



Arborist Inspection & Recommendations

Location: Warren Ave, Los Angeles

Tree Species: Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*)

Objective

On October 6, 2025, at the request of community members, a visual arboricultural assessment was conducted of Italian stone pines (*Pinus pinea*) located in the parkway strips along both sides of Warren Avenue and portions of adjacent streets including Maplewood Avenue, Halderman Street, and Moore Street in Los Angeles, California. The stated purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the general condition of the tree population in light of proposed removals by the City of Los Angeles Urban Forestry Division and to provide professional recommendations regarding appropriate management.

The site visit was attended by myself and approximately twelve community members.

Background & Observations

The assessment consisted of a Level 1 Visual Tree Assessment as defined in Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) methodology. A Level 1 assessment involves visual observations conducted while walking or driving past trees to identify general health conditions, obvious defects, and overall management priorities across a population. Individual trees did not receive detailed hands-on inspection, and no advanced diagnostic testing was performed. A more comprehensive Level 2 assessment would be required to develop site-specific management prescriptions for any individual tree.

The Italian stone pines along Warren Avenue and the adjacent streets are mature trees that form a continuous and visually prominent canopy. They provide substantial shade to pavement and nearby residences and contribute significantly to the aesthetic character of the neighborhood. The trees represent an established landscape feature and provide environmental benefits associated with mature canopy trees, including stormwater interception, carbon sequestration, air quality improvement, and wildlife habitat.

Tree condition varies throughout the population. Several trees are standing dead. A small number of additional trees exhibit advanced decline and appear unlikely to recover. These trees show significant canopy loss and symptoms consistent with stress and past bark beetle activity. During the recent drought years, Italian stone pines throughout the region experienced mortality associated with bark beetle infestation, and residual evidence of that impact is present in parts of this population.

The majority of the trees, however, display fair to good vigor. Crown density is generally adequate, and many specimens exhibit intact canopy structure with no obvious signs of imminent structural failure. While some trees show minor stress indicators, most appear to be functioning and contributing meaningfully to the overall canopy.

Root-related pavement displacement was observed at multiple locations. In some areas, the asphalt exhibits minor cracking or surface lifting with limited functional impact. In other locations, vertical displacement is more pronounced. In the most severe instances observed,



asphalt lifting appears significant enough to affect vehicle passage. Community members have placed traffic cones at certain locations to alert drivers to the uneven surface.

Several trees have areas of square or rectangular asphalt patching at their base. According to information provided by community members, at least some of these areas correspond to prior root pruning operations performed by the City. It has reportedly been stated by municipal representatives that continued management of these trees may not be considered cost-effective due to the potential for recurring pavement lifting following root pruning.

Asphalt pavement is inherently a repairable surface. Roadways throughout Los Angeles are routinely resurfaced, patched, and maintained as part of standard municipal operations. Root pruning and pavement repair are established arboricultural and infrastructure management practices used in many urban environments to balance canopy retention with roadway function. The presence of recurring maintenance needs does not, in itself, indicate that removal of otherwise functional mature trees is the only available management option.

Seven trees appear either dead or in irreversible decline and should be considered for removal. These are located at:

1. 13243 Warren
2. 13134 Warren
3. 3235 Maplewood
4. 13007 Warren
5. 13001 Warren
6. 3327 Moore
7. 3436 Halderman

Removal of these specific trees would address the most compromised specimens within the population.

The remaining trees, based on this limited visual assessment, are largely viable and contribute substantial environmental and community value. The benefits provided by mature canopy trees are directly related to crown size and leaf surface area. Newly planted replacement trees, regardless of species, would represent only a small fraction of the current canopy volume and would require decades to approach comparable functional benefit. The removal of mature canopy results in immediate and long-term reductions in shade, microclimate moderation, and neighborhood character.

Recommendations

Based on the October 6, 2025 Level 1 visual assessment, seven Italian stone pines are recommended for removal due to death or advanced, non-recoverable decline. The majority of the remaining trees appear to be in fair to good condition and continue to provide significant ecological and community benefits.

Infrastructure conflicts related to root growth are present in select locations and range from minor to severe. These conditions are localized and, in most cases, are consistent with scenarios that can be addressed through selective root pruning and pavement repair. Such management approaches are commonly used in urban forestry to preserve mature canopy while maintaining roadway function.



In my professional opinion, the existing population of mature Italian stone pines represents a valuable urban forest asset. With the exception of the seven trees identified above, retention and structured management of the remaining trees is a reasonable and supportable course of action. Wholesale removal of the population would result in substantial canopy loss and long-term reduction of environmental and neighborhood benefits that cannot be replaced within the near or intermediate term.
observations

If you have any questions regarding this report, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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Results and recommendations are based on only the areas tested and a limited visual ground level inspection.

All trees present some risk of failure. Even with an evaluation such as this, there is no guarantee that a tree will not fail unexpectedly. Trees are dynamic living organisms subject to many influencing factors. All trees are potentially hazardous regardless of their apparent health, vigor, or structural integrity. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate all trees. The tree owner/manager must decide how much risk he/she is willing to accept. This must be weighed against the value and benefit that we receive from trees.

