some revisionist landscape of plastic polar bears and bike riding jesters made from garbage. Let's be honest about Courthouse Square. No one goes there unless they have a hearing or work there. The emotional and social needs of local residents are largely met elsewhere and they are free to choose a number of places they prefer. Mostly all donated by the same person responsible for the Lee and Jackson monuments.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Leave statutes alone-they are a work of art-few places in the world have them !

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Welcomed and proud to be there, regardless of my thoughts or agenda as long as my actions are Civil and do No bodily harm to anyone.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Like a part of the community. Like I belong

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Like my hometown hasn't been overtaken by people who have no connection to the area beyond moving here.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

If you're a member of the Monacan tribe , I understand your point completely. If you're not, then you are simply pointing out you got here first.

one month ago

At a minimum, safe and welcome. Sometimes a busted sidewalk and flickering streetlight fails this test. Sometimes airports are too stressful with crowds and heavy security. Then comes the practical purpose of the space. A bridge needs to carry a certain volume of traffic, and a gym has to have certain equipment. Then aesthetics. Every public space is a chance to share our values and make the community better. Public architecture is worth investing in. I love look and feel of the Philadelphia Art Museum, the Japanese garden at Maymont in Richmond, and the Saunders trail at Monticello.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Safe and part of a community. Not antagonized by statues of traitors and bigots. And free to say and express my own beliefs safely.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Free. Free of shouting ideologues. Free to enjoy the peace and serenity.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I want to feel safe and not be intimidated by people trying to force their views on me.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Safe, happy, in awe of its beauty

2 days ago

inspired, safe, and connected to community

4 days ago

Safe, free, and able to participate in public events that serve all citizens equally

8 days ago



Safe, and like those with less privilege than me feel safe too. I want public spaces to be friendly, accepting, and supportive of unhoused community members.

8 days ago

Safe, free, and able to participate in public events that serve all citizens equally

17 days ago

I want to feel safe and comfortable, without having to worry about whether or not I belong in that space. I don't want to have to think about it.

19 days ago

Safe. Welcome. I shouldn't really have to think about it.

19 days ago

Fine. Except when the mob is allowed to riot.

21 days ago

Safe

22 days ago

Free, Open.

22 days ago

Inspired

22 days ago

I want to feel the space to be inviting and not walled off. Symbolism should not be a part of a public space.

22 days ago

Safe, included

23 days ago

In public space, all community members should feel welcomed and safe. Symbols or other features that detract from that objective should be altered or removed.

24 days ago

In a public space, I want to feel safe. I want to feel that my essential moral and social values are shared by the community that has created and maintained this public space.

24 days ago

Comfortable, carefree, and safe.

25 days ago

comfortable, at ease, generally safe but sometimes guarded.

25 days ago

welcomed and accepted

26 days ago

Comfortable, and connected to my community, in a space that is beautiful and uplifting.

26 days ago

Welcomed. Comfortable. Relaxed. Able to appreciate the beauty of a public park .

27 days ago

I want to feel relaxed, happy and surrounded by others who are also enjoying this space.

27 days ago

Happy and enjoying other humans of all types. I want to feel the space is welcoming to all.

27 days ago

Proud of my county, city, and country and safe.

27 days ago

Usually invigorated

27 days ago

I want to feel that I am in a welcoming, protected space that is shared and appreciated by all members of the community

28 days ago

I want to feel part of a larger community that honors all of its citizens.

28 days ago

I want to feel safe, not only in body but in mind and spirit - which means to have a sense of openness and honesty about the history of this place. I want to feel a part of something larger, a part of the human community that lives here, leaves here, comes here. I want to be able to meet people I might not otherwise meet.

28 days ago

Welcome and safe. Part of the community.

28 days ago

I want to feel safe and valued as a member of this community.

28 days ago

I want to feel comfortable, along with everyone else there also feeling comfortable, and reminded that this is a community that I am a part of

29 days ago

I want to feel valued, safe and welcomed.

29 days ago

I wish to be uplifted and also challenged to be the best person I can be, able to express my deepest humanity in helping others, parenting, connecting with others, enjoying nature, communing with a greater purpose, and educating myself.

29 days ago

Uplifted, relaxed, proud

29 days ago

I want to feel safe. I want to feel I can relax. I don't want to feel overshadowed or dominated. I want to feel happy to be in my community. I want to feel grateful. I want to feel proud of my city. I want to feel trust in our leaders.

29 days ago

I want to feel safe and welcomed, and to share this experience of the space with all fellow community members.

one month ago

I want to feel like I, and all members of our community, are safe and welcomed. This includes feeling safe from symbols of oppression and persecution

one month ago

I'm writing to request that you have the statue of Johnny Reb removed. When I heard the mayor of New Orleans ask people to imagine they were an African American parent walking with their child past the statue of Lee when the child asks why the statue is there. On hearing this, it immediately became clear that all the statues of Confederate soldiers and and leaders needed to go. None of the members of our community should be put in this terrible position. Please have the statue taken down. Thank you.

one month ago

Safe and welcomed. Inviting to all groups of people.

one month ago

Calm. Safe. part of a community.

one month ago

Safe. Seen. Able to see. One among many.

one month ago

I want to feel the same as everyone else -- I don't want to blithely stroll, untroubled, through a space whose design or decorations cause other people pain.

one month ago

Safe, connected to my community, able to share it with my children and others’ children.

one month ago

Safe, welcomed, inspired, peaceful, valued, intelligent, equal...

one month ago

I want to feel welcomed and connected to the larger community. I want to feel safe and comfortable in a public space...and I want others to feel that way, too.

one month ago

I want to feel that my children and anyone's children can feel safe and enjoy the surroundings.

one month ago

It depends on the public space. When surrounded by Confederate symbolism, I feel outrage at the city's lack of vision and lack of action.

one month ago

Safe. Relaxed. Engaged with my fellow community members who I might not see otherwise.

one month ago

That my locality/municipality has held justice and inclusivity as guiding values in all its decision-making, including public space design.

one month ago

I want to feel safe & be able to enjoy the serenity & beauty of our city & history.

one month ago

Included, safe, and happy.

one month ago

I don’t need to “feel” anything in particular. A space such as this should be an area where people can feel how ever they want to feel or discuss whatever they want to discuss. A space to share opinions and ideas even those that might differ from our own.

one month ago

Comfortable

one month ago

I want to feel safe in any public space. I don't always feel safe in some places, but the general idea would be to feel safe.

one month ago

It depends on why I'm in the space, but generally I would like to feel content and safe.

one month ago

I want to take pride in our public spaces, knowing that they safe and welcoming to all.

one month ago

Proud and appreciative of and respected by my community. I want to feel that all are welcomed to the space.

one month ago

Peaceful and safe.

one month ago

The public spaces should be safe and welcoming to all members of the community. It is, after all, our shared space.

one month ago

I want to feel like I've been partially taken back to visualize what is being taught.

one month ago

Prior to the last few years, we gathered in parks to relax, and celebrate, or watch a sporting event.

one month ago

Comfortable and safe.

one month ago

Nervous

one month ago

Like I am standing on space that I am part of paying for its use and maintenance

one month ago

Relaxed and welcomed part of the community.

one month ago

Connected with those around me. Safe and secure normally

one month ago

Relaxed, like a member of a community that can accept different points of view, different cultures and ethnicities, and different ideologies without the fear of bodily harm from those who cannot tolerate anyone or anything not like them.

one month ago

Safe, comfortable. Part of a community. Able to sit and enjoy the outdoors and watch the world go by.

one month ago

In a public space, I want to feel safe. I want a public space to serve everyone in the community, not just white people.

one month ago

Like I'm part of a community. Safe, comfortable, and welcome.

one month ago

Proud to be a citizen. Safe and secure

one month ago

enjoy the space

one month ago

Learning, safety, co-creation, and inclusive.

one month ago

Safe, and part of the general community.

one month ago

Safe

one month ago

Safe and welcome

one month ago

Comfortable, safe, at ease.

one month ago

Safe, happy, like I belong and have a right to be there.

one month ago

Enlightened by the knowledge available within the public space that gives a nod to all areas of an area, town and its diverse history.

one month ago

Again, it depends where that public space is located and what it's purpose is.

one month ago

Safe and welcome to use the space as intended by the authority that governs the space.

one month ago

A sense of belonging and safety.

one month ago

I want to feel welcome, safe, and inspired by the art or beauty.

one month ago

A connection to my neighbors, peace, and openness for all members of the community.

one month ago

At peace in a green space like a park or garden; inspired to remember the importance of our institutions in or near a public building such as a court house; and thoughtful and inspired in or near a place of education such as a public university or museum.

one month ago

I like having the statues I've lived in chville all my life I think of all the work the artist did in creating these beautiful historic statues ..they need to stay as a teaching tool..alot of these statues where made from melted down cannons.

one month ago

Happy and grateful to have a public place

one month ago

In our town, most our beautiful spaces to enjoy and a chance learn about what has happened in the past, (ie the reason for a park's name)

one month ago

Enlarged, restored to confidence, thoughtfully instructed and free to imagine.

one month ago

Energized and happy to see all of history preserved. Safe! Enjoy the history and beauty of our city!

one month ago

Relaxed (comfy benches, shade) and welcome

one month ago

Welcome, safe.

one month ago

SAFE! SAFETY FIRST AND ALWAYS. Everything else is bonus. If a woman (or man, or gender non-binary/non-conforming adult) or child is not SAFE from threats of sexual harm, harassment, bullying, theft, etc then no other purpose can be achieved. The current circumstances of the County Court Square is NOT SAFE. There are too many 'hidden corners' and 'secret bushes' where someone could be hiding, and where some one could be taken to be abused. Also DANGEROUS POLITICAL PARTISANS and ANARCHISTS (people who want to dis-band law, de-fund law enforcement, etc) have made the County Court Square a place of TARGETED VIOLENCE. IT IS ALTOGETHER UN-SAFE! SAFETY FIRST, day and night!

one month ago

Proud of my area, secure.

one month ago

Safe, inspired, educated, welcomed.

one month ago

"Feel?" Public spaces are not about "feelings" for me.

one month ago

Like I don't live in China (face masks), like I don't live in fear of being shot or mugged. Free.

one month ago

What do you believe is the purpose of Court Square?

It should be a place of tranquility and respite. Courts of law should be places where people find relief from injustice, a public space should reflect that. It doesn't necessarily have to do so with a monument or memorial. It can do so with beautiful landscaping, fountains, benches and places for people to rest and reflect.

26 days ago

Well said. Thank you

25 days ago

3 Agree

To be a shady, beautiful, and relaxing place for the public to enjoy. Also to be a place where descriptions of the history of Court Square can be put on display.

one month ago

3 Agree

A special spot downtown that should stand for justice and fairness. It should welcome all people in the community and have art work that represents the best of our collective efforts. Maybe stop having statues of people and have some of ideals that we aspire to live up to.

one month ago

2 Agree

A green space to be used and enjoyed by all downtown. The fact that it is the entrance to a court should dictate a feeling of equality for everyone.

one month ago

2 Agree

A reflection on who we were, what we are today, what we hope to be in the future.

one month ago

2 Agree

Court Square should be used to honor our important figures. Men who went off to war and didn't come home, tell the story of our county formation and the men and women whose struggle created the county we know today.

one month ago

2 Agree

It's the gateway to our legal system so it's of utmost importance that the space not contain bias or monuments to hate.

17 days ago

1 Agree

I'm not sure that Court Square needs to be a place to showcase it's history. But if history is to be displayed, it should accurately highlight our history, not glorify the history we should not be proud of. Thomas Jefferson practiced law there. Countless slaves were auctioned off like cattle there and enslaved families were separated. Jack Jouett rode into town there to warn Virginia legislators that the British were coming. British troops occupied that area for a short while and arrested Daniel Boone and others. Marquis de Lafayette arrived on his return trip from France after the Revolution. There is so much rich history, but unfortunately the Court Square (along with the Stonewall Jackson statue) focuses on glorifying those who seceded from our Union.

27 days ago

1 Agree

As I mentioned in first comment, to lift up the ideal of justice for all people. To show the history of how justice has or has not been served here with transparency, integrity, and inclusion of voices of people from all ethnic backgrounds and socioeconomic strata. To be a place that actually reflects the community while providing a space for refreshment, remembering, reconsidering, and reconciling.

28 days ago

1 Agree

Entryway to the courthouse. Place for shade trees to cool the building. Place for the county to display itself to the world. Interface between Charlottesville and Albemarle.

one month ago

1 Agree

To be an open and welcoming space that speaks to equality and justice for all people, and an honest recounting of history.

one month ago

1 Agree

The purpose is to share the history from the founding of that particular area bringing it up to date. A walking timeline, if you will.

one month ago

1 Agree

There are many reasons - green space, community gatherings, individual meetings, and documentation of actual historical events...NOT the glorification of offensive historical figures.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Where people go to court, have a break, etc. But utmost, where adults can act like adults and appreciate history no matter the good or bad. Now, it seems everyone is offended by something and expects everyone else to bend to their demands. Kinda like the children in the store that cry and scream too get something they want. I see a lot of things that I don't care for, but like an adult, i keep moving along because somewhere there is someone else that appreciates what i don't!

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

It's a central place of the city, housing court buildings and close to downtown. It's a place where business happens. The open space should be a place where people feel comfortable gathering.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

A garden around the courts. Somewhere for locals and workers to take a lunch break and enjoy fresh air.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

As the entrance to the court, it should provide a space that supports the ideal of everyone being equal before the law.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

It is a historic part of our county and it needs to reflect the history of our area.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

To provide a glimpse at the rich history and heritage of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and Virginia.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

The purpose of court square is as a center for judicial procedures but also as a park in the center of the most historical part of the area.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Its a government area not a park no one is having family picnics in front of the courthouse. It should represent our history.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

To provide a place where one is felt welcomed and his thoughts and ideas can be remained silent or vocal. To absorb the beauty of the area. Past history objects that are displayed there can be used to relish in past history, a place where individuals young and old can be educated to our vast Historical pass.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

A welcoming area where the history of this community is represented and a place that represents all current and past viewpoints/ideas/art .

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

As the entrance to our seat of justice, I believe the purpose of the square would be to support and express that function...equality before the law.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I feel that the purpose of court square is to define itself as a place of order and intimidation. The combination of Jeffersonian inspired architecture and depictions of Confederate symbols and figures communicate that Court Square is a place of judgement and dedication to the opinions of white elite.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

An entry point for the courthouse, a gathering place for the community, and an opportunity to celebrate our marginalized neighbors rather than remind them of a painful past.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

An entrance for the court house and a space for people to enjoy

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

To provide a safe, clean, welcoming space for all members of the city & county community.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree



To be a beautiful place for the public to enjoy without being harassed by other members of the public or government.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

To provide a historic and fair view of Charlottesville's earlier government with the message that MANY things those governments did were unjust to some.

2 days ago

The home of the courthouse that upholds laws and controls many major points of our lives. It should have never had a statue meant to racially terrorize and intimidate.

4 days ago

To act as a ground for law and other civil proceedings that should be free of harmful symbols

14 days ago

It's just the space outside the courthouse - it's not set up for much except looking nice.

19 days ago

Not to house monuments to treason and slavery.

19 days ago

I mostly think of it as the public area around the courthouse. As such, it should not be a place that implies that some carry a more privileged position than others. That doesn't say justice and equality under the law.

19 days ago

In this day and age it is a place to relax before you go to court. It is also a place to ponder history.

21 days ago

seems like it's a place meant to reflect the historic beginnings of Cville

22 days ago

A place to gather before or after Court. Remember who we are and how we got here.

22 days ago

A place for the traditional court activities in a historical setting.

22 days ago

It is a public meeting space for all to use. The ideal of equal justice is not demonstrated when you allow a symbol that represents enslavement and unequal treatment to remain in that spot.

22 days ago

A place where all in the community feel safe and welcome

23 days ago

As the location of our local courts, the physical structure and surrounding grounds of Court Square should convey that we as a community are committed to "equal justice under law" (the phrase engraved on the US Supreme Court building). Symbols like the confederate soldier statue are incompatible with that goal, as they represent white supremacy and unequal status for Black citizens, and so it should be removed.

24 days ago

I am writing to express my strong support for the removal of the 'Johnny Reb' statue from Court Square. Confederate statues do not promote justice, reflect a distorted history, and do not indicate that we are a welcoming and inclusive community. It is not appropriate to spend tax money lighting and maintaining a statue that glorifies racist messages.

24 days ago

Court Square should project the peace and equanimity that comes from living under the rule of just and appropriate laws, fairly administered, in service of the common good of the entire community.

24 days ago

Currently it is a place to recognize our shameful past.

24 days ago

A public and historic place in which to freely associate with others and reflect on the truth of our past.

25 days ago

A place of history. A place to gather before and after big events. It should Represent law, order, government for all but I think that is not the case at the moment.

25 days ago

to acknowledge the history and judicial system of Charlottesville

27 days ago

I feel it should be a peaceful green space where people feel welcome and a nutral space for anyone neededing to go the courts for any reason.

27 days ago

Center for our local judiciary offices.

27 days ago

A green space, an entrance to the court.

27 days ago

One of the many nice spaces in the city where we can hold festivals and people can eat lunch. Should reflect the values of the city.

27 days ago

To make system of justice fair and available

27 days ago

Justice should be a dominant theme. Is the uneven application and the absence of justice in the past and still in this present time that has brought us to this point of self-examination. The purpose of this space should not simply be to reflect history because our history has been so divisive and painful, but the purpose should inspire what is possible as we move beyond and learn from our painful history.

27 days ago

To provide a peaceful, attractive setting for the historic Courthouse and represent justice and the rule of law applied equally to all citizens.

28 days ago

A quiet space honoring the ideals of freedom, equal justice under the law, and our shared experience as citizens.

28 days ago

Should be a public meeting space for the community, a place of beauty, and as it is located next to a Court it should convey a message of justice for all

28 days ago

The Courts are the embodiment of our nation's valuing of the peaceful petition for the redress of grievances within the law; the court square, in addition to serving as a small park for general park-like purposes, may also be used symbolically and literally to allow the peaceable continuation of seeking redress for grievances beyond the the law as it is and into the political realm of how the law should be.

Similarly, from a broader philosophical perspective, purpose is not intrinsic to the artifact of the Court Square itself, but the choices of the society that constructs it; as such, the better question would seem "What do you believe SHOULD BE the purpose?"

28 days ago

The Court Square area, just through the style of the surrounding architecture, already imparts a sense of history. Other than that, it should communicate strong, contemporary messages of justice and equity. No more old Virginia heroes, founding fathers, Mr. Jefferson, etc. Let's go for a "refresh"!

29 days ago

The area surrounding our courts should promote the ideals of equal justice for all. That everyone involved in our court system receives fair treatment. The statue of Johnny Reb represents the worst of our history and has no place in Court Square . It should be removed immediately.

29 days ago

This is our civic center - a place where our common values of justice and truth bring us together.

29 days ago

To be a space representing justice for all

29 days ago

Court Square is in front of the Court - it is literally a pathway to the court system. People must walk through it to go to court so it should inspire a sense of equality and justice for all. I actually don't think it should be a museum, reflecting our nation's history, but should instead reflect our goals and aspirations for the future - who we want to be as a people and the values we strive to uphold. Why does it need to be historical in any way? It should be aspirational.

29 days ago

Court Square should be a space where all members of the community feel comfortable visiting, whether for business or leisure. Having a Confederate statue in Court Square is especially offensive because the grounds of the courthouse are supposed to be a place of justice, where all community members can feel that they have access to justice. While the statue is a symbol, symbols have weight and removing it is an important (but insufficient) step in addressing the disparities in our justice system that are based on race and socioeconomic status

one month ago

An inviting area with plaques that represent an accurate history of the space - answering the when, why, and by whom regarding the existing confederate statues. The statues themselves must come down as they undoubtedly reflect an unwelcome narrative of white supremacy over Black people.

one month ago

Safe and inclusive space to meet and gather before or after participating in activities involving justice.

one month ago

The purpose of Court Square should be to remind all visitors that we are equal in the eyes of the law, and that the law will be administered fairly and impartially for everyone. Confederate monuments stand in direct opposition to that idea.

one month ago

To provide a community oriented, public forum outside the courts. The space should communicate unbiased justice, and that every voice will be heard and considered.

one month ago

My understanding is that the square is intended to be an outward expression of, and community introduction to our court system in Albemarle County. As such, it ought to reflect impartiality, and a commitment to fairly and equitably serving our entire county. It could be used to strengthen the relationship between the county's civil servants and the surrounding community, however that is not my current understanding of how the area is used now.

one month ago

As the home of a courthouse, Court Square should be a place first and foremost of justice. That means all should feel safe and I believe that war memorials in a place of justice are inappropriate. How safe would I feel coming for justice with a cannon pointed at me or a soldier looking down at me? Secondly, I would like Court Square to teach us about our history, and the progress we have made over time. I would also like Court Square to be attractive, with landscaping that guides people to walk the grounds and sit to reflect.

one month ago

A place for sharing, gathering -- a green space for everyone to enjoy and feel welcome, comfortable, and safe.

one month ago

Right now I think it's a hodge-podge of historical data, some of it inaccurate, none of it very effective and some of it insensitive to our community. I don't think its purpose needs to be that narrowly defined (past history). It could for example reflect our goals for Charlottesville and Albemarle County going forward, not looking backward.

one month ago

If it is going to offer itself as a historical narrative about Charlottesville and Virginia, then it should offer an accurate and collective history told in collaboration with historians and local citizens.

one month ago

To be a focal point for local history, and tell an accurate historical narrative about about our community.

one month ago

To remember history, but only the parts of history and the version of history that suits white people. The history set forth is shameful in its lack of honesty, regret, acknowledgement, and amends.

one month ago

A place to remember our community history. To be inspired by the good and be motivated to address the bad.

one month ago

Court Square certainly has a historical aspect; I believe it is important to remember that those who do not remember history are condemned to relive it.

one month ago

I reject the premise of this question. Are you asking for the opinion of what it SHOULD be, or are you asking about what it was and is still currently? Because those are two very different answers.

one month ago

The purpose of Court Square was to boast about the land taken from marginalized communities with shows of power (financial and judicial) using statues and intimidation.

one month ago

It is a multi use public space. A Court Square is usually is a place of free thought as it is generally county seat.

one month ago

Court square is an area of formality. I enjoy the park like setting to sit enjoy the gardens and reflect I enjoy having lunch here in the shade in the fresh air. It is a special place as it holds a lot of history and the architecture is so beautiful and classic of Charlottesville.

one month ago

A gathering space for citizens and visitors to the courthouse

one month ago

It varies--it's public--the public can decide. It's usually access to a green space. Sometimes it's a gathering spot for important community demonstrations. It should remain a public space so that people can use it as it has been used for decades. It should not house confederate statues or any remnants of the confederacy or the oppression of black people.

one month ago

Usually, just as a green space for all. Sometimes for important gatherings.

one month ago

To be green and peaceful space highlighting the center of our shared government.

one month ago

A gathering spot, a meeting place, a place to study and remember where we came from and where were we are going.

one month ago

right now it's an homage to oppression. I won't feel safe there till the statue is removed and there is massive reform of the police and court systems. so its purpose is actually unclear to me.

one month ago

Where everyone can be accepted and appreciated.

one month ago

To represent the history of the city dating back to before the United States Revolutionary War.

one month ago

I believe it is the space to gather, meet up, etc before or after entering a hearing or event in the courts. And a space for those working in the courts and around the area to get fresh air throughout the day.

one month ago

An outdoor space for everyone.

one month ago

Serve as a symbol of loyalty, stability and continuity

one month ago

To be a freely used public park. Any art or installation should be about fairness in justice, due to the location.

one month ago

a park for all. An outdoor space to enjoy while being downtown.

one month ago

A place for all to feel welcome, a place to learn and contemplate, a place for all folks to see themselves reflected in the past and the future of Albemarle County.

one month ago

To learn about the adjacent points of interest including but not limited to the historical events that took place in the area, a space to socialize, a meeting area and generally an access point to the adjacent buildings

one month ago

I'm not sure

one month ago

The purpose can be multiple fold and I believe should start with history. Who, what, where, why and how was this community started, etc. The Court Square is also the entrance to the courts so should be respectful and safe for all.

one month ago

The main purpose should be equal administration of justice to all who enter.

one month ago

To provide an area for use when doing business in the courts.

one month ago

A place for the public to interact with the local government for legal and taxing activities.

one month ago

It is a historical part of the city, not a location for honoring the confederacy.

one month ago

To await a hearing or eat lunch if you happen to work nearby. Very rarely visited otherwise.

one month ago

Place to enter court -nothing more

one month ago

It is the historic center of Charlottesville. It should continue to be used as a centralizing attraction. Not just for the courthouses but for the space. This is heart of who we are.

one month ago

To provide a green space in front of an important and historic public building. Also to provide a space for peaceful public gatherings.

one month ago

In terms of history and symbolism, I'm not sure. First, it has to be a functional entrance to the courthouse, which has important legal functions. I've been there to witness a wedding, get land records, and testify in civil cases. Every city and county in Virginia has to have this. Most courthouses are old buildings and have history exhibits that have built up over time --they make statements about justice and the authority of the County government, which is often racist history. But some of the more modern courthouses don't do this. They're modern office buildings with cleaner, more practical design. The courthouses I worked in after college (Winchester-Frederick County VA) and where I got my marriage license (Williamsburg-James City County) were modern and didn't have many historical exhibits.

one month ago

With both major statues, could be a compact museum of the country before the Civil War (slave trading) and in its aftermath (failure of Reconstruction, Jim Crow, segregated schools, massive resistance, housing inequity, ...)

one month ago

Gathering place and focal point of our beautiful county and the city of Charlottesville.

one month ago

A gathering of sorts and the focal point of our beautiful historical city!! To be proud of our city with its history good and not so good!

one month ago

Both an entrance to the courthouse and a public park for people to enjoy.

one month ago

Based on surrounding buildings and the name, seems like it would be a celebration of liberty and justice ... or at least a neutral resting spot.

one month ago

It's the original downtown, the old-school heart of Charlottesville from the late 1700s. Court Square should capture that history, harkening back to the original feel of the space, while being a comfortable place for everybody. Court Square is really underused right now.

one month ago

Explained in detail earlier using a theory of public space. Government must relay on transparent and ethically sound THEORY not personal opinion or silly-dilly notions. The functions and purposes of a the public space of a court is for civil and criminal justice, and in pursuit of those, accurate historical recordkeeping. Many people come to the court for court proceedings and also for researching records, getting sworn as notary publics, marriage and other licenses required by government, etc. THESE ADD UP to many County people and many people with business in/with the County. As said earlier THERE MUST BE SAFE, CLEAN, ACCESSIBLE restrooms that are clean, safe, and accessible every day (close them at night because Court Square is VERY UN-SAFE at night, and UN-SAFE in some daytime hours. Remove the 'famous men' statues and monuments and don't add any 'famous women' or 'famous gender non-binary/non-conforming persons' statues of monuments. The grounds of the County Court house are small: take out the UNSAFE 'hidden corners' and UNSAFE 'sneaky bushes'; take out the inappropriate statues and monuments; ADD SAFE, CLEAN, ACCESSIBLE RESTROOMS, add many seating arrangements, some covered.

one month ago

Have a tranquil place to gather ones thoughts prior to dealing with the court. Show the true history of Albermarle County.

one month ago

At this point it is a passage to other places in the town. It could be expanded upon where descriptions of history are shared as well as a gateway for visitors and tourists to want to seek out more information about the town.

one month ago

To reflect on history and the sacrifices men and women made during that time. History can not be hidden. It should not be scraped under a rug because some don't understand it or are ashamed by it. We committed no crime and we would all do well to remember that.

one month ago

What words would you use to describe the Court Square public space?

Honor, respect, history, historical, peaceful.

one month ago 4 Agree

Currently, it represents violence, injustice, white supremacy, and an unbalanced history that privileges whiteness.

one month ago 3 Agree

Difficult. Aesthetically, I find the courthouse and the surrounding brick to be pleasing to the eye, but the injustices that have taken place both in that building and in Court Square haunt it. The Confederate statue in front of the courthouse is an eyesore. The benches are nice.

one month ago 3 Agree

Historical

one month ago 3 Agree

It seems that the intention of the space currently is to communicate a valuing of white supremacy and violence to Black people. The space feels as though it were designed to remind us all of the devaluing of Black lives and nostalgia for slavery.

one month ago 2 Agree

I would like to be able to describe the Court Square space as historic, beautiful, peaceful, and reflective. Currently, it misses the mark because I find the juxtaposition between the justice that should exist at a courthouse and the soldier/cannon/war memorial to be a conflict.

one month ago 2 Agree

Racist. Oppressive. Non-inclusive. Not oriented toward the values of our current society.

one month ago 2 Agree

A place where one can learn about and appreciate history.

one month ago 2 Agree

Open for all to appreciate and learn

one month ago 2 Agree

Currently, a place of contention for reasons that could easily be solved by removing statues that are offensive to large swaths of tax paying residents of the city of Charlottesville. Hence why our elected officials already agreed to take down the similar statue in Market St. Park.

one month ago 2 Agree

intimidating, unwelcoming, a reminder of the Lost Cause

one month ago 2 Agree

a bitter space where the confederacy is admired.

one month ago 2 Agree

Given the nature and age of the structures, I would expect a very historical feel and for it to be reflective of history.

one month ago 2 Agree

Green, Open space, historical, enriching.

one month ago 2 Agree

Green, open, beautiful, classic

one month ago 2 Agree

Beautiful as it is

one month ago 2 Agree

A show of history of all phases that showed what it took to build this great Country, what sacrifices were made, what hardships were endured, fellow Citizens being Memorialized for there beliefs and strifes.

one month ago 2 Agree



Elitist, white-washed, historically exclusive, Confederate, unwelcoming, out of touch, biased, white, reactionary

one month ago

⬆ 2 Agree

a nice place to walk or tarry

one month ago

⬆ 2 Agree

Crowded. Contains monuments to a a "lost cause" that subjugated Black and other marginalized people

14 days ago

⬆ 1 Agree

Square box of white supremacy at the current time. We can do better by only allowing imagery that represents justice for all.

17 days ago

⬆ 1 Agree

intimidating and a firm reminder of the sins of slavery in our past.

24 days ago

⬆ 1 Agree

Disconnected, antiquated, oppressive, exclusive, out of touch, insensitive, and honestly a bit creepy and disturbing.

25 days ago

⬆ 1 Agree

Court Square feels unwelcoming and confusing. When there are monuments to the confederacy it does not seem like a pace where a person can feel like justice will be served.

27 days ago

⬆ 1 Agree

Currently, when I walk around Court Square, I feel a sense of disconnect and disjunction - here are two large statues of Confederate military figures, glorified for treason. Here is a plaque revering Thomas Jefferson, enslaver, right near a new plaque (2019) finally revealing the truth about Lynching. And then there is the site of the auction block for human beings bought and sold - the premise of which was upheld by the Confederate figures and Thomas Jefferson. So yes, total disjunction with no real contextualization or continuity of storyline. When I walk around here, even though the natural beauty is there, the display of history leaves me feeling ill and without a way forward.

28 days ago

⬆ 1 Agree

It feels old, projecting a feeling of long ago, perhaps colonial times, and with the focus on old military figures it focuses on unpleasant time in the the history of this country. I think it's shameful. The place for old military history is in museums. The look and feel should be more modern and celebrating great achievements in the judicial system, if you are going to include history then focus on the court system rather than confederate military "heros"

28 days ago

⬆ 1 Agree

Currently, it is ativistic. John Reb suggests white supremacy. It is the very antithesis of suggesting blind and impartial justice, and an insult to its Charlottesville neighbors.

one month ago

⬆ 1 Agree

Whitewashed with the potential to do better

one month ago

⬆ 1 Agree

Formal, intimidating, business-like, adhering to outdated norms and values. It certainly gives expression to a white-supremacist outlook of dominion, and seeks to align itself with the false narrative of the “Lost Cause.” It seems to celebrate a history that never was, and as such is unwelcoming to community members of color.

one month ago

⬆ 1 Agree

It shouts “white dominance” over other groups—American Indians and blacks.

one month ago

⬆ 1 Agree

Oppressive and unwelcoming. Choked with Confederate pornography. Would prefer no monuments, only accurate placards about more aspects of local and state history, and more green space and less brick.

one month ago

⬆ 1 Agree



Threatening. "At The Ready", the Confederate soldier statue, poised with bayonet fixed, ready to fight to ensure the perpetuation of slavery. Two cannons (likely still functional, as they were fired at the dedication ceremony), pointed at anyone approaching Court Square up 5th Street. A 92 year-old description of Monticello, a forced labor camp for 400 people, with no mention of such.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Hostile and racist

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Green place in the city.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Words to describe Court Square? Divisive. It celebrates the enemies of our country. If that is what we are going for. Then I propose we have a statue of King George III, he was after all, an important figure of our heritage.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Beautiful and serene

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Beautiful place with an appreciation of history, good or bad, just history. But of course, there is the offended ones that will throw a tantrum to get their way!

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

The Landscaping is nice I guess. The statuary not so much. I've only crossed through there when taking care of legal business and have no desire to spend time there in its current condition.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Right now, I find the statues to be very offensive and discriminatory. They should not be there as the things that Charlottesville celebrates and honors. We should not be honoring confederate soldiers, who were rebelling against the US govt, in support of maintaining slavery. This does not make sense on so many levels. And the motivations behind why the statues were erected is something that i also find disgusting.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Discriminatory to our black and brown community. Take down the statues. Make it a place of acceptance and love.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I like this space and use it to relax after a walk or when I worked downtown to eat lunch. The gardens and trees are beautiful. The area is shady in the summer and is a welcome break from city streets.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

White-washed and exclusive. Not representative of our community.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Sacred respect for the rule of law

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Sadness, not inclusive, not open or welcoming, threatening, fraught, only representative of one part of our population.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Historical (although specific to one part of history), park-like and needed.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Park, meeting place, open space.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Improperly used. Sullied. Bruised. But having potential.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

A repository for memorials to people who believed it was worth fighting and dying to preserve the right to buy, sell and own fellow human beings for the purpose of profiting from their labor.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

At this time, I think it is ugly and white washed.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Beautiful and ugly at the same time, like much of Charlottesville. The beauty is skin deep. The ugliness goes far deeper and we have a long way to go to fix those issues.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Attractive and welcoming! Safe to walk around our beautiful and historical Charlottesville!

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Green and nice.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

This is corollary to your earlier question about 'how do I WANT TO FEEL there?" I said that I feel UNSAFE. So, the corollary, here is that I see it as UNSAFE. VERY UNSAFE. You should know that a very horrible hate crime occurred there in which a young man was abducted from that area, beat and abused, burned with cigarettes, robbed and then left in an abandoned car trunk to die in the cold. He survived. Why ain't there a historical marker to this horrible hate crime there (the man was gay and was TARGETED because of that!)

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Shady, beautiful and historic. History cannot be changed, only added to. If statutes are removed or Memorials are destroyed then America will be no better than the Marxist state of Russia where “history” is re-written to change what current political narrative wants.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Open, Confederate, historic, busy

2 days ago

currently? completely unacceptable example of white supremacy - horrible - who would ever go there? it could be nice - near library, etc.

4 days ago

Dark and unwelcoming.

8 days ago

Very formal and inaccessible. The grass outside the courthouse is nice, but I feel like I would get yelled at for walking or hanging out on it.

19 days ago

Unwelcoming to people of color. Revisionist.

19 days ago

Nice place. Too bad that it is surrounded by Charlottesville...

21 days ago

boring, a little inaccessible, stuffy

22 days ago

Historically accurate. Like it or not it is the history we have to live with. To change it is to re-write history. If the county try's to re-write history we might as well join the USSR.

22 days ago

A court square set in a historic context.

22 days ago

The continuing existence of the Confederate soldier statue makes Court Square a place that is not welcoming for all County residents. Simply put, the Confederate soldier monument is a symbol of white supremacy and is incompatible with equality, justice, and freedom. It needs to go.

24 days ago

I am writing to express my strong support for the removal of the 'Johnny Reb' statue from Court Square. Confederate statues do not promote justice, reflect a distorted history, and do not indicate that we are a welcoming and inclusive community. It is not appropriate to spend tax money lighting and maintaining a statue that glorifies racist messages.

24 days ago

At the moment? Appalling. Shocking. An extraordinary condemnation of this place and its people.

24 days ago

Uninspired and tradition-bound.

24 days ago

Currently not reflecting honesty, truth seeking, or respect for all.

25 days ago

Historical, traditional. Limited regarding full disclosure and truth

25 days ago

not reflecting equal justice under law. This is the most disturbing part.

26 days ago

interesting, diverse, historical, attractive, fascinating. serene

27 days ago

Antiquated, historical and incoherent. It has roots in the founding of our country and Jefferson which is them muddled with emblems of the confederacy. Court Square does not feel like a public space where people hang out. It seem like more of a civic location and may be a site to put together a coherent story of Charlottesville's long and complicated past.

27 days ago

An area marking a historic place of gathering and justice

27 days ago

Unwelcoming, hostile, offensive

27 days ago

I like the historic courthouse, but I don't like the cannons, etc. I don't think it should have anything to do with war or the confederacy. Should be comfortable for all.

27 days ago

(I am not sure how this question is different from the prior question.) Now it is racist, one-sided history (with the exception of one new plaque), "old South", and glorifying of the Confederacy. I would rather see more plaques or simple but meaningful displays about the painful history we have had in this city, county, and state. A timeline would help give historical perspective. The design and authorship of these historical accounts and displays must be accurate, sensitive, and respectful with the purpose that "we must not forget" as we walk toward justice for all.

27 days ago

Now: When I look at the statues, the cannons, the block where people were sold and bought, I see war, racism, fighting south against the north and right against left, ideals that I do not hold, values that I do not respect. At the same time years ago I was married in the court house and when I try hard I can recall the happy memories of that day.

27 days ago

Incongruous.

28 days ago

The Court Square public space seems cluttered by an artifact giving place of honor to those whose whose most meritorious accomplishment was their failure to prevail in pursuit of a grossly unjust end while continuing politics into means of utmost violence. This artifact seems a removable wart on our society.

28 days ago

It feels like a place that hasn't moved on to a more inclusive respectful space. It's dismissing the hurt and forgetting what the civil war was, a fight against the U.S.

28 days ago

Stodgy. Old, old, old Virginia. Colonialism. The whole area feels like a throwback to our tired old veneration of war and the same old dusty Virginia history. "Johnny Reb" is such a harmful anachronism in these times.

29 days ago

It feels oppressive and exclusionary.

29 days ago

Currently, the space feels oppressive and antiquated. The statues and cannons call forth images of war and study of them finds that their causes were to preserve slavery and racial hierarchy in our nation. The space does not reflect who we are nor does it bring us together to engage in higher actions.

29 days ago

Currently? One-sided. Oppressive. War-like. Cautionary. Violent. Male. Old. Out-dated. Myopic. Military. White. Colonial.

29 days ago

Contradictory

one month ago

White supremacy

one month ago

Blighted by a racist monument, and in dire need of improvement.

one month ago

A relief from urban density, but wasted on “courthouse formality”.

one month ago

white-washed, oppressive

one month ago

Historical.

one month ago

Relaxing place to meet friends for lunch, Enjoy the beautiful statue, Enjoy the gardens, shade trees and the quietness , peaceful place to visit.

one month ago

Historic

one month ago

A place people walk past on their way to somewhere else. Because of parking, unless you live downtown Court Square is not very accessible and does not offer anything for the average person. The Spirit Walks are a good way to appreciate the area, but I don't believe I have been to anything in Court Square park. All the festivities I have been to through the years were in Market St. Park.

one month ago

A public space that connects one to the adjacent buildings with an emphasis on educating visitors on the historical events / places of the area. I would not consider Court Square a great nor bad space. There is room for improvement or conversely decline in quality should the decision makers not program the space appropriately.

one month ago

Needs updating to show efforts of citizens of all colors from efforts of 20th and 21st centuries.

one month ago

Beautiful and fraught

one month ago

Utilitarian

one month ago

Shady, brick, elevated, urban... cluttered, incoherent... formal, imposing.

one month ago

Intimidating, outdated, racist. Boring and/or irrelevant statues. Honestly, I'm not sure it can ever be anything other than a somber area (former slave auction block, current courthouse) but surely it doesn't need canons and soldiers guarding over the park?

one month ago

Spacious, enclosed, calm, disturbing.

one month ago

Beautiful. Serene. Under utilized. In need of further history to explain the whole story.

one month ago

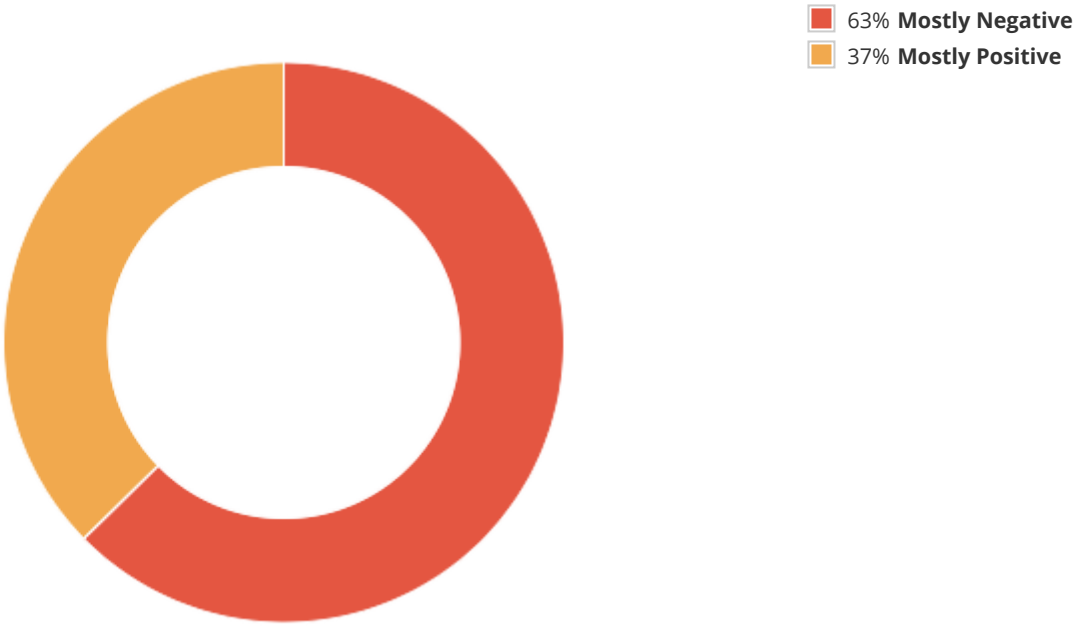
Shady, beautiful, relaxing. Historically disturbing most likely to Black people.

one month ago

Quiet, still, shady, historic, a man who did what he was told.

one month ago

\* Would you describe the way you feel in Court Square to be mostly positive or mostly negative?



165 respondents

I love the park itself. The confederate memorials are a blight on this beautiful community space.

one month ago 4 Agree

The historic significance of the building is important to me. That same history is also shameful due to its connections with slavery. There is no reason Civil War statues should be maintained there. They seem to honor the pain and brutality that took place there and throughout our country's history. We need to be cleansed of this stain, in our public spaces and in our hearts, FOREVER.

one month ago 3 Agree

The area outside our courts shouldn't leave part of our community feeling threatened.

one month ago 2 Agree

As someone who was not raised in Albemarle, Court Square feels unwelcoming (Even though my heritage is largely white and Southern). Our community attracts highly educated people from around the globe, and yet we still greet them with images of a false history, images of A treasonous, racist, brutally violent past. I want to tell people around the world that the statues in Court Square don't reflect the values we hold as a community. But as we have never taken them down or reconsidered what they say about us until now, my stomach sinks when I wonder if they really do? Do we care enough about our neighbors of color to tell the truth? Do we care enough to admit that the statues are hideous, offensive, and hurtful in the eyes of many of our neighbors and around the world? I want to raise my children in a world where the symbols around them reflect a place of love and justice. I want that place to be here. While the statue stands, it is not.

one month ago 2 Agree

We are not changing history by removing the statues. That claim is ridiculous. Statues and monuments represent what we treasure most as a community. Do we treasure the confederate armies and what they stood for? Absolutely not.

one month ago 2 Agree

The statues need to go. They ruin the otherwise beautiful space. War and racism amidst beauty.

one month ago 2 Agree

The statues absolutely have to go. We know the real reasons they were put there.

one month ago 1 Agree

Respects heritage and community values

one month ago 2 Agree

The historical feel in connection with the solemn function.

one month ago 2 Agree

The area is educational and historic. It's also a public landmark to use for directions.

one month ago 2 Agree

The historical aspect of Court Square is one that I hope my children will someday enjoy. I loved playing on the cannonballs and cannon as a kid. Additionally, while I understand the sentiment to not honor the leaders of the confederacy for leading the survival of the institution of slavery, honoring those who fought for their home state should be recognized just as we honor the men who fought for arguably unjust wars in Vietnam and Iraq but not the generals and the politicians who led them

one month ago

👍 2 Agree

Court square is a calm relaxing area.

one month ago

👍 2 Agree

Recently I've become aware that rather than an 'accurate' account of history, it's more a glorification of the 'Lost Cause'.

14 days ago

👍 1 Agree

The statues are insensitive and do nothing to uplift anyone. Institutional racism is the sole reason those statutes are in the public square.

17 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Monuments celebrating defenders of slavery have no place in court square, where citizens seek equal justice under the law

23 days ago

👍 1 Agree

The Confederate monument in Court Square represents white supremacy and the racist Lost Cause narrative. It would be inappropriate on any government-owned land, but it is particularly appalling to have it on the grounds of our courthouse, when the Constitution guarantees that all citizens are equal before the law. It needs to go.

24 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Because of the history of what happened there in the past, the selling of enslaved people. And the monuments that are there to war. War is not something to be glorified.

27 days ago

👍 1 Agree

I feel like I've stepped into the wrong century.

29 days ago

👍 1 Agree

I love the shade trees and benches. As a white person, I have no trouble tuning out the Johnny Reb stature, and would, without effort. I know he is there to suggest that I will have an advantage in any business I wish to conduct in the courthouse. However, I feel that it is my moral duty to remember that a courthouse SHOULD NOT SUGGEST that skin color or decent from enslavers gives one an advantage in court. God, willing I will always work to have empathy with neighbors descended from enslaved people. When I try, even for a moment, to imagine what that statue must feel like to Black citizens, it turns my stomach.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Please take down the statues

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Towering racist symbols to violence and white supremacy do not bring a sense of justice, equality or safety. White people are more comfortable with them because we have been conditioned to see them as representing strength, power, history, beauty and gentility, but this is a dangerous result of systemic racism. These statues are very negative and threatening to people of color and they actually represent violence, injustice, and the promotion of slavery and inequality. It is critical to elevate the opinions of the Black community and people of color in assessing whether these symbols are positive or negative, as they were the targets and victims of the hateful ideology these statues represent.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I appreciate the historical markers, the trees/landscaping, and the beautiful building. When I am there, I am distracted by the Johnny Reb statue and cannon...they detract from the value of the space.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Right now, it's a space dedicated to racist violence. Remove the Confederate monuments and replace them with contextualizing placards. No citizen needs to be forced to look at public celebrations of white supremacy.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I don't like having cannons pointed at me. Once you know the actual history of the place, and not just the quaint factoids about which bricklaying pattern was used for the building, it's inescapable to imaging families being separated through slave auctions and KKK meetings being held inside.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I would like to see statues & honorary namings of confederates and slave holders removed immediately. If other statues or namings are to be replaced, I prefer they consist of ideals & values (Justice, Honesty, Responsibility, etc.) that are better able to stand the test of time. No human is perfect, and taken in various contexts, we are likely all responsible for something shameful. Therefore, it's wise to venerate values, which are eternal, rather than humans, which can never be perfect.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

A beautiful place where I can look learn about history and enjoy my passion of flowers and trees.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

It's hard to think about the failures of our criminal justice system, the slave auction block, and the celebration of the Confederacy without having negative feelings.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

The Confederate statue celebrates enemies and traitors of this country. Its ridiculous.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Love the moments and history in general. See a lot of tourist from all over visiting this historical setting. Guess it will all be lost to accommodate the offended, including the local income from the tourist that visit court square.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

There are few municipalities with the rich history that Charlottesville has both good and bad but history should not be changed to suit the messaging of the minority of the populace.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Because I'm a white person who has not had to confront the horror of racism. The more I learn the more uncomfortable I am with symbols of the confederacy in public places. They are inappropriate.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I do not fear public or government areas and the courts are a place for respect and mitigation.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Because I know it's a place that while great suffering has happened there, so has great justice and accomplishment. Life is not binary. Things are not only good or bad, we need to understand and compromise.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

It is clean and beautiful!

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I think there are many better ways to invest our tax dollars than to alter the anesthetics of Court Square.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I can go there and feel that my beliefs matter. When I look around, I can see markers and monuments that all point to the History of my area, my State and my Country and the toils and strifes that help mold this great Nation.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I find the memorials offensive and divisive. The "lost cause" was history but the cause itself deserves no memorials or dignity.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

After going on the confederate statue tours and learning so much from Dr. Douglas and Jalane Schmidt, I feel bad in that space. Knowing what I do now, I don't feel comfortable there. I can't unsee what they taught me. As a person who works often in court houses, I see this all around the counties. It will be awesome if Albemarle can be the first to make this change.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree



As a white, I don't have to feel the weight of the Confederate symbolism that so angers and repels the marginalized and those who speak for them. Of course we have to change the ongoing marginalization and oppression. But that is the work of a community, not of a statue or monument. It's the interpretation of the statues -- the story WE tell -- that gives them their potency. If you remove the statues, you remove the possibility of saying who we are now, which includes who we have been.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Court Square is excludes the marginalized communities in Charlottesville. There are several depictions of Confederate “hero’s” and up until recently there was a demeaning slave auction block- which rightfully so was thrown away. Court Square is very much a blight on our community and a constant reminder of the unending institutionalized racism that black and brown communities face on an everyday basis. Why should anyone have to enter a court house just after looking at a monument to an ideology that justified the ownership and sale of human beings. If those walking into the courthouse are being judged, so should the should the symbols that inhabit the surrounding landscape.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I would have said Positive but it was not a choice. I hate that the monuments and statues have been vandalized...I do hope those people are brought to justice!! It is beautiful the way it is with the statues and monuments! Good historical reminder!

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

The monuments and statues are art work and remind of us of the history our country went through. Also, to remind us that we are all created equal, all have the same choices and opportunities! The monuments and statues create a lovely space with the historical building...it is all history after all!

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Because I am not an ideologue. The monuments and memorials give it grace and dignity. There are however people with ugly opinions about them.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I was surprised at the amount of confederate monuments, then I realized that is the history of the county and I was happy history has been so well recorded

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

We don't record history using statues; read a book if you want history. Statues are for veneration - and confederate leaders do not deserve to be venerated.

one month ago

👍 3 Agree

There’s not much parking or space for positive interaction out of view of Confederate monuments or placards. It would be a beautiful place to sit and lunch or read or reflect if not for these symbols.

2 days ago

It's completely unacceptable to have a monument to white supremacy and racial opporession.

4 days ago

Glorifies treason and racism, and has no place anywhere but especially in front of our legal buildings where we purport to strive for justice for all community members

8 days ago

Well, I never want to be going to court, so I try to avoid it other than that. It feels very imposing and formal and inaccessible, so I don't feel welcome.

19 days ago

Racism. Tear down the confederate relics.

19 days ago

Mostly agnostic.

20 days ago

I don't enjoy going to court but, I am not going to rant and rave about a memorial to the dead.

21 days ago

Why would I even want to go there? It's devoid of anything interesting and is usually empty of humans and has an aura of spooky stillness. The only times I have learned anything historically meaningful from going there is when I went on a tour led by Jalane Schmidt and when I attended the John Henry James historic marker unveiling. Otherwise, what's even the point? It's boring and holds no appeal for the average Cville resident. Even as a tourist, I can't imagine finding it that interesting.

22 days ago

I grew up here and history classes taught us what has happened here. They did not hammer in the concept everything in our past was bad and wrong.

22 days ago

I practiced law there for over 18 years.

22 days ago

I am writing to express my strong support for the removal of the 'Johnny Reb' statue from Court Square. Confederate statues do not promote justice, reflect a distorted history, and do not indicate that we are a welcoming and inclusive community. It is not appropriate to spend tax money lighting and maintaining a statue that glorifies racist messages.

24 days ago

I feel negative because the monuments in Court Square celebrate both slavery and white supremacy.

24 days ago

it celebrates slavery.

24 days ago

The space is suffused with a bigoted past that does not present the truth of our history.

25 days ago

Up until recently, I found Court Square to be a generally pleasant place to be. However, after going on the tour and learning more about the true history of the statues, enslaved, background of the area, I feel very unsettled there.

25 days ago

Because of confederate monuments. They have no place at a court of justice. They do not reflect equal justice under law.

26 days ago

It is offensive to the ideals of racial justice to have a Confederate statue in any public space. But the Johnny Reb statue is especially offensive because it is on the grounds of the courthouse, which is supposed to be the community's house of justice.

27 days ago

I just do business in Court Square. I don't hang out there.

27 days ago

I agree 100% with this statement by Jalane Schmidt: "Why should a Confederate statue which lauds the soldiers of a short-lived, slavery-supporting, losing confederation of renegade states remain sacrosanct? White supremacy accounts for this appalling lack of empathy for Black Lives. Our public displays should support the universal value of human freedom." PLEASE TAKE THE CONFEDERATE STATUES DOWN.

27 days ago

I just like all the parks around the city and I like the courthouse and the shady space. Now if it can just get rid of the cannons and monuments.

27 days ago

Confederate statues are not compatible with the present composition of our county. They are not even quaint anymore, just hopelessly out of date. If you want some appropriate statuary, put up one of Capt. Khan.

27 days ago

I am a lawyer

27 days ago

It is 2020, why are we stuck in the civil war era? Why have protected this racist history?

27 days ago

Now it is racist, one-sided history (with the exception of one new plaque), "old South", and glorifying of the Confederacy. I would rather see more plaques or simple but meaningful displays about the painful history we have had in this city, county, and state. A timeline would help give historical perspective. The design and authorship of these historical accounts and displays must be accurate, sensitive, and respectful with the purpose that "we must not forget" as we walk toward justice for all.

27 days ago

To much honoring of the Confederacy. We need this space to reflect the best in our history and our hopes for a positive future.

27 days ago

The Civil War monuments give a distorted view of history and the knowledge that they were erected at the height of the Jim Crow era has intensified my negative views.

28 days ago

It should be a beautiful, calm, peaceful place. The statues glorifying those who waged war against the United States detract from the spirit that should be embodied there.

28 days ago

I answered that above

28 days ago

Architecturally and as a landscape I think the square is beautiful. The presence of statues glorifying white supremacy keep it from being a space that actually embodies our shared ideal of freedom and justice under the law for all citizens. Once they are removed it will become a space that is both beautiful and unifying.

28 days ago

I do like the trees and brick- the architectural elements. But the imagery of war and white supremacy overshadows those. Surely there is a way to provide a sense of history in a way that feels safer and more welcoming to all.

28 days ago

It reminds me of the systemic racism that still permeates our country and our community.

29 days ago

As a Quaker, the images of war do not feel like the right images to honor in a public space, especially when these images of war honor those who fought to preserve the system of slavery. Violence is not the highest of human action - it is a failure of human creativity and love. Let's get these images of racist violence out of our public space and build a new foundation for the higher human values.

29 days ago

It is unwelcoming and representative of a narrative that does not serve all people in our community.

one month ago

one month ago

The Court Square has become a place that represents divisiveness and injustice in our community. It is time to change its narrative.

one month ago

Monuments to the confederacy do not foster community. Often, people entering the courthouse are already ill at ease. This only contributes to anxiety. Court Square should be a trigger-free zone.

one month ago

I'm not favorably inclined toward any space with a Confederate monument in it -- and I grew up in the South.

one month ago

Other than the tall trees, there is not one uplifting thing or thought reflected there.

one month ago

It serves the purpose as a open space for gathering or meeting.

one month ago

While I realize and respect those who do not appreciate the Statue of Stonewall Jackson, he was an important part of the United States History. The attention to detail in the art work is amazing. I also feel that since the land was a GIFT and the statue was a GIFT. it should be honored and respected. We need to respect our history, learn from it and never repeat the bad or disappointing parts of the US History. Removed the statues are not going to change our history. Additional narrative would be appropriate, however I fear that removing them will lead us to forget our history and lead us to repeat it. I am so sorry for the bad parts of our history and I feel we should learn from the bad and do much better going forward.

one month ago

It does not represent freedom and justice for all of our citizens.

one month ago

I only go there for court-related things, because I don't appreciate the glorification of colonialism and confederate statues

one month ago

People-scaled, not dominated by a building.

one month ago

I used to absolutely love going there for fresh air when working in an adjacent office. Also a good place to park to listen to the details of big profile cases happening inside. In the past few years, it has become a source of sadness for our community, especially when the KKK was ushered in in 2017.

one month ago

I have no positive interactions with Court Square. Only negative.

one month ago

Statues and cannon

one month ago

Because of the statues and cannon

one month ago

I sympathize with those that feel oppression when at the park, which I myself cannot relate. I feel the park can have a positive impact on the community with the end of this statue controversy, and the best result is to remove the statue.

one month ago

Well I for one will not be charged with a criminal activity so I am not worried and have lived for 67 years without suing someone or being sued

one month ago

The confederate statues, McIntire's racist past, the recent strife all bring shame to a place that should bring us together.

one month ago

Negative: it's not really effective as a highly efficient courthouse, or as a park, or a museum. The space is trying to do too many different things, and so it does none of them well.

one month ago

Because even if I take a serene walk through a beautiful park, I can still see the cracks in the facade. I'm a white man and this isn't about me. I'd imagine the majority of "mostly positive" responses don't come from our marginalized community members.

one month ago

It's a lovely space but it should be a place for everyone to feel comfortable and it's not that, which is sad.

one month ago

It is a beautiful green space within the city but the area should not glorify the Confederacy. The statues either should go to a museum or put in context.

one month ago

I just remembered I got married in front of the dogwood tree in Court Square, which was a very happy day(!), but what I really feel when I think about the space is sad, remembering a friend going to trial, and appalled and angry, remembering the KKK rally leading up to Unite the Right. That July day was the first time I'd ever seen Klansmen in person. They deliberately rallied around the equestrian statue in Court Square ... so I don't feel comfortable (positive) in any space where the KKK does feel comfortable.

one month ago

It's a lovely place, but the pair of Confederate statutes are an un-ignorable blight.

one month ago

IT IS UNSAFE. VERY VERY UNSAFE. And also UGLY.

one month ago

The Square is so much more than what has happened in the last few years. There are several historic buildings in that little area that again are a gateway to historic Charlottesville. It needs more development in placards or monuments or what have you...but it needs to continue being a spot where people come to appreciate the historic value of the area. For good and bad.

one month ago

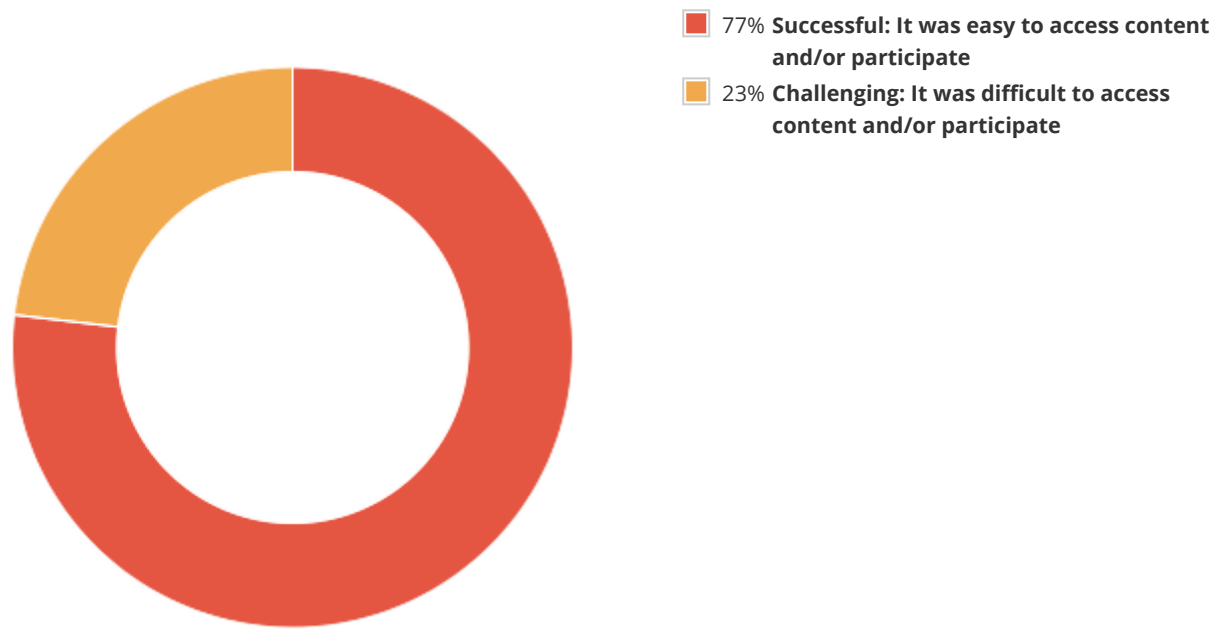
I'm not Black.

one month ago

Because I am not a snowflake, I don't get my panties in a wad over things and situations that were before I was born and have no control over. I oppose removing the statues and would suggest that the money to remove what is already there, be augmented by a black man on a horse, in uniform, as they also fought in that war. Tell the correct history, quit being jerks about it and letting those who have no clue, don't want a clue, influence the decision. Your ignorance shows when you do that.

one month ago

Please rate your experience participating in this questionnaire.



121 respondents

Please share any details about your experience with this online questionnaire.

I liked the mix of quantitative and qualitative questions

14 days ago

My mouse flipped the survey to the very end! (Not very helpful)!

14 days ago

Thanks for asking and attempting to get public input!

22 days ago

If things continue, we will need to re-name the County, named n honor of Willem Anne van Keppel, 2nd Earl of Albemarle, who had slaves. Then the City will need to be re-named, since it is named for Queen Charlotte, known as a despot. Then the State, named for Queen Elizabeth, who had a multitude of servants that were basically slaves. Where does it stop? How much money do e waste changing names and stationary and logos? It's a name, not a deciding factor in how we live and go forward.

22 days ago

No further comment

22 days ago

It was a chance to say something about a place I remember fondly.

22 days ago

It does not give a clear immediate action plan for the Confederate soldier.

24 days ago

I think the questions were reasonably open-ended.

24 days ago

I did have an error when I first clicked on the link for the questionnaire, but I tried again and it worked.

26 days ago

Confederate statues must go

27 days ago

The software is a bit screwy. I am hoping my comments were in fact saved. The feature I most enjoy is that this is the fact that this questionnaire process is happening. Given the inequities that exist around the internet in our community an effort should be made to recruit a truly representative response.

27 days ago

I knew nothing about this until two days ago when a friend told me. When I accessed the Albemarle County site, and went to Board of Supervisors, it still took several clicks to get to this questionnaire. Not sure you will get a fair survey of all those of us in Albemarle County.

28 days ago

From a process standpoint, the interface was relatively good. However, the questionnaire's content seems ill-designed for expressing how the present Court Square succeeds or fails in fulfilling its purported purposes, or how it might be preserved or changed to better achieve such ends.

28 days ago

I liked the online aspect, where it opens a forum for community dialogue. I found the questions to be vague and not address the fact that a confederate statue of Johnny Reb still stands in front of the County Circuit Court. I support the removal of Johnny Reb from Court Square immediately. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

one month ago

Easy to use. Well done.

one month ago

After I posted, I misunderstood, and thought it was telling me it had deleted my comment, so I wrote again. Am writing on a phone. Not sure what you could change about the instructions. I did get it after I posted a few comments twice.

one month ago

I wasn't always clear whether my comments would be posted with my name attached.

one month ago

Please take down the statues.

one month ago

It's troubling to me that in 2020 this is still up for debate. Confederate statues have no business continuing to take up prominent positions in public space, let alone in front of the courthouse which is supposed to be the community's house of justice. These are clear symbols to racism, hate, and injustice. Please remove them promptly once the law allows for this on July 1st, 2020. Thank you.

one month ago

Thank you for providing the thoughtful questions and the opportunity to participate.

one month ago

These were good questions. I appreciate your concern for the community's views and the opportunity to submit ideas and view those of others. It was an excellent idea to do the virtual tour, because I had no idea all those signs and markers were there, much less their content. Also I think this signals your leaning toward a make-over for Court Square, which is sorely needed. I hope removal, of the Lynching marker will be the first thing to go.

one month ago

It was hard to find out about this questionnaire - and then it was hard to find the link to get here. Once here, it was easy to participate.

one month ago

Too many people in C'ville trying to rewrite history rather than learn from it.

one month ago

Too many people trying to rewrite history rather that learn from it.

one month ago

I'm glad there is a willingness to accept public opinion. I believe it would be nice for our public spaces to include basically a timeline of our history rather that to erase it.

one month ago

You need to give the WHOLE community access to this survey. I had to dig to find the link that actually took me to the survey, not just an article ABOUT the survey. I hope there are more ways you are reaching out to the WHOLE community for a complete representative view of this piece of our community.

one month ago

Personally, I do not feel the need for having my comments and opinions known to survey takers as I believe it influences others reactions and opinions. Our thoughts and opinions should be our own and we should feel able to share them without being attacked. You basically could have achieved the same things you did here by posting the survey on Facebook and created more opportunities for people to attack others for their beliefs.

one month ago

It kept auto filling my name and email, which I do not wish to share publicly.

one month ago

Should have asked for suggestions for the area.

one month ago

A simple questionnaire.

one month ago

It was really hard to find the link to actually complete it. I saw a local news article that it existed, went to the page the article directed me to, and could not for the life of me figure out how to find the questionnaire. It took forever to figure out you had to go to this project hub in order to access the questionnaire.

one month ago



No place to just say that the Confederate stuff is an annoying, distracting, anachronism. We should replace it with a fountain.

one month ago

I think it was well done. Thanks for letting the county residents participate.

one month ago

Your mind is already made up and that is what is troubling about this time in OUR Country's history. The loud and aggressive mob will impose their will despite the wishes of the people other wise this issue would be settled by a referendum.

one month ago

The link to this survey was hard to find. As an immigrant, I hope you can do the right thing and preserve the beauty of this area and remove horrible reminders of the past. Perhaps leave a dedication to who this country and this area was built by, the backs of slaves and immigrant labor.

one month ago

Historical artifacts play a key role in the interpretation of our identity and evolution. The manipulation history for ideological purposes corrupts knowledge into propaganda. We honor the 30,000 Virginians that died in the Civil War and many others that were severely injured.

one month ago

I had a difficult time finding this survey.

one month ago

Struggling to finish. What red border?

one month ago

I enjoyed a place to have my opinions made public.

one month ago

It was extremely difficult to locate the survey.

one month ago

You never actually asked whether we thought the statues should remain. Which makes me think you have already made up your mind on what you plan to do. If that is true, then you are just crafting questions that make it look like community engagement while not allowing for a situation where you are outright going against what the participants voted for. You either don't actually care what the community wants or are afraid you might not get the response you want.

one month ago

It was alright. I think there were better questions to ask

one month ago

Leave historical elements alone -next year someone may not agree with you

one month ago

I kept thinking back to how so many wish to change History. To hide pieces of History. Where would we be if there was no History. That's just what it is History. We must learn from it, not hide from it. We can not change it.

one month ago

Thank you for providing this public forum.

one month ago

I hate seeing historic chville destroyed by people who aren't taught the truth..before the civil war there where around 50 thousand free blacks in the country..and alot of them owned slaves..a john Anderson had a plantation in tidewater and he had slaves...hexwas black.do they teach that in schools.not all slaveowners where white

one month ago

THis should be clearly visible from the county's home page

one month ago