



Historic Banyan Tree – Southeast Corner of Clubhouse

On the afternoon of February 20th, 2026, at approximately 3:45 p.m., I, Mark Baker (Baker Landscape, Certified Risk Arborist FL-0239A), visited the Delray Municipal Golf Course to inspect and provide my professional opinion regarding the current condition of the large banyan tree located at the southeast corner of the clubhouse. My previous involvement at this site was more than 25 years ago, when I performed tree work for the golf course under then-superintendent Tom.

Overall, the banyan appears to be in very good condition. I observed no signs of significant past pruning, storm damage, stress, or decay. To my knowledge, our company has not previously trimmed this particular tree.

Upon inspection, measurement, and photographic documentation (attached), several important observations were made:

1. Approximately 98% of the tree is located within the LWDD easement.
2. The canopy extends significantly over the drainage canal, limiting maintenance access.
3. The mature root mass has expanded into the canal, seeking water sources and establishing growth within the canal bank managed by LWDD (see attached photos).

Based on the photographs and site assessment, the original trunk appears to have been approximately 30 feet from the canal's edge. Over the decades, aerial roots have established themselves, expanding the overall footprint of the tree. In addition to the primary trunk, there are approximately seven to eight secondary trunks formed from aerial roots, each now functioning as independent structural supports, with trunk diameters (DBH) ranging from approximately 8 to 14 feet.

With 41 years of experience working in South Florida, I believe that complete removal of this tree would likely generate significant public concern, particularly given its apparent age and historic presence—possibly predating the formation of the water management district.

Therefore, my professional recommendation is as follows:

- Remove the canopy portions that overhang and obstruct access to the canal for maintenance.
- Remove the root mass and appendage growth encroaching into the canal bank and waterway.
- Selectively remove appendages extending from the main trunk to allow for safe excavation of the root mass without compromising the primary structure of the tree.
- Create sufficient clearance to allow proper equipment access for ongoing LWDD canal maintenance.

This process would likely involve removing approximately 45–55% of the tree’s secondary growth. Following this structural reduction, I would implement corrective and restorative pruning in accordance with ANSI A300 standards.

In my professional opinion, the tree can be preserved and restored within approximately four to five years through proper pruning, fertilization, and routine monitoring by a certified arborist. I believe this approach balances the historic and community value of the banyan tree with LWDD’s need for safe and sufficient canal maintenance access. It is my understanding that neither LWDD representatives nor the City of Delray Beach wish to see this significant tree removed if a reasonable preservation alternative exists.

Please find attached photographs for your review. I am available to discuss this assessment further at your convenience.

Sincerely
Mark Baker
Certified Risk Arborist FL-6406A
Certified commercial pest control operator
Certified conservation management







