



ALVEY TREE CONSULTING LLC
ALEXIS ALVEY -
ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST #NY-5539A

Specimen Tree Report

5465 Pine Tree Drive
Miami Beach

11/16/2017



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On November 15th, 2017 I visited the property located at 5465 Pine Tree Drive at the request of Andrea D'Alessio. I evaluated the large Banyan Tree located at the front of the property in anticipation of future construction on the property. My findings are summarized below in the following report.

Please feel free to contact me should any questions arise. Thank-you for the opportunity to assist in this manner.



Contact Information -

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Property Location -

5465 Pine Tree Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33140

Client -

Andrea D'Alessio
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Common Name -
Banyan

DBH (ft) - 25
Height (ft) - 60

Condition -
Good

Native? -
No

Scientific Name -
Ficus benghalensis

Canopy Spread (ft) - 110 x 60

Disposition -
Remain

Introduction

This Specimen Tree Report is for the Banyan Tree (*Ficus benghalensis*) located at the front of the property. This tree is quite large and in good health. I was informed that the house was built in 1926, and it is likely that this tree was planted around that time, making it around ninety years old. The tree provides substantial environmental benefits to the urban forest of Miami Beach and is an asset to the property. Recommendations are provided to help ensure the health of the tree during the construction process and for many years to come. Like all large trees, this tree should be monitored on a periodic basis for health and structural integrity.



Evaluation

Canopy -

The canopy of the Banyan is wide-spreading at 110ft in spread, reaching across most of the property and into the southern neighbor's. The canopy is narrower in the east-west direction and is about 60ft in spread. On the western side of the tree are overhead powerlines which the lower two-thirds of the canopy is pruned to. The top one-third of the canopy arches high over the powerlines. Because of repeated crown reduction from the powerlines, there is dense shoot growth in this area of the canopy (outlined in red in photo below).



Evaluation

Canopy -

On the east side of the tree, the canopy has also been reduced from the house, but to a lesser extent, as shown in the photo to the right.

A small amount of small-diameter deadwood exists high in the canopy, like the branch circled in red.

The canopy is dense and is composed of healthy green foliage. I did not observe any broken branches or branch stubs and can infer that the tree did not endure much damage during Hurricane Irma two months ago. I was informed that many of the leaves were blown off, which might explain the dense vigorous canopy currently observed. New shoot growth is occurring throughout the canopy.



Evaluation

Canopy -

There were some fairly recent pruning cuts (circled in red) on the eastern side of the tree, presumably to provide clearance to the house. Most of these were relatively small in diameter and should close over nicely like some of the older pruning cuts.



Evaluation

Trunk -

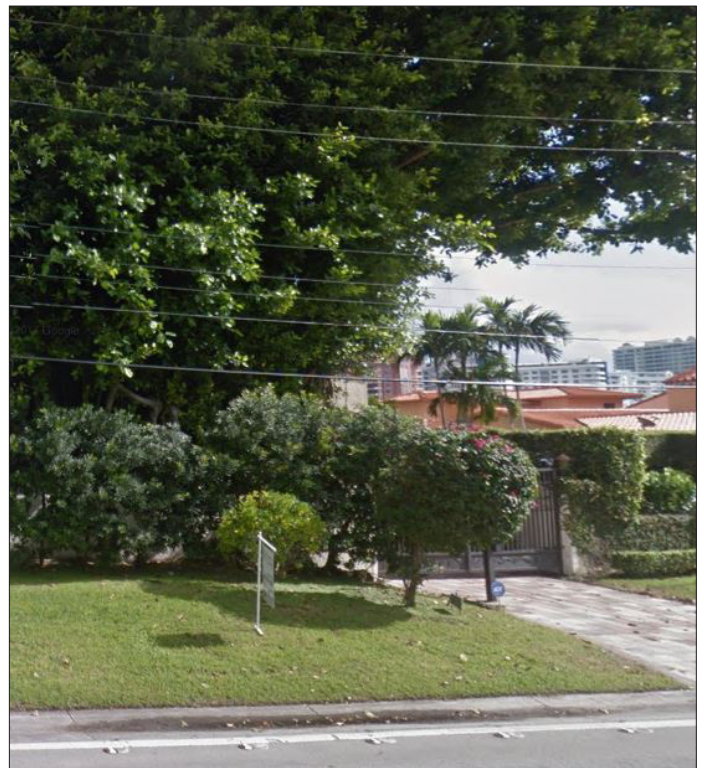
The trunk of the tree is 25 feet in diameter and has many aerial roots that have formed large prop roots which are vital to providing sufficient support during high wind events for a tree of this stature. No wounds or decay were observed in this portion of the tree, although roots potentially obscured any defects. Prop roots have also grown over the adjacent wall.



Evaluation

Root System -

The underground root system is likely extensive, occupying the soil beneath the entire planting bed, the grass area in front of the wall between the two driveways, and much of the paver driveway. The space in the southeast side of the planting bed has been maxed-out, and some of the roots have started to grow over the pavers and beneath the gate. Groundcovers and a fountain occupy the northeastern part of the planting bed.



Recommendations

Canopy Pruning -

The canopy can be crown cleaned to remove the small amount of deadwood that exists. Dead limbs are more likely to break and have the potential to host disease. The amount of live foliage to be removed should be minimized, especially since the tree lost a large percentage of foliage during Hurricane Irma. Annual pruning away from the powerlines and the house will ensure that only small diameter branches are cut at each pruning session. Some of the epicormic shoots in the lower canopy and main limbs can be removed for aesthetic purposes. The remaining shoots should be left to provide an important source of photosynthate for the tree. Epiphytic plants may be removed for aesthetic purposes if so desired. Canopy pruning shall be performed or supervised by a Certified Arborist and ANSI A300 Pruning Standards shall be followed.



Recommendations

Tree Protection During Construction -

This tree is to be protected during all construction activities. Installing protective barriers at the dripline is not feasible; instead, protective barriers can be placed around the edge of the existing planting bed and around the grass area in front of the wall between both driveways. The planting bed is approximately 15ft in depth at its widest, and about 45ft long. The grass area is approximately 20ft in depth and about 45ft long. It is recommended that the wall at the front of the property remain as aerial roots have grown down around it and would be negatively impacted by its removal. Removal of the gates, especially the southern one, would also disturb roots, and should be left if feasible. Ideally the existing planting bed depth would be extended towards the house to provide for more rooting space. Installing a new paver driveway set in sand would allow roots to continue to utilize this soil volume.

As per Miami Beach tree protection code, all protective barriers shall be installed prior to the start of any construction or site development, including tree removal, demolition or land-clearing activities, and shall remain in place throughout all phases of construction. Protective barriers shall be maintained in place until development is completed, and shall not be removed until the environment and sustainability department inspects the site and authorizes their removal. Barriers shall be a minimum of four feet high, and shall be constructed of continuous chain link fence with metal posts at eight-foot spacing, or of two-by-four-inch posts with three equally spaced two-by-four-inch rails. Posts may be shifted to avoid roots. No oil, fill, equipment, building materials, building debris, or any other material shall be placed within the areas surrounded by protective barriers. No disposal of any waste material such as paints, oils, solvents, asphalt, concrete, mortar, or any other material shall occur within the areas surrounded by protective barriers. Natural grade shall be maintained in areas surrounded by protective barriers. No vehicles or equipment shall be permitted within areas surrounded by protective barriers.

If any roots greater than two inches in diameter are found beyond the tree protection zone during construction, city approval will be needed to conduct root cutting according to approved techniques. Roots may not be torn off with power equipment, and cut roots shall not be left with ripped, ragged or shredded ends. Roots must be cleanly severed with sharp hand tools or power root saws.

Recommendations

Soil Amendment -

It is important to maintain soil fertility and thereby the health and nutrient status of a tree, especially after stressful events such as defoliation. Fertilize the tree with a slow-release fertilizer based upon results from a soil test in order to encourage new root and shoot growth. Water as needed with supplemental irrigation in order to maintain adequate soil moisture. Provide a 2-3 inch layer of organic, non-cypress mulch within the root zone, being sure to keep a 6" distance from the tree trunk, in order to maintain soil moisture and provide a soil environment conducive to root growth. Ideally, competition with turfgrass would be eliminated.



Note: Trees inherently pose a certain degree of hazard and risk from breakage, failure or other causes and conditions. Recommendations that are made are intended to minimize or reduce such hazardous conditions. However, there can be no guarantee or warranty that efforts to discover or correct unsafe conditions will prevent future breakage or failure, nor can there be any guarantee that all hazardous conditions have been detected. The client should not infer that a tree is safe either because services have been recommended or done to reduce risk, or because no services have been recommended or done on a specific tree. The client assumes any and all risks associated with pursuing consultant's advice and fully understands that he or she is engaged in securing professional consultation regarding the above-mentioned property.