

THE 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 entrance to Morrall Park on the corner of Carteret and Craven Streets and continues through the neighborhood known as 'The Old Point'. When the town of Beaufort was first laid out in the 18th century, the principal streets were Carteret Street and Craven Street. A town square was set aside at that intersection. Each of its four corners was reserved for public use and remained so until well into the 19th century. Morrall Park is all that remains of the original town square.

As you stand on the path between the boxwood hedges on Carteret, look to your left toward Craven Street and observe ...

Tree #1 Sycamore Tree (*Platanus occidentalis*). (GPS: 32.43253N 80.66980W).

There are three 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 seed pods in the fall. These grand trees can live 500 to 600 years.



Down the Boxwood path on your left is ...

Tree# 2 Crape Myrtle Tree (*Lagerstroemia indica*). (GPS: 32.43246N 80.66967W).

The row of 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 very showy. Fruits are hard, round capsules. The fluted trunks are very 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:

32.43245N 80.66963W). This fast-growing tree, with whitish-gray bark, grows to a height of over 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.



Walk on down the path, just before the intersection, look to your left over the hedge and you will see ...

Tree #4 Butterfly Tree (*Senna bicapsularis*). (GPS: 32.43249N 80.66948W).

This specimen is native to northern South America, from Panama south to Venezuela and Colombia, and also the West Indies. It is a semi-evergreen shrub growing to 11.5 ft. tall with a low spreading crown that reproduces by seed. It can grow from 6.5 to 39.5 ft. tall and it branches from near the base. *S. bicapsularis* flowers from late fall to winter depending on climate. The seeds of this specimen have a tough seed coat that needs mechanical scarification to sprout with success. The scientific name has been changed from *Cassia* to *Senna*.



When you reach the boxwood intersection, turn right and look against the garden wall ...

Tree #5 Sugarberry Tree (*Celtis laevigata*). (GPS: 32.43239N 80.66940W).

This tree has bark with corky warts and ridges, and is a generous provider of berries enjoyed by the wildlife that is drawn to the park. It is also known as a Sugar Hackberry or simply Hackberry. The Sugarberry is often used as a shade or street tree because it adapts to a wide range of conditions. It is deciduous and can grow up to 80 feet in its lifetime.



Several dogwoods are in the park, but at the end of the path on your right is a lovely example of ...

Tree #6 Florida Dogwood Tree (*Cornus florida*). (GPS: 32.43242N 80.66908W). It

has a unique, deeply ridged and checkered bark. Like other dogwood varieties this tree blooms in the spring and then its leaves develop. Fall brings lovely color to the leaves, and in winter, the red seeds highlight the branches and feed the birds. In colonial days, a tea brewed from the bark, was said to reduce fevers.



As you leave the park, turn left towards Craven Street, continue on the right along Craven Street. Notice the canopy that is formed by our much-loved Live Oak trees. Near the end of Craven, across from the front of 'The Castle' behind a low brick wall at 400 Craven is ...

Tree #7 Foster's Holly Tree (*Ilex x attenuate* "Fosteri"). (GPS: 32.43259N

80.66793W). E.E. Foster of Foster Nursery in Bessemer, Alabama released this holly in the 1940s. The tree grows from 25 to 30 feet tall with a spread of 6 to 8 feet. This gives it a narrow, conical form. Bright evergreen leaves have from one to three non-threatening spines on each side of the leaf margin. Red, pea sized fruit is abundant even on young plants.



Turn left onto East Street and note to the right a row of old Cedar trees, behind the garden wall of “The Castle”. These beautiful trees do not show a natural growth pattern because of the trimming that has taken place to provide power to this area, but they are remarkable in their steadfastness. Also note in “The Castle” gardens, the formal boxwood design with old brick pathways, a popular period style to the age of the home. Farther down the side yard near the corner on the right are two...

Tree #8 Viburnum Trees (*Virburnham odoratissium*). (GPS 32.43332N



80.66809W). This evergreen is native to Taiwan and Japan, growing up to 12 feet tall. The foliage is glossy and dark green with clusters of white flowers in the early summer, followed by red fruit that turns black upon maturity.

Turn right onto Federal Street, and as you do, you cannot ignore the large over-hanging limb of a Live Oak. Note the Resurrection Fern (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*) growing on the branches. Depending on the amount of moisture it has, you will see it as ‘brown’ when there is dry weather, and ‘green’ when it rains. The fern has a symbiotic relationship with the oak, existing together, without damage to either.

Beside the Live Oak are a male and female Sago Palm. These are an ancient species millions of years old (think dinosaurs). The fruits of the female palms can be deadly to animals and the fronds are sharp tipped.

As you continue past the marsh inlet, note the gauges over the inlet from the river to the pond. These gauges are specifically used by city engineers to record rainfall in order to validate the engineering plans for the drainage project on ‘The Old Point’. Future plans involve sensors throughout Beaufort County to measure Sea Level Rise, Tidal Data, etc. and integrate into NOAA satellites for future reference.

Take a left onto Hamilton Street with the reflecting pond on the left. At the corner of King Street and Hamilton on the right is...

Tree #9 Weeping Yaupon Holly Tree (*Ilex vomitoria ‘Pendula’*). (GPS: 32.43430N 80.66726W). It has a very distinct, irregular, weeping form with its upright crooked



trunks and slender, curved pendulous branches. The foliage is small, oval and grey green in color. This hardy evergreen bears clusters of red berries in the winter months and is highly sought after for holiday decorating. It is believed that local Indian tribes used it in their medicines and as a valuable trading commodity.

Continue on Hamilton Street and in the next block just after the second entry of the circular driveway on the right in a flower bed edged with brick is...

Tree # 10 Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangiana*). (GPS: 32.43474N



80.66727W). It is a well-known cultivated non-native species. The purple-pink flowers are some of the first to appear before the leaves in early spring. It is a small tree growing up to 20 feet in height, typically multi-stemmed.

At 608 Hamilton Street, notice the lovely small garden on your left. Then turn left onto Laurens Street and two thirds of the way down the side of this house is ...

Tree #11 Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*). (GPS: 32.43497N 80.66753W). The

Chaste tree is a summer-fall blooming deciduous shrub or small tree, up to 15 to 25 ft, native to southern Europe and Asia. It is well suited to our southern climate and



is salt and drought tolerant. Flowers are striking lilac, pink or white upright spikes, fragrant and attractive to pollinators. The name Chaste tree comes from the belief that the berries, about the size of a peppercorn, are an anti-aphrodisiac. Other herbal properties attributed to it include treatment for PMS, amenorrhea and other female reproductive issues. The stems and twigs have been used in basketry. The plant has been recognized since antiquity and is even mentioned in Homer's epic *The Iliad* as a symbol of chastity and capable of warding off evil.

Continue to the corner of 409 Laurens and East Street on your right is ...

Tree #12 Pecan Tree (*Carya illinoensis*). (GPS: 32.43506N 80.66801W). This tree can reach 100 to 140 feet in height. It is a deciduous tree that bears nuts in the fall.



It is widely planted in the south as an ornamental and for its pecan nuts used in a variety of dishes including a Southern favorite – Pecan Pie.

Turn right onto East Street and mosey down about halfway past the second block, you will see on your right an amazing example of... “Hugging Trees”

Tree #13 Hugging Trees (GPS: 32.43594N 80.66799W). These trees – a palmetto and a Live Oak tree with two of its roots wrapped around the palmetto have formed a unique hugging ‘embrace’.



Continue walking to the corner of East and Bayard Streets. On the corner at 410 Bayard, is The Point's finest example of...

Tree #14 Fig Tree (*Ficus carica*). (GPS: 32.43622N 80.66798W). This tree, set in the garden corner, bears a bountiful amount of fruit in the late summer months. The *Ficus* genus is at least 60 million years old and is mentioned in ancient texts as a staple in human diets since the



beginning of recorded history. It is easy to grow and almost all are self-pollinating and productive. Plentiful sunlight and well-drained soil are recommended for maximum production.

Turn right onto Bayard, go to the end of the picket fence and between the Sago Palm and the trunk of the old Live Oak is ...

Tree #15 Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*). (GPS 32.43621N 80.66761W). This deciduous flowering shrub/tree, native to East Asia is the National Flower of South Korea. Producing abundant blooms summer through Fall, it can grow 12 to 24 inches a year up to 12 feet and live up to 30 years attracting pollinators. In some areas it is considered invasive because it readily sprouts from the abundance of seeds it produces.



Continue down Bayard Street and on the right after the fire hydrant is...

Tree #16 Black Oak Tree (*Quercus velutina*). (GPS: 32.43622N 80.66707W). This tree is often found in landscapes lining streets. It is fairly large and grows from 70 to 90 feet tall and reaches a diameter of 2 to 3 feet at maturity. It usually has a broad, open well-rounded crown. A member of the red oak group, its leaves are simple, alternately arranged and deciduous. Note that the leaves vary greatly in shape from the lower to upper crown of the tree. The wood is an important source of lumber and tannins extracted from the bark were once used in the tanning of leather.



A little farther down in the same yard, surrounded by ferns and having overhanging branches is an aged example of...

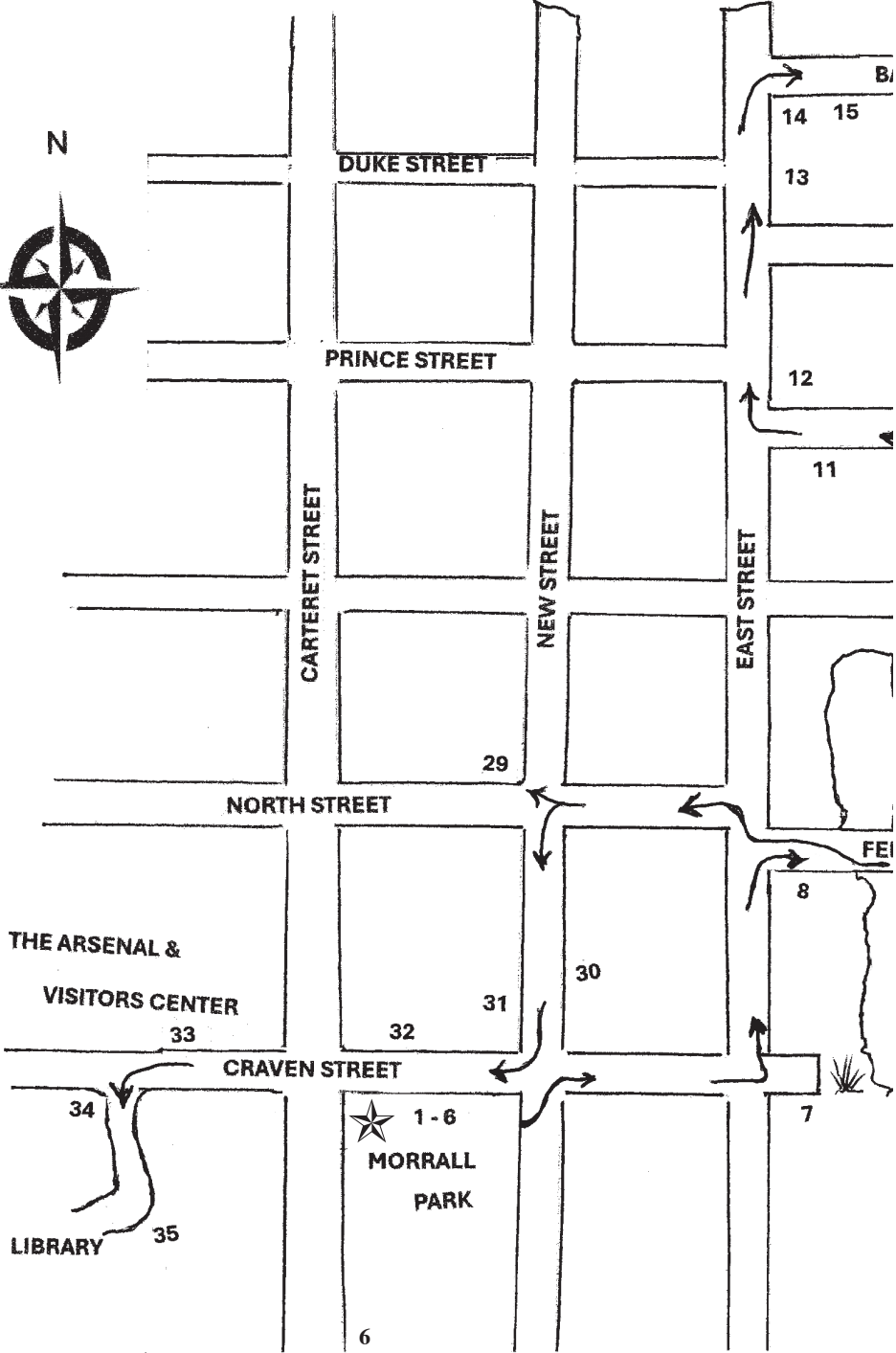
Tree #17 Camphor Tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*). (GPS: 32.43626N 80.66692W). A tropical native of Asia, it has a wonderful camphor smell to the leaves and twigs. The naturally insect repellent wood is used for cabinetry and chests. Camphor has been used for many centuries as a culinary spice, a component of incense and as a medicine. In the spring it produces bright green foliage with masses of small white flowers. It produces a black berry-like fruit.

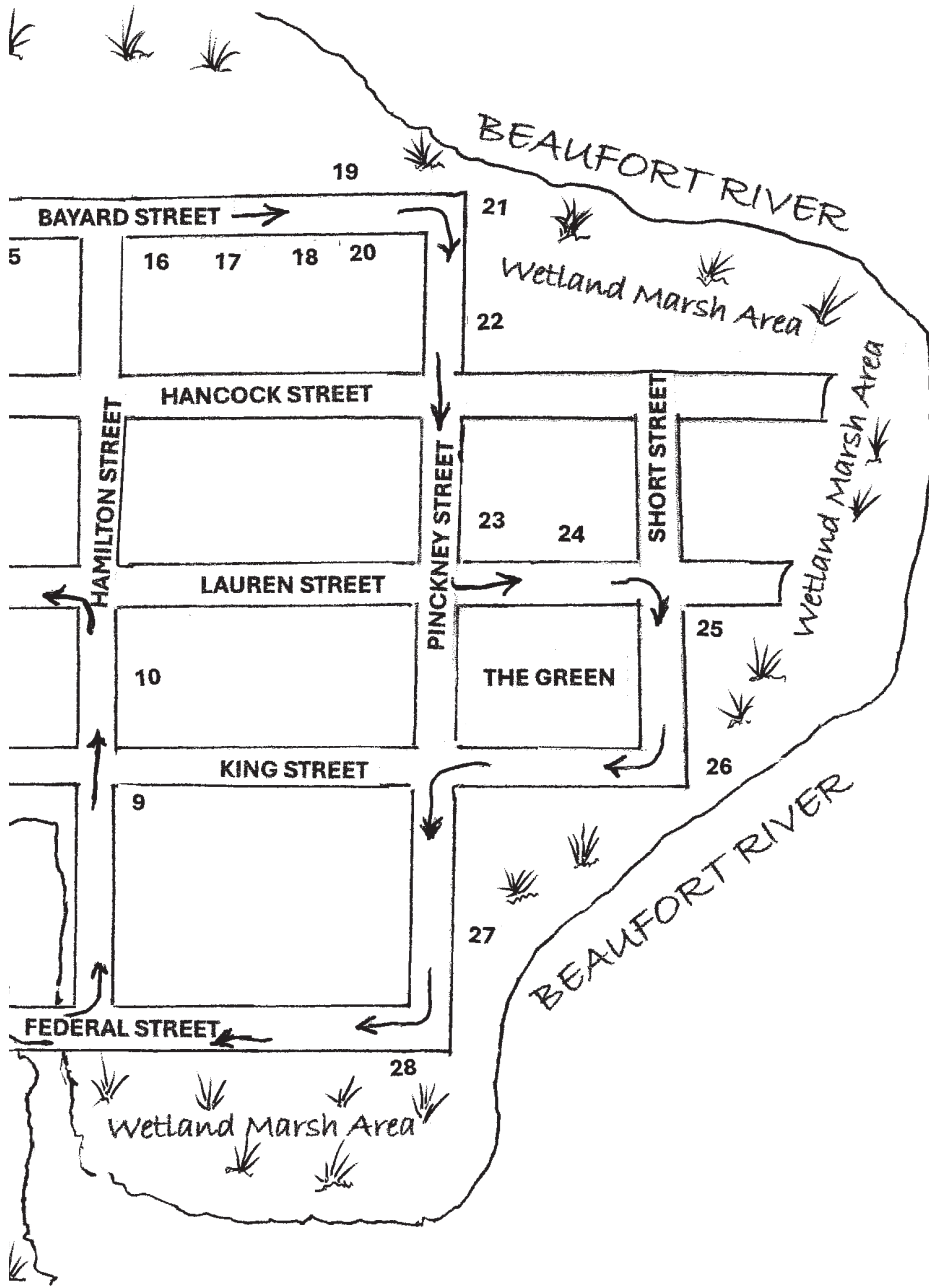


Next door in the large open area on your right, with tabby ruins in the background, is ...

Tree #18 Eastern Red Cedar Tree (*Juniperus virginiana*). (GPS: 32.43623N 80.66677W). The thick, gnarled and twisted trunk of this ancient tree speaks volumes for the perseverance of this aged specimen which has stood guard through countless coastal storms on 'The Old Point' including the deadly storm of 1893.







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 'THE OLD POINT'

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Across the street at 313 Bayard at the corner of the lot by the little cottage is the only example in this area of...

Tree #19 English Elm Tree (*Ulmus prosera*). (GPS 32.43633N 80.66660W). This Elm was relatively rare until the 17th and 18th centuries. It became popular with landowners to plant it along hedges that surrounded farmland. Leaves of the tree have rough upper surfaces and hairy undersides. People enjoy this tree for the beautiful shade cover it provides. The owners relate a story that the Elm survived the historic ‘Hurricane of 1893’.



Almost directly across the street from the Elm between two lots is an example of a...

Tree #20 Glossy Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*). (GPS 32.43622N 80.66651W). Originally from the far east it grows into a round headed evergreen tree growing to 35 to 40 feet high and wide. Most people keep it trimmed back in landscape designs. Glossy long leaves 4 to 6 inches long with fragrant flower clusters, the berry-like fruit does stain.



At the end of Bayard behind the brick lattice fence and wrought iron gate on the left near the water is an example of...

Tree #21 Japanese Pittosporum (*Pittosporum tobira*). (GPS: 32.43630N 80.66578W). Pittosporum is a genus of about 200 species of flowering plants in the family Pittosporaceae. It is a group of evergreen shrubs or small multi-stemmed trees with leathery green leaves and wavy margins that grow in whorls at branch ends. The dense evergreen foliage creates attractive screens, privacy barriers, hedgerows, or specimen plants.



Turn right onto Pinckney Street and about two thirds of the way down the block on the left, overhanging the wire fence is...

Tree # 22 Fortune’s Tea Olive Tree (*Osmanthus fortunei*). (GPS: 32.43587N 80.66578W). It is a dense, oval-shaped evergreen. Small flowers are exceedingly fragrant and are produced in October and November. It is more cold-hardy than the Fragrant Tea Olive and can tolerate full sun or partial shade.



Looking to your right along the iron rail beside the steps note the unique use of *Pyracantha (Coccinea scarlet firethorn)*, with its clumps of colorful orange/red berries that form in the fall and provide winter highlights.

Continue down Pinckney Street near the corner of 207 Laurens Street. On the left, in the fenced side yard of the “Paymaster’s Cottage” is ...

Tree # 23 Western Redwood Tree (*Sequoia sempervirens*). (GPS: 32.43527N 80.66579W). Although not its native habitat, this ‘transplant’ has survived our sultry southern summers, which are not conducive to its normal environment. There is no taproot, and the tangle of roots directly under the tree normally go down only 6 to 8



feet. Hurricane Matthew destroyed the original tree in 2016. The small tree you see here developed from the surviving root system of the original tree. In its native habitat it can live over 2000 years and reach heights of over 350 feet. This is a tribute to the tenacity and adaptability of nature to its surroundings.

Turning to you left onto Laurens, you pass the stucco wall, across from ‘The Green’ look into the old formal garden of the B.B. Sams House at 201 Laurens Street and see...

Tree # 24 Japanese Camellia Tree (*Camellia japonica*). (GPS: 32.43503N 80.66531W). Sometimes called ‘the rose of winter’ blooming late winter into spring, the buds appear along branches, particularly toward the ends. The fruit consists of a globe-shaped capsule with three compartments (locules), each with 1 to 2 large brown seeds. Fruiting occurs in the fall. They can grow up to 20 feet tall. A native of China, where it is a forest understory dweller, it has become a popular cultivar with thousands of varieties available today. There are a wide range of blossom sizes that can reach up to 5 inches across, six different shapes and solid or variegated colors.



On the right side of the entrance to the c1800 B.B. Sams house is another example of an old growth Red Cedar in a naturally occurring shape, as opposed to those you saw by ‘The Castle’ walls earlier in the walk. Now - Turn around. On the opposite corner of Short Street at 100 Laurens Street is ...

Tree #25 Tung Oil Tree (*Aleurites fordii*). (GPS: 32.43495N 80.66487W). In the springtime this tree is covered with white and purple flowers. The oil harvested from the seeds of this tree is used as a drying agent in paints and varnish. In the fall they produce large multi-kernelled nuts.



Continue down Short Street keeping the open square, commonly known as ‘The Green’ on your right. At the corner, look to your left at the property appropriately named “The Oaks” and behind the brick lattice wall is ...

Tree # 26 Live Oak Tree (*Quercus virginiana*). (GPS: 32.43446N 80.66489W).



It is called ‘the symbol of the South’. Guarded by a lattice brick wall, this mighty specimen flourishes in the Coastal Southeast from Virginia to Mexico. It holds its leaves through the winter shedding them as the new buds burst forth in the Spring. This gives the tree an ‘evergreen’ appearance, thus the name ‘Live Oak’. You will

notice the Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) swaying in the breeze. This moss is in the Bromeliaceae family and related to the pineapple! It loves Beaufort's warm and humid climate. It is a true air plant, or epiphyte and derives its sustenance from the wind and rain. Air plants are not parasites; they merely perch on the limbs of the host tree, but can damage/kill it if over laden.

Continue around the corner down King Street and enjoy the Live Oaks and Magnolias on The Green. Each is uniquely different, yet beautiful. Take a left onto Pinckney Street after the third driveway on your left behind the stucco column is ...

Tree # 27 Camellia Sasanqua Tree (*Camellia sasanqua*). (GPS: 32.43374N



80.66580W). It is a native of the coastal evergreen forests of southern Japan. The Japanese do not consider it to be a true Camellia as they call it Sazanka. It is actually a shrub which can grow to 15 feet tall. The flowers are 2 to 3 inches in diameter with 5 to 8 white to dark pink petals and bloom heavily in the late fall and into early winter.

As you turn the corner onto Federal Street, look to your left at 302 Federal Street, you will see ...

Tree # 28 Southern Magnolia Tree (*Magnolia grandiflora*). (GPS: 32.43340N



80.66597W). A large broad-leafed conical shaped evergreen, graced in Spring and Summer with fragrant white flowers 8 to 12 inches in diameter. The large leathery dark glossy green leaves have under-sides of velvety rust shades. (Note all the young saplings growing under the outstretched branches of their parent.)

On the other side of the front walkway is a delightful Live Oak with its branches resting on the ground. This is actually a tree that has been allowed to keep the lower branches intact, as they naturally would grow.

Go to the end of Federal Street, and turn right on East Street, then immediately turn left onto North Street. Continue on North to New Streets. Across New Street on the right-hand corner of North and New Street at 502 and 504 New Street is ...

Tree #29 Honey Locust Tree (*Gleditsia triacanthos*). (GPS 32.43371N

80.66898W). Leaves appear late in spring and drop early in fall. It is a thorn tree with thorns 1½ inches long, and in the past the hard thorns of the younger trees were used as nails. The seed pods are 6 to 12 inches long and turn a deep black/brown upon maturity. Fall color is yellow. They tolerate the salty soil and occasional flooding that is



part of the low country environment. Note the unique trunk surface.

Go left on New Street. Continue on to the brick lattice fence on the left where you will find an example of...

Tree #30 Bald Cypress Tree (*Taxodium distichum*). (GPS: 32.43309N 80.66892W).

The Bald Cypress is a conifer, but also deciduous, turning a bright burnt orange in its entirety and shedding all its foliage in the fall. The oils in the heartwood make it a very durable wood when exposed to moisture. It is highly sought-after wood due to its resistance to decay. Native to the South, it is usually found in swampy areas, but can be used in residential or public landscapes. This tree can live to 1700 years and grow 6 to 8 feet in diameter.



Continue a little way farther down New Street and look to your right and see in the side yard behind the picket fence...

Tree #31 Ginkgo Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*). (GPS: 32.43290N 80.66900W). Sometimes referred to as the Maidenhair Tree, it is one of the oldest trees known to exist.

Fossilized examples of this tree have been dated back 270 million years. It can attain a height of 80+ feet and has light green, fan shaped clusters of leaves, up to 5 on spurs. In the fall it has been known to lose all its leaves in just one day. The gray-brown bark is ridged and furrowed. The fruit of the tree, produced only by the female is unpleasantly pungent and messy.



Continue down New Street. Take a right onto Craven Street and note across from Morrall Park (your starting point) at 609 you will see...

Tree #32 Japanese Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*). (GPS: 32.43270N 80.66955W).



This delicate specimen is a broadleaf deciduous tree that can reach heights of 6 to 25 feet with a spread up to 12 feet. It performs best in well-drained, but moist soils in partially shaded locations of the garden.

Cross Carteret Street at the traffic light and look at the trees lining both sides of Craven Street near The Arsenal. These are ...

Tree #33 Palmetto Palm Tree or Cabbage Palmetto Tree (*Sabal palmetto*). (GPS: 32.43271N 80.67019W). The state tree of South Carolina is actually classified in the grass family! It has an erect trunk (stem) and fan-shaped 'leaves' that are edible when young.

Palmetto wood has been historically used for pilings and leaves for thatch. It is also the tree used at Fort Moultrie, on Sullivan's Island, during the American Revolution, that absorbed and/or bounced the cannon balls from English ships saving the fort and helping to win the war. Today it can be found on the South Carolina flag for that reason. Several examples of the various stages of growth of the Palmetto Palm can be seen along this section of Craven Street on both sides.



Halfway down the block, take the tree-lined walkway on your left, at the back of the Reconstruction Era National Historic Park building (formerly the old firehouse) that leads to the public library. Note on the right back corner of the building is ...

Tree #34 Fragrant Tea Olive Tree (*Osmanthus fragans*). (GPS: 32.43256N 80.67058W). Native to Asia, it is a small evergreen tree, producing a profusion of strongly apricot scented flowers in late summer. It can reach a height of 20 feet under ideal circumstances and is a shade loving specimen.



On your left, against the library wall are more examples of the lovely Weeping Yaupon Holly (Tree # 9). Continue up this winding path towards the Library entry, on your left by the bike rack is...

Tree #35 Loquat Tree (*Eriobotrya japonica*) (GPS: 32.43241N 80.67058W). Originally from China, the evergreen Loquat is a fruit tree with a rounded crown, short trunk and woolly new twigs and can reach heights of 10 to 13 feet although some species reach up to 33 feet, with flowers appearing in the fall or early winter and fruits ripening to their sweetest when soft and orange in color in late spring and summer with a flavor mix of peach, citrus and mild mango.



This is the conclusion of the Beaufort Tree Walk.
Enjoy the rest of your visit to our lovely **Tree City USA**

“Beautiful Beaufort by the Bay”

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