

# BEAUFORT TREE WALK

## A Self-guided Tour of Beautiful Trees

### Developed by the Lady's Island Garden Club

The Beaufort self-guided Tree Walk begins at the corner of Carteret Street and Craven Street at the entrance to Morrall Park and continues through the neighborhood known as "The Point". When the town of Beaufort was first laid out in the eighteenth century, the principal streets were Carteret Street and Craven Street. A town square was set aside at their intersection. Each of its four corners was reserved for public use and remained so until well into the nineteenth century. Morrall Park is all that remains of the original town square.



**As you stand on the path (GPS: N32/25.943' X W080/40.186') between the boxwood hedges on Carteret, look to your left toward Craven Street and observe...**

**Tree #1 Sycamore Tree (*Platanus occidentalis*).** There are six of these trees in a row.



The Sycamore is a massive tree and can attain the largest trunk diameter of any of the Eastern U.S. hardwoods. It is readily identifiable with its mottled, peeling bark and cream colors. It is a fast growing shade tree and drops seedpods in the fall. Living sycamore trees can reach ages of five to six hundred years.



**Closer toward the Boxwood path on your left is...**

**Tree #2 Crape Myrtle Tree (*Lagerstroemia indica*).** The row of six trees is draped in



Spanish Moss. The tree is native to Southeast Asia and northern Australia. In the southeastern United States, it is widely planted as an ornamental. The crape myrtle is a deciduous tree. Flowers come in many colors and are crinkled and showy. Fruits are hard, round capsules. The fluted trunks are striking in winter, with buff-colored bark that peels off in narrow strips.



**Just ahead on the right side of the path is...**

**Tree #3 Cottonwood or Eastern Cottonwood Tree (*Populus deltoides*).** (GPS: N32/25.946' X W080/40.178')



This fast-growing tree, with the whitish-gray bark, grows to a height of 100 feet. It is recognized by the deeply grooved trunk and heart-shaped leaves. The seed capsules produce tiny seeds with white threadlike attachments that catch the wind and drift to the ground. The wood is soft and used primarily for pulp, boxes, crates, matches, and woodenware. The tree is planted for shade because of its rapid growth, but the extensive root system has made it less desirable.