



## Charleston County News Release

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See photos from event and drawing of park: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/lawrimorepark.htm>

# County's Grand Opening of Lawrimore Park in Downtown Charleston

*Final piece of the Charleston County Historic Courthouse and Judicial Center completed*

[Charleston County Government](#) is pleased to announce the grand opening of Lawrimore Park located in downtown Charleston.

Bordered by Meeting Street, the Historic Charleston County Courthouse, the O.T. Wallace Office Building and the Blake Tenement house, Lawrimore Park is named in honor of former Charleston County Council Chairman, Barrett S. Lawrimore. The park is open to the public and is free of charge.

During a ceremony on Friday, April 23, County officials and Lawrimore family members and friends gathered to unveil the plaque dedicating the park to Lawrimore. The speakers at the event were [Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.](#), [Charleston County Council](#) Chairman; Joseph P. Riley, Jr., [City of Charleston](#) Mayor; and Mrs. Marilyn Lawrimore, wife of the late Mr. Lawrimore. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Beverly T. Craven, Clerk of Council, and the invocation was given by the Reverend Louis Venable.

"For his service and dedication to the citizens over his lifetime, Mr. Lawrimore has been honored with numerous awards," Chairman Pryor said in his speech on Friday. "But most would tell you that Mr. Lawrimore's first love was horticulture. So today we honor him in a different way, with a park, full of the plants he loved, where everyone can enjoy reflecting on the beauty that is Charleston County. It is fitting that this special place is named after such a man, as it is his efforts that helped make our County as beautiful as it is today."

Lawrimore served on Charleston County Council from 1992 to 2004, and as Council Chairman from 1996 to 2001 and again in 2004.

### FACTS ABOUT THE PARK

- Size: The park is approximately 9,580 square feet.
- Monument: In 1965, a monument to the late L. Mendel Rivers, United States Representative for the First Congressional District for a quarter of a century, was first erected by the North Charleston Kiwanis Club at the Cooper River Memorial Library in North Charleston. The larger than life statue was created by sculptor Arthur Bruse Hoheb.
- Quaker Memorial Plaque: The park grounds contain the reinterred remains of over 53 Quakers who were originally buried at the Quaker Meeting House graveyard that was located on King Street.
- Grave Marker: The marker, originally located in the Quaker Meeting House graveyard, recognizes one of the Quaker families whose remains were reinterred where the park now stands.

### HISTORY OF THE PARK

- Evidence of a moat that surrounded Charleston from 1700 to 1718 was revealed in the western third of the courtyard. It appears that the city wall on the west side of colonial Charleston consisted of an earthen rampart with a wooden palisade at its crest.
- The use of the site from 1718 to 1739, when the moat was filled, is not documented. A 1739 map shows the site as part of a large public square dedicated in part to market activities.

- By 1753, the location had become the site of the S.C. Statehouse, and by 1768 the rear yard had been formally established as a walled courtyard containing a two-story dwelling, two single-story privies, a fire well/cistern, and a drinking water cistern.
- In the early 19th century, the circular drinking water cistern was filled and replaced by a rectangular cistern adjoining the rear wall of the building. The foundations of the dwelling and privies have been reproduced to show their locations. The location of entrances to the courtyard is unknown. Two additions to the courthouse, built in 1926 and 1941, were removed to return the courthouse to its 1792 appearance.

#### **PLANTS IN THE PARK**

- Live Oak
- Sabal Palmetto
- Eastern Redbud
- Italian Cypress
- Sasanqua Camellia
- Japanese Boxwood
- Indian Azalea
- Harland Boxwood
- Liriope

#### **MORE ABOUT BARRETT LAWRIMORE**

- Barrett S. Lawrimore was born on November 21, 1932, in Georgetown, South Carolina.
- Lawrimore held a Bachelor of Science degree from Clemson University and a graduate degree from the University of Wisconsin, and was also a graduate of the U.S. Command and General Staff College.
- Lawrimore served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1955-1957. He continued to serve in the Army Reserve until retiring as a colonel in 1981.
- His leadership positions included: President of the Charleston County Farm Bureau; Executive Director of the South Carolina Tomato Association; and Director of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension in Charleston County, where he established the first Master Gardener Program in South Carolina and the Southeast.
- Lawrimore served as a member of Charleston County Council from 1992-2004, and as Council Chairman from 1996-2001 and in 2004. He also served as Chairman of the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments from 1999-2003; Chairman of the Charleston Area Transportation Study Policy Committee from 2003-2004; and Chairman of the South Carolina Association of Counties in 2004.
- Lawrimore was awarded the prestigious Order of the Palmetto; the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Trident Workforce Investment Board; the Platinum Pineapple award from the Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau for exceptional service to the area's hospitality industry; and the S.C. Distinguished Agriculturalist Award.
- He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Marilyn Lawrimore; three children: Barrett S. Lawrimore, Jr., Karen Lawrimore Wolla, and Edmond Russell Lawrimore; and six grandchildren.