

ARBORICULTURAL ASSESSMENT

Relocation Feasibility Assessment

Tree 105 - Banyan Tree (*Ficus benghalensis*) — 98-inch DBH

Prepared for: Urban Design Studios

Site: Pinnacle on 6th - Lake Worth Beach, Florida

Date of inspection: August 11, 2026

Rogers ISA Board Certified Master Arborist • FL-9547B



Summary & Recommendation

Preliminary opinion based on a visual (Level 2) assessment

RECOMMENDATION

The tree is not a suitable candidate for relocation.

Basis for this conclusion

- Open basal cavities and advanced internal decay, with a hollowing central column visible through the stem.
- Degraded, fibrous wood and sloughing bark consistent with active wood decay.
- Decay is not confined to the base — exposed decayed wood is present at major trunk unions well above grade.
- Woundwood is limited and has not occluded existing wounds, indicating decay is likely to continue to progress.



Fig. 1 Subject tree — buttressed base and fused aerial-root complex, with decayed wood visible within the stem column.

1 Subject Tree & Identification

IDENTIFICATION

Species confirmed as *Ficus benghalensis* (Banyan tree) from the large, leathery, entire ovate leaves and the small, sessile, paired red-orange figs (syconia) observed in the field.



Fig. 2 Foliage — large entire ovate leaves; hand shown for scale.



Fig. 3 Sessile red-orange syconium (fig), diagnostic for the species.

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Assessment Basis & Methodology

WHAT WAS DONE

- Level 2 Basic Visual Assessment of the trunk, root collar, buttress roots and lower scaffolds, conducted from the ground per ISA Tree Risk Assessment best practices (ANSI A300 Part 9).
- Visual documentation of decay indicators: open cavities, wood condition, bark retention, and woundwood development.

LIMITATIONS OF THIS ASSESSMENT

- No internal-decay detection instruments were deployed; the extent of the sound residual wall has not yet been quantified.
- Findings are preliminary and based on external and visible-cavity observation only.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEP

A Level 3 Advanced Assessment (e.g., sonic tomography and/or resistance drilling) is required to confirm the extent of decay and residual wall thickness before any final decision.



Fig. 4 Root collar and stem base — the zone of primary structural concern.

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Finding · Basal Decay & Open Cavities

OBSERVED

- Open cavities at the stem base.
- Exposed, discoloured wood at the buttress; loss of bark and sapwood continuity.
- Cavities within the interior of the trunk.

SIGNIFICANCE

Basal cavitation at this scale reduces the load-bearing cross-section at the most highly stressed part of the stem and provides an established path for continued decay.



Fig. 5 Open basal cavity collecting leaf litter and debris.



Fig. 6 Exposed decayed wood at the buttress; bark and sapwood lost.

4 Finding · Advanced Internal Decay & Hollowing

OBSERVED

- A central decay column is visible within the trunk.
- Remaining internal wood is soft, fibrous and degraded.

SIGNIFICANCE

Extensive internal hollowing indicates that a large proportion of the stem's cross-section is no longer contributing structural support — a primary contraindication for lifting and relocation.



Fig. 7 Interior cavity — degraded wood and open voids within the stem.



Fig. 8 Hollowing central column; light passes through the decayed interior.

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Finding • Active Wood Decay & Bark Loss

OBSERVED

- Reddish-brown, stringy/fibrous decayed wood consistent with a white-rot fungus.
- Sloughing and missing bark over the affected column.

SIGNIFICANCE

The character of the decayed wood indicates active, ongoing decomposition rather than a stable, old wound — consistent with a process that is expected to continue to advance.



Fig. 9 Fibrous, discoloured decayed wood with bark sloughing.



Fig. 10 Old wounds and cracking at the buttress; little effective closure.

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Finding • Insufficient Woundwood Closure

OBSERVED

- Woundwood (callus) rolls are present at some wound margins.
- However, the rolls have not occluded — wounds remain open with decayed wood inside.
- The rate of response growth is not keeping pace with the rate of decay.

SIGNIFICANCE

Limited, non-occluding woundwood is a key indicator that the tree is losing the race against decay. It supports the opinion that the decay will continue to progress and that the defect is not being effectively walled off.



Fig. 11 Woundwood roll surrounds an open cavity; interior wood remains decayed and cracked — closure is not being achieved.

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Finding • Decay at Upper Trunk Unions

OBSERVED

- Exposed decayed wood at major trunk / scaffold unions well above grade.
- Cavities and degraded heartwood present within the upper stem.
- Decay is therefore distributed through the structure, not localized at the base.

SIGNIFICANCE

Decay at elevated unions compounds the structural concern: it further reduces the sound wood available to resist rigging and lifting loads and raises the likelihood of failure during any attempt to move the tree.



Fig. 12 Open cavity with decayed heartwood at an upper union.

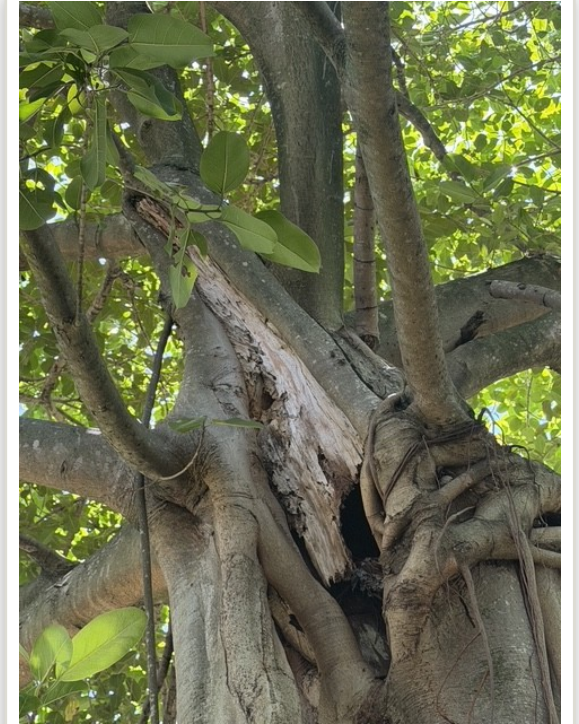


Fig. 13 Exposed, degraded wood at a second elevated union.

8 Why Relocation Is Not Advisable

- 1 Structural integrity**

Moving a 98-inch stem requires it to withstand large rigging, lifting and handling loads. Extensive internal and union decay means the sound wood needed to carry those loads may not be present — risking failure during the move.
- 2 Transplant survivability**

Even healthy large figs undergo severe root loss and transplant shock. A stem already compromised by active decay has diminished reserves and reduced capacity to compartmentalize new wounds and recover.
- 3 Progressive defect**

Limited woundwood and active white-rot indicate decay is likely to continue advancing, so the defect that makes relocation risky today is expected to worsen — not stabilize.
- 4 Method constraints**

At this size, tree-spade relocation is not feasible; boxing/root-pruning and a crane lift would impose exactly the loads the decayed stem is least able to resist.



Fig. 14 The compromised stem is the governing constraint on any relocation attempt.

9 Recommendation & Next Steps

Do not relocate the tree. The visible extent of trunk decay makes relocation an unacceptable arboricultural and safety risk.

1

Advanced (Level 3) assessment Quantify decay extent and residual wall thickness via sonic tomography and/or resistance drilling.

2

Formal tree risk assessment Complete a full ISA (TRAQ) risk assessment to assign a defensible risk rating and inform the disposition decision.

3

If retained: manage in place Consider targeted pruning to reduce end loads, establish an inspection interval, and manage the target/use zone beneath the canopy.

4

If risk is unacceptable: removal Where advanced assessment confirms unacceptable risk, removal — not relocation — is the appropriate course.

Certification, Assumptions & Limiting Conditions

ASSUMPTIONS & LIMITING CONDITIONS

- This report reflects the condition of the tree as observed on the date of inspection. Trees are living organisms; their condition can change and failure can occur even in the absence of visible defect.
- Observations are based on a ground-level visual assessment. No internal-decay instruments were used; conclusions are preliminary pending a Level 3 advanced assessment.
- This assessment does not warrant or guarantee the future health, structural stability, or safety of the tree.
- Information provided by others is assumed accurate and is to be confirmed by the client.

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