

Chapter 16.52

TREE MANAGEMENT CODE

Sections:

- 16.52.010 Purpose and intent.
- 16.52.020 General provisions and applicability.
- 16.52.030 Applicability of the tree management code.
- 16.52.040 Exemptions.
- 16.52.050 Using this chapter.
- 16.52.060 Designation of significant tree species.
- 16.52.070 Designation of land under development.
- 16.52.080 Legacy and Landmark tree protection measures.
- 16.52.090 Minimum preservation standards for land under development.
- 16.52.100 Supplemental tree standards and priorities.
- 16.52.110 Minimum restoration standards for land not under development.
- 16.52.120 Hazard tree risk assessment.
- 16.52.130 Nuisance tree.
- 16.52.140 City arborist established.
- 16.52.150 Notice of tree removal involving no construction.
- 16.52.160 Tree activity permits.
- 16.52.170 Tree preservation plan.
- 16.52.180 Fee-in-lieu of supplemental plantings.
- 16.52.190 Tree protection measures during construction.
- 16.52.200 City tree removals.
- 16.52.210 Minimum street tree standards.
- 16.52.220 Owner responsibility within city rights-of-way.
- 16.52.230 Liability.
- 16.52.240 Other general provisions.

16.52.010 Purpose and intent.

A. The purpose of the tree management code is to preserve the existing sylvan appearance through long-term preservation and planting of trees that contribute to the community's distinct features including proximity to the lakeshore, views, heavily landscaped streetscapes, and large tracts of public and private open spaces. The city recognizes that trees:

1. Contribute to the residential character of Medina;
2. Provide a public health benefit;
3. Provide wind protection, ecological benefits to wetlands and watercourses, and aid in the stabilization of geologically hazardous areas;
4. Improve surface water quality and control and benefit Lake Washington; and
5. Reduce noise and air pollution.

B. The intent of this chapter is to establish regulations and standards that:

1. Protect and preserve the existing tree canopy;
2. Provide homeowners flexible standards that encourage the preservation of trees while recognizing the importance of having access to sunlight and views;
3. Recognize through the standards in this chapter that certain factors may require the removal or pruning of certain trees due to circumstances such as disease, danger of falling, proximity to structures and improvements, interference with utility services, protection of view and sunlight, and the reasonable enjoyment of property;
4. Encourage best practices for the planting and managing of trees appropriately to minimize hazards, nuisances, and maintenance costs while allowing access to sunlight and views;
5. Prevent the indiscriminate removal or destruction of trees except as provided for in accordance with this chapter;
6. Promote building and site planning practices consistent with the purpose and intent of this chapter;
7. Ensure prompt development, restoration, replanting and effective erosion control of property after tree removal with landscape plans and other reasonable controls; and
8. Foster public education on the local urban forestry program and encourage good tree management consistent with this chapter.

16.52.020 General provisions and applicability:

Where land is designated as under development pursuant to MMC 16.52.090, the preservation of healthy trees shall be considered in accordance with the following guidance:

1. Tree preservation shall be included as a primary step in site planning and shall be achieved by meeting the minimum required tree units established in Table 16.52.090(B).
2. Site design strategies and specific development site areas demonstrating preservation of significant trees shall be presented at the pre-application meeting with the city.
3. A tree preservation plan shall be required that demonstrates the objectives outlined in MMC 16.52.170.

4. Any applicable grading plans, pursuant to MMC Chapter 16.43, shall be developed to avoid significant alteration to the grades around preserved trees.
5. Multiple applications of the tree preservation requirements in this chapter over a 10-year period shall not cause the number and size of trees required to be retained to be reduced below the number and size of trees required to be retained with the first application.
6. When calculating tree preservation requirements, trees excluded from preservation requirements shall not be included in the calculation.
7. For the purpose of calculating tree density requirements, critical areas and their associated buffers shall be excluded from the lot area used for calculation (example: a 16,000 square foot lot has a stream on site that encompasses 1,500 square feet including the stream buffer. The lot area used for tree density calculation would be 14,500 square feet ($16,000 - 1,500 = 14,500$) provided:
 - a. Critical areas shall be limited to wetlands, streams, geologically hazardous areas, conservation easements, and their associated buffers as described in MMC Chapters 16.50 and 16.67; and
 - b. Removal of any vegetation or woody debris, including trees, from a critical area is subject to the regulations in MMC Chapters 16.50 and 16.67.
8. All of the following shall be excluded from the requirements of this chapter:
 - a. Hazard trees designated pursuant to MMC 16.52.120;
 - b. Nuisance trees designated pursuant to MMC 16.52.130 and where, if applicable, re-development does not remedy the conditions causing the nuisance;
 - c. Those significant trees having less than a 24-inch diameter breast height size and located within the footprint of the principal building on the lot.

16.52.030 Applicability of the tree management code.

A. No person or their representative, directly or indirectly, shall remove or destroy trees located on private property or public property within the jurisdictional boundaries of the city except as provided for in accordance with this chapter.

B. Additional tree management requirements are set forth in the Medina shoreline master program as provided in MMC 16.66.050.

16.52.040 Exemptions.

The following are exempt from the requirements in this chapter:

A. Trees less than six inches diameter breast height unless the tree is used to satisfy a requirement of this chapter;

B. Normal and routine trimming and pruning operations and maintenance of trees and vegetation on private property following the most current ANSI standards;

C. Emergency tree removal or hazard pruning for any tree that poses an imminent threat to life or property provided:

1. The city is notified within seven days after the emergency tree removal or hazard pruning takes place and evidence is provided of the imminent threat supporting the emergency tree removal; and
2. If evidence of the imminent threat is not provided, or the director determines the evidence does not warrant an emergency tree removal, the director may require the responsible person to obtain a permit as prescribed by this chapter and require compliance with the requirements of this chapter;

D. Trimming and pruning operations and maintenance of trees and vegetation following the most current ANSI standards or removal of trees performed by the city or a contractor contracted by the city within a public right-of-way or city-owned parkland;

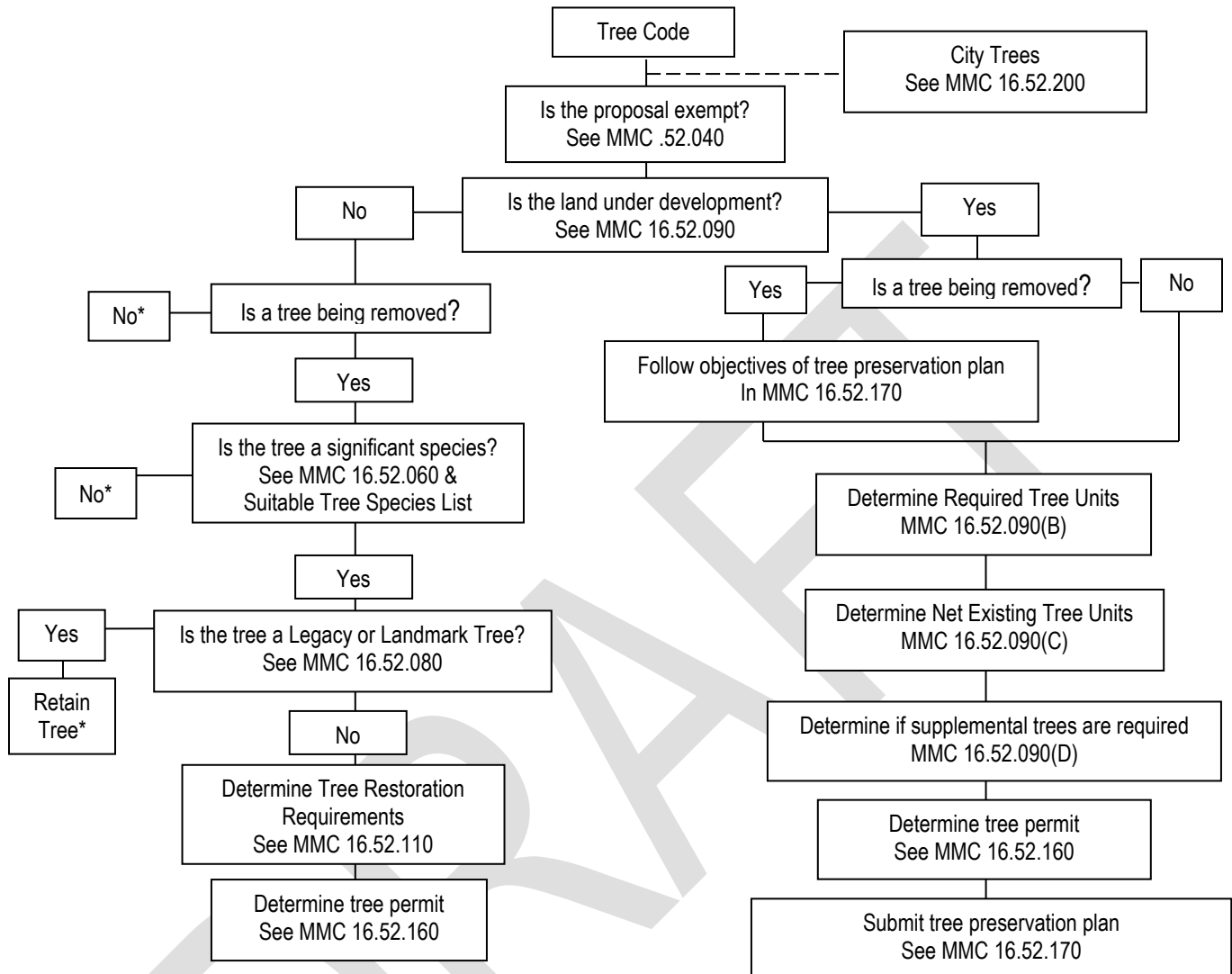
E. Removal of trees and vegetation management by the city or an agency under contract with the city for purposes of installing and maintaining fire hydrants, water meters, pumping stations, or similar utilities; or

F. The removal of a dead tree where the director pre-determines that the tree died from naturally occurring causes.

16.52.050 Using this chapter.

This chapter prescribes the requirements for tree preservation and planting on lands undergoing development, and the requirements for removal of significant trees on private and public lands. Diagram 16.52.050 offers a user's guide that outlines the general process for applying the provisions of this chapter.

Diagram 16.52.050



* Denotes no further action required.

16.52.050 Designation of significant tree species.

A. A list of suitable tree species consisting of coniferous and deciduous trees is set forth in the document entitled “City of Medina List of Suitable Tree Species,” adopted by Ordinance No. 923 and on file with the city for the purpose of establishing significant tree species on private property, public property, and city rights-of-way; and tree species that are eligible for credits in this chapter.

B. The director shall maintain the “City of Medina List of Suitable Tree Species” document at Medina City Hall and may administratively modify the list consistent with the following criteria:

1. The designation of coniferous trees should include all species excluding tree species known to have invasive root structures and to be fast growing such as Leyland cypress and should also exclude trees planted, clipped or sheared to be used as a hedge;

2. The designation of deciduous trees should include those suitable to United States Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zones 8 and 9, excluding those trees with crown diameter of 10 feet or less at maturity;

3. Plantings of the following tree species within the city's rights-of-way shall be prohibited: London plane, quaking aspen, Lombardy poplar, bolleana poplar, cottonwood, and bigleaf maple.

C. The director shall submit proposals to modify the "City of Medina List of Suitable Tree Species" to the city council for their consideration. The city council may approve, modify or deny the proposed modifications. The city council may also decline to take action on the proposed modifications, in which case the modifications shall be incorporated into the list and take effect five days after the date the city council declines to take action.

D. The "City of Medina List of Suitable Tree Species" is used in conjunction with the definition of significant tree set forth in MMC 16.12.200 to denote the term significant tree as used in this chapter.

16.52.070 Designation of land under development.

Land is designated as under development for purposes of this chapter if one or more of the following conditions is present:

A. Any development activity requiring a building permit where:

1. Construction of a dwelling having a gross floor area of 2,500 square feet or more;
2. Construction of accessory buildings on property containing a residential use, or supporting a residential use, where the total gross floor area of all accessory buildings on the lot is 1,000 square feet or more;
3. Any building constructed to be occupied principally by a nonresidential use where the gross floor area of the building is 1,000 square feet or more;
4. Any series of exterior alterations, modifications or additions that over a four-consecutive-year period increases the total building footprint on a lot by more than 500 square feet or 15 percent, whichever is larger;
5. Construction of any structures, including but not limited to driveways, decks, patios, and walkways, that over a four-consecutive-year period increases the impervious surface on the lot by a total of 2,000 square feet or more;
6. Grading that over a four-consecutive-year period totals 2,000 cubic yards or more.

B. Any development activity requiring a building permit, a right-of-way permit, and/or a land use or shoreline permit where:

1. One or more significant trees are removed, with at least one tree having a 10-inch diameter breast height or larger size; or

2. Four or more significant trees are removed, provided each has less than a 10-inch diameter breast height size; and
3. The criteria in subsections (B)(1) and (2) of this section shall include the following trees:
 - a. Significant trees removed within two years prior to the submittal of an application for such permits; or
 - b. Significant trees removed within two years after such permits are finalized by the city and the project completed.

C. Clearing or grubbing of land that:

1. Is located outside of city rights-of-way;
2. Requires no permits, except for a tree permit; and
3. Removes four or more significant trees, with at least four trees having a 10-inch diameter breast height or larger size, over a four-consecutive-year period.

D. The counting of removed trees under subsections (B) and (C) of this section shall not include those trees designated as a hazard or nuisance tree pursuant to MMC 16.52.120 and 20.52.130, respectively.

16.52.080 Legacy and Landmark tree protection measures.

This section applies to trees designated as Legacy and Landmark trees, which are native trees that because of their age, size and condition are recognized as having outstanding value in contributing to the character of the community. Legacy and Landmark trees within the shoreline jurisdiction are regulated in MMC 16.66.050.

A. A Legacy or Landmark tree shall be designated by meeting the following criteria:

1. Legacy tree:
 - a. The tree species is denoted as a legacy tree on the “City of Medina List of Suitable Tree Species”; and
 - b. The diameter breast height of the tree is 36 inches or larger but less than 50 inches; and
 - c. The city arborist determines the tree to be healthy with a likelihood of surviving more than 10 years based on assumptions that:
 - i. The tree is properly cared for; and
 - ii. The risk of the tree declining or becoming a nuisance is unenhanced by any proposed development.
2. Landmark tree:
 - a. The tree species is denoted as a legacy tree on the “City of Medina List of Suitable Tree Species”; and

- b. The diameter breast height of the tree is 50 inches or larger; and
- c. The city arborist determines the tree to be healthy with a likelihood of surviving more than 10 years based on assumptions that:
 - i. The tree is properly cared for; and
 - ii. The risk of the tree declining or becoming a nuisance is unenhanced by any proposed development.

B. Legacy and Landmark trees shall be preserved and retained unless replacement trees are planted in accordance with the following:

- 1. Legacy tree:
 - a. The quantity of replacement trees is calculated by multiplying the diameter breast height of each subject Legacy tree by the required percentage standards in Table 16.52.080(B) to establish the number of replacement inches; and
 - b. All fractions of this section shall be rounded up to the next whole number.

Table 16.52.080(B) Legacy Tree Replacement Requirements

Square Footage of the Lot Area	Required number of replacement inches
Less than 10,001	10% removed DBH
From 10,001 to 13,000	15% removed DBH
From 13,001 to 15,000	25% removed DBH
From 15,001 to 20,000	35% removed DBH
Greater than 20,000	50% removed DBH

The following example illustrates how to calculate legacy tree replacement units on a lot that is less than 10,001 square feet:

Lot size: 8,120 sq. ft.

Required tree units: $8,120 / 1,000 \times 0.4$ (tree density ratio) = 3.2 (rounded up to the next whole number) = 4

Total existing tree units on site: 6.5 units

Eight 10-inch DBH trees – 4 units (.5 units per tree)

Two 24-inch DBH trees - 1.5 units (.75 units per tree)

One 44-inch DBH Tree – 1 unit (1 unit per tree)

Total tree units removed: 3

Four 10-inch DBH trees = 2 units removed

One 44-inch DBH tree = 1 unit removed

Net tree units: 3.5

Supplemental Units Required: Yes (4 required tree units – 3.5 net tree units) = .5 or 1 tree

Legacy Tree Removed: Yes – One 44-inch DHB tree

Legacy Tree Supplemental Units: $10\% \times 44 = 4.4$ (rounded up to the next whole number)
= 5 Legacy replacement inches

Landmark Tree Removed: No

Total supplemental Requirements = 1 tree plus 5 inches = 4 2-inch trees

2. Landmark tree:

a. The quantity of replacement inches is calculated by multiplying the diameter breast height of each subject Landmark tree by 100 percent to establish the minimum number of replacement inches; and

b. All fractions of this section shall be rounded up to the next whole number.

C. In lieu of planting the replacement trees prescribed in subsection (B) of this section, an applicant may satisfy the tree replacement requirements by meeting the criteria set forth in MMC 16.52.180.

D. Other Provisions.

1. Each replacement tree shall meet the standards prescribed in MMC 16.52.100;

2. The tree replacement requirements set forth in subsections (B) and (C) of this section shall apply to the removal of Legacy and Landmark trees in lieu of and in addition to requirements for removing nonlegacy trees;

3. The tree replacement requirements set forth in this section for a Legacy and Landmark tree shall not be used to satisfy requirements for removing nonlegacy trees or a pre-existing tree unit gap;

4. If the minimum preservation standards in MMC 16.52.090 are used, and if supplemental tree units are required, the tree replacement requirements set forth in subsections (B) and (C) of this section shall together count as one supplemental tree unit;

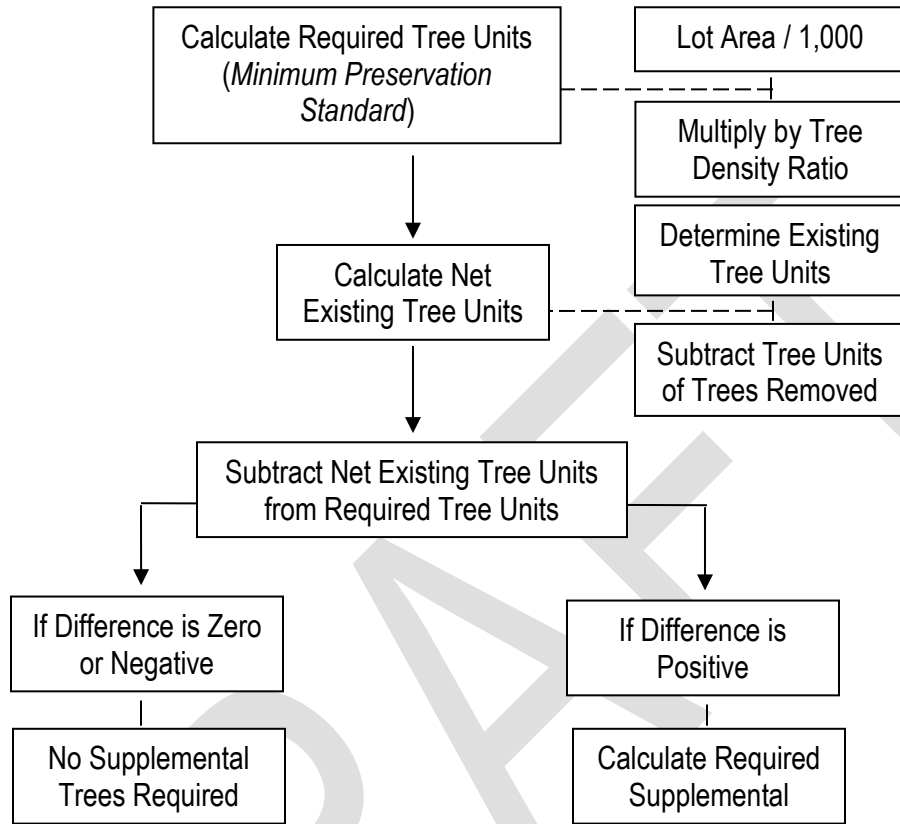
5. Off-site tree planting as described in MMC 16.52.1400(C) are acceptable alternatives to on-site replacement tree planting provided the director or designee approves of the off-site location in writing.

16.52.090 Minimum preservation standards for land under development.

A. The requirements and procedures set forth in this section shall apply to lands that are designated as under development pursuant to MMC 16.52.090. Figure 16.52.090 outlines the

primary steps prescribed by this section in establishing requirements and determining compliance with this chapter.

Figure 16.52.090 Tree Preservation Process



B. Lots with land under development shall contain a sufficient number of significant trees to meet the minimum required tree units established by the following procedures:

1. The lot area is divided by 1,000 square feet; and
2. The quotient is multiplied by the corresponding tree density ratio applicable to the lot as set forth in Table 16.52.090(B); and
3. The resulting product is rounded up to the next whole number to establish the minimum number of required tree units.

Table 16.52.090(B) Tree Density Ratio

Zoning District	Category of Land Use	Tree Density Ratio
R-16, R-20, R-30 & SR-30	Residential	0.40
	Golf Course	0.15

Zoning District	Category of Land Use	Tree Density Ratio
	Nonresidential other than specifically listed	0.25
Public	Schools	0.15
	Parks	0.42
	Residential	0.40
	Nonresidential other than specifically listed	0.25
N-A	All	0.25
State Highway	All	0.12

C. To determine compliance with the required tree units applicable to the lot, apply the following procedures:

1. Inventory all existing significant trees on the subject lot; and
2. Assign a tree unit to each significant tree using the corresponding tree unit set forth in Table 16.52.090(C); and
3. Add the tree units together to compute the total existing tree units and subtract the tree units of those significant trees removed to determine the net existing tree units (do not round fractions); and
4. Subtract the net existing tree units from the required tree units determined in this subsection (C) to establish:
 - a. If the net existing tree units equal or exceed the required tree units then no supplemental trees are required; or
 - b. If the net existing tree units are less than the required tree units then supplemental trees are required pursuant to subsection (D) of this section.

Table 16.52.090(C) Existing Tree Unit

Tree Type	Diameter Breast Height of Existing Tree	Tree Unit
Deciduous	6 to 10 inches	0.5
	Greater than 10 inches	0.75
Coniferous	6 to 10 inches	0.5
	Greater than 10 inches, but less than 36 inches	0.75

Tree Type	Diameter Breast Height of Existing Tree	Tree Unit
	36 inches and greater	1.0

D. If supplemental trees are required, the quantity of trees is determined by applying the following procedures:

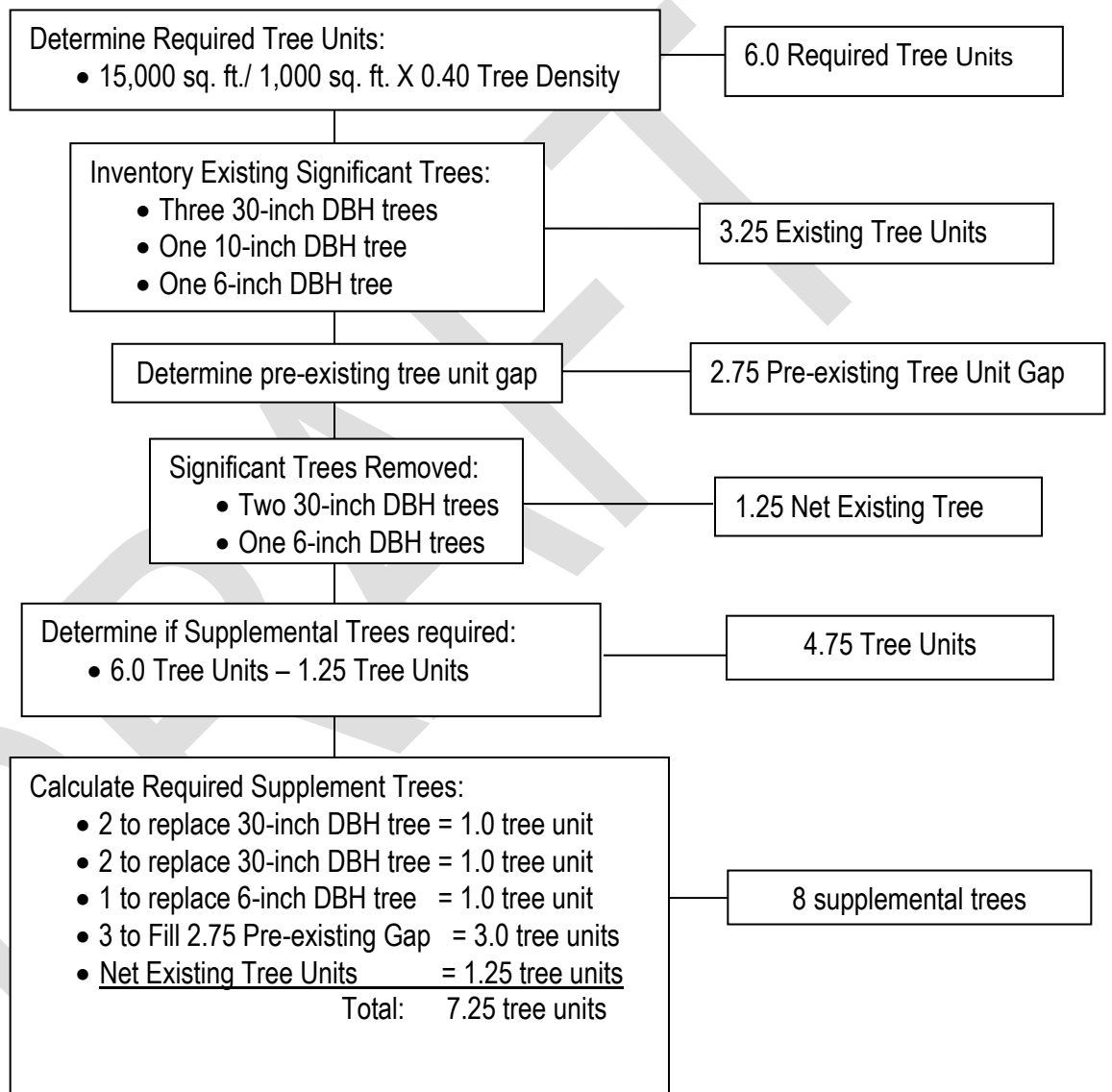
1. Determine if a pre-existing tree unit gap exists by subtracting the total existing tree units from the required tree units:
 - a. If the difference is less than zero round to zero;
 - b. A difference of zero means no pre-existing tree unit gap is present;
 - c. If the difference is greater than zero, the difference is the pre-existing tree unit gap;
2. To calculate the quantity of supplemental trees required, apply the provisions in subsection (D)(3) of this section first to those supplemental trees replacing an existing significant tree starting in order with the largest tree to the smallest tree, and then, if applicable, apply subsection (D)(3) of this section to those filling a pre-existing tree unit gap;
3. The quantity of supplemental trees is determined by:
 - a. Assigning a tree unit to each supplemental tree using Table 16.52.090(D);
 - b. Two supplemental trees shall be required for replacing each existing significant tree having a diameter breast height of 24 inches and larger subject to the limitation in subsection (D)(3)(d) of this section, and consistent with subsection (D)(2) of this section these shall be counted first;
 - c. The quantity of supplemental trees shall be of a sufficient number that their total assigned tree units added to the net existing tree units shall equal or exceed the minimum required tree units established in subsection (B) of this section; and
 - d. Supplemental trees in excess of those needed to meet the minimum required tree units shall not be required.
 - e. See Diagram 16.52.090(D) for an example of calculating supplemental trees.

Table 16.52.090(D) Supplemental Tree Unit

Purpose of Supplemental Tree	Diameter Breast Height of Removed Tree	Tree Unit for Supplemental Trees
Replace an existing significant tree	6 inches to less than 24 inches	1.0
	24 inches and larger	0.5

Purpose of Supplemental Tree	Diameter Breast Height of Removed Tree	Tree Unit for Supplemental Trees
Fill a pre-existing tree unit gap	Not applicable	1.0

Diagram 16.52.090 Example Calculating Supplemental Trees



16.52.100 Supplemental tree standards and priorities.

A. To be eligible as a supplemental tree, the tree species must be selected from the appropriate list set forth in the “City of Medina List of Suitable Tree Species” established in MMC 16.52.060 and shall meet the following general requirements:

1. Each supplemental tree shall have a minimum caliper of two inches, or, if the tree is coniferous, it shall have a minimum height of six feet at the time of final inspection by the city;
2. Trees shall be planted in a manner of proper spacing and lighting that allows them to grow to maturity;
3. Existing trees within the boundaries of the lot having less than six inches diameter breast height may count as supplemental trees provided the tree meets all other requirements applicable to a supplemental tree;
4. Supplemental trees replacing existing significant trees shall have at least one tree be of the same plant division (coniferous or deciduous) as the significant tree it is replacing; and
5. The owner of the subject lot shall take necessary measures to ensure that supplemental trees remain healthy and viable for at least five years after inspection by the city and the owner shall be responsible for replacing any supplemental trees that do not remain healthy and viable for the five years after inspection by the city.

B. All trees used to satisfy the supplemental tree requirements of this chapter shall be included as a significant tree for the purpose of this chapter.

C. Where supplemental trees are required pursuant to MMC 16.52.090(D), the trees shall be planted in the following order of priority from most important to least important:

1. On-site and adjacent right-of-way:
 - a. Adjacent to or within critical areas and their associated buffers as defined in MMC Chapters 16.50 and 16.67;
 - b. Outside of critical areas and their associated buffers adjacent to other preserved trees making up a grove or stand of trees;
 - c. Adjacent to a low impact development (LID) stormwater facility;
 - d. Outside of critical areas and their associated buffers but within the front yard setback;
 - d. Outside of critical areas and their associated buffers;
 - e. Off-site in adjacent right-of-way where explicitly authorized by the city.
2. Off-site. An owner may elect to plant the required trees off-site upon written request, and approval from the City. Except where contribution to the Medina tree fund is used in lieu of planting required trees, application of this section shall not result in planting trees below the minimum requirements for on-site plantings. Off-site locations include:
 - a. City-owned properties;
 - b. Street rights-of-way not immediately adjacent to the property;
 - c. Private property with the written consent of the owner of the off-site location;

d. Other public property with the written consent of the entity with jurisdiction over the off-site location;

e. Any other property determined appropriate by the director.

3. Fee-in-Lieu. If the director or designee determines there is insufficient area to replant on-site or within the adjacent public right-of-way, the director or designee may authorize payment of a fee-in-lieu in accordance with MMC. 16.52.180.

D. An owner may elect a combination of planting trees on site, off site and/or fee-in-lieu upon written request, and approval by the City, provided:

1. The combination is consistent with the provisions of this chapter; and
2. The combination results shall be equivalent to or greater than the minimum requirements for on-site plantings.

E. Consistent with the authority granted in MMC 16.10.040, the director may establish additional administrative rules as necessary relating to the care and maintenance of off-site trees.

F. Existing trees at the off-site location shall not be included as satisfying tree planting requirements.

G. Trees planted off-site in lieu of on-site requirements shall not be counted as existing trees on the property where the off-site tree is located.

16.52.110 Minimum restoration standards for land not under development.

A. The requirements set forth in this section apply to tree removals on lots not meeting the criteria for land under development set forth in MMC 16.52.070.

B. Removal of significant trees on a lot, including hazard and nuisance trees, is authorized only if the restoration requirements in Table 16.52.110 are satisfied, or if the property meets the requirements prescribed in subsection (K) of this section.

Table 16.52.110 Tree Restoration Standards

	Diameter Breast Height of Removed Tree	Restoration Requirements
Each Significant Tree	6 to 10 inches	Plant one tree
	Greater than 10 inches, but less than 24 inches	Plant two trees
	24 inches and larger	Plant three trees
	Legacy or Landmark trees	See MMC 16.52.080
	Hazard trees – 10 inches and larger	Plant one tree

C. To be eligible as a restoration tree, the tree species must be selected from the appropriate list in the “City of Medina List of Suitable Tree Species” established in MMC 16.52.060.

D. Restoration trees shall be planted within the boundaries of the lot, except as authorized pursuant to subsection (J) of this section.

E. Restoration trees shall be planted in a manner of proper spacing and lighting that allows them to grow to maturity.

F. Each restoration tree shall have a minimum caliper of two inches or, if the tree is coniferous, it shall have a minimum height of six feet at the time of final inspection by the city.

G. Existing trees on site having less than six inches diameter breast height may be included as restoration trees provided:

1. The subject tree is located within the boundaries of the lot; and
2. The subject tree meets all of the other requirements applicable to restoration trees.

H. The owner of the subject lot shall take necessary measures to make certain that restoration trees remain healthy and viable for at least five years after inspection by the city and the owner shall be responsible for replacing any restoration trees that do not remain healthy and viable for the five years after inspection by the city.

I. All trees used to satisfy the restoration requirements of this chapter shall be included as a significant tree for purposes of this chapter.

J. In lieu of the tree restoration requirements prescribed by this section, an owner may satisfy the requirements for restoration trees by meeting the requirements for off-site tree planting set forth in MMC 16.52.100.

K. The restoration requirements in Table 16.52.110 for removing significant trees shall be waived if the following criteria are satisfied:

1. The subject lot contains a sufficient number of significant trees to meet the preservation standard for required trees established in MMC 16.52.090; and
2. The owner demonstrates that removal of the significant tree, including hazard and nuisance trees, will not result in a failure to meet the preservation standards for required trees established in MMC 16.52.090.

16.52.120 Hazard tree risk assessment.

A. Hazard trees are trees assessed by the city arborist as having a high to extreme risk rating using the International Society of Arborists Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) method in its most current form.

B. Steps in the TRAQ method in developing a tree risk rating include the following:

1. Identify possible targets and estimate occupancy rate;

2. Inspect tree and identify tree parts that could fail and strike targets (referred to as failure mode);
3. For each significant failure mode identified:
 - a. The likelihood of failure is assessed;
 - b. The likelihood of a tree part impacting a target is assessed;
 - c. The likelihood of a tree failure impacting a target is assessed;
 - d. Consequences of failure are estimated;
 - e. The risk is designated pursuant to the matrix in Table 16.52.120(C);
 - f. Possible mitigation treatments to reduce the risk are identified;
 - g. The risk is again designated pursuant to the matrix in Table 16.52.120(C) after mitigation treatment is completed.
4. When assessing the risk of a tree, the city arborist shall evaluate the tree based on existing conditions and shall exclude possible impacts caused by new development, any land alteration activity, or other similar such activities that might otherwise unnaturally cause the risk rating to increase.

C. The following table is from the International Society of Arborists TRAQ method and denotes the risk rating matrix used to assess levels of tree risk as a combination of likelihood of a tree failing and impacting a specified target, and the severity of the associated consequences should the tree or any part of the tree fail:

Table 16.52.120(C) Tree Risk Rating Matrix

Likelihood of Failure or Impact	Consequences			
	Negligible	Minor	Significant	Severe
Very Likely	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Extreme Risk
Likely	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	High Risk
Somewhat likely	Low Risk	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk
Unlikely	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk

1. The consequences listed in Table 16.52.120(C) have meanings as follows:
 - a. Extreme Risk. This category applies to trees in which failure is “imminent” and there is a high likelihood of impacting a target, and the consequences of the failure are “severe.”

b. High Risk. This category applies to situations in which consequences are significant and likelihood is “very likely” or “likely,” or when consequences are “severe” and likelihood is “likely.”

c. Moderate Risk. This category applies to trees in which consequences are “minor” and likelihood is “very likely” or “likely” or when likelihood is “somewhat likely” and the consequences are “significant” or “severe.”

d. Low Risk. This category applies to trees in which consequences are “negligible” and likelihood is “unlikely”; or when consequences are “minor” and likelihood is “somewhat likely.”

2. Definitions of TRAQ method terminology that are not set forth in this chapter or Chapter 16.12 MMC can be found in the article “Qualitative Tree Risk Assessment” by E. Thomas Smiley, Nelda Matheny, and Sharon Lilly on file at Medina City Hall.

3. Potential targets are permanent structures or an area of moderate to high use. Where a target does not exist, applicants should consider routine pruning and maintenance to mitigate hazards.

D. Where a tree is found to have a high or extreme risk, the city arborist may authorize hazard pruning to mitigate the risk rather than removing the entire tree.

E. If the city arborist assesses a tree to have a high or extreme risk and mitigation of the risk through pruning or moving of potential targets is not feasible, the city arborist shall designate the tree a hazard tree.

16.52.130 Nuisance tree.

A. A nuisance tree, for purposes of this chapter, is a tree whose branches, stem and/or roots cause one or more of the following conditions to exist:

1. Substantial physical damage to public or private structures;
2. A qualified professional provides verification based on conditions on the property that substantial physical damage will occur within five years to a building containing a principal use;
3. Substantially impairs, interferes or restricts streets, sidewalks, sewers, power lines, utilities or other public improvements;
4. Substantially impairs, interferes, or obstructs any street, private lane, or driveway; or
5. The tree is diseased and restoration of the tree to a sound condition is not practical.

B. Designation of a nuisance tree is by the director following receipt of a written request and findings are made supporting a nuisance designation using the following criteria:

1. One or more of the conditions in subsection (A) of this section is present;

2. The nuisance associated with the subject tree cannot be corrected by reasonable measures including, but not limited to, pruning, cabling, bracing, or if feasible, relocating structures and other improvements; and
3. Other relevant information provided by the applicant and the city's inspection of the subject tree.

16.52.140 City arborist established.

The director shall appoint a person to the position of city arborist who shall be assigned responsibility for evaluating the hazardousness of trees and other duties consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

16.52.150 Notice of tree removal involving no construction.

A. Property owners removing a significant tree requiring a permit under MMC 16.52.160, but not undergoing new construction or land alteration activity, shall notify the city at least 10 calendar days prior to the date the tree will be removed. The director may reduce this time with receipt of a written request from the applicant and upon finding that the lesser time will provide the city reasonable notification.

B. All property owners removing a nonsignificant tree that does not require a permit are encouraged, but not required, to notify the city of the tree removal at least 48 hours prior to the tree being removed.

16.52.160 Tree activity permits.

A. This section sets forth the criteria for applying permits that implement this chapter. All uses and activities not requiring a permit must still comply with this chapter.

B. An administrative tree activity permit meeting the requirements set forth in MMC 16.70.050 is required for the following activities unless a permit is required elsewhere under this section:

1. Land designated under development as determined in MMC 16.52.0670;
2. Removal at any time of a significant tree, including hazard and nuisance trees, located on private property or Washington State controlled land associated with the SR 520 highway;
3. Removal of any nonsignificant tree, including hazard and nuisance trees, located on private property or Washington State controlled land associated with the SR 520 highway that is located within 200 feet of Lake Washington pursuant to MMC 16.60.050;
4. Removal or pruning of any tree that is:
 - a. Six inches or larger diameter breast height size;
 - b. Located in any open or closed city right-of-way; and
 - c. Designated a hazard tree pursuant to MMC 16.52.120, or involving hazard pruning authorized by the director.

C. An administrative right-of-way tree activity permit meeting the requirements set forth in MMC 16.71.050 is required for the following activities:

1. Removal of any tree, excluding hazard trees, that is:
 - a. Six inches or larger diameter breast height size;
 - b. Located in any open or closed city right-of-way;
 - c. Application for the permit is made by the owner of property adjoining the right-of-way where the tree is located measured to the centerline of the right-of-way; and
 - d. The removal does not require a nonadministrative right-of-way activity permit under subsection (D) of this section.
2. Pruning of any tree, excluding hazard pruning, that is:
 - a. Six inches or larger diameter breast height size;
 - b. Located in any open or closed city right-of-way;
 - c. Application for the permit is made by an owner of property adjoining the right-of-way where the tree is located measured to the centerline of the right-of-way; and
 - d. Excluding pruning activity that:
 - i. Follows ANSI standards in their most recent form;
 - ii. Does not endanger the life of the tree in the opinion of the director;
 - iii. Does not remove more than 25 percent of the natural canopy of the tree;
 - iv. Does not remove a limb having a diameter greater than three inches; and
 - v. Application for the pruning is made by an owner of property adjoining the right-of-way where the tree is located measured to the centerline of the right-of-way.

D. A nonadministrative right-of-way tree activity permit meeting the requirements set forth in MMC 20.72.090 is required for the following activities:

1. Removal of any tree, excluding hazard trees, which is:
 - a. Six inches or larger diameter breast height size;
 - b. Located in any open or closed city right-of-way; and
 - c. Application for the permit is made by an owner of property who is not adjoining the right-of-way where the tree is located measured to the centerline of the right-of-way.
2. Pruning or removal of any tree, excluding hazard trees and hazard pruning, for any purpose, which is:
 - a. Six inches or larger diameter breast height size;
 - b. Located in any open or closed city right-of-way; and

- c. Application for the permit is made by a public or private utility or their agent.
3. Removal at any time of a significant tree, excluding hazard trees, which is:
 - a. Fifty inches or larger diameter breast height size;
 - b. Located in any open or closed city right-of-way; and
 - c. Application for the permit is made by an owner of property adjoining the right-of-way where the tree is located measured to the centerline of the right-of-way.

E. A nonadministrative tree activity permit meeting the requirements set forth in MMC 16.72.100 is required for the following:

1. Removal at any time of a significant tree, excluding hazard trees, which is:
 - a. Fifty inches or larger diameter breast height size;
 - b. Located on private property; and
 - c. Located outside of the footprint of a building containing the principal use of the property.
2. The director may modify the procedures for deciding a nonadministrative tree activity permit and approve the application using a Type 2 decision process provided:
 - a. The subject tree is designated a nuisance tree pursuant to MMC 16.52.130; and
 - b. During the public comment period, the city does not receive any written objection to a Type 2 decision decided by the director being used; and
 - c. The approval criteria in MMC 16.72.100 are satisfied.

16.52.170 Tree preservation plan.

A. Permits for lands under development and permits for removing city trees in city rights-of-way shall include a tree preservation plan containing the following information:

1. A survey plan prepared by a Washington State licensed surveyor that includes the following:
 - a. Topography of the site at two-foot contour intervals.
 - b. Critical areas as defined in Chapters 16.50 and 16.67 MMC.
2. A site plan drawing showing the following:
 - a. Proposed improvements, alterations or adjustments to the subject property including, but not limited to, buildings, driveways, walkways, patios, decks, utilities, and proposed contours.
 - b. Existing structures, whether proposed to remain or proposed for removal.

c. The shoreline jurisdiction as defined in RCW 90.58.030, if applicable to the property.

3. A tree-planting plan that includes:

a. The location, genus, species, common name, and size of all significant trees located within the boundaries of the property and within any adjoining city rights-of-way and notation of which significant trees will be retained and which are proposed to be removed.

b. If existing trees that are less than six inches diameter breast height are to be counted as supplemental trees, the location, genus, common name, and size of such tree.

c. Compliance with the following objectives:

i. Trees shall be incorporated as a site amenity with strong emphasis on tree protection. To the extent possible, forested sites should retain their forested look, value, and function after development.

ii. Trees should be preserved as vegetated islands and stands rather than as individual, isolated trees scattered throughout the site.

iii. Trees to be preserved shall be healthy and wind-firm as identified by a qualified arborist.

iv. Preservation of significant trees as follows:

1. Significant trees which form a continuous canopy.

2. Significant trees located adjacent to critical areas and their associated buffers.

3. Significant trees located within the first 15 feet adjacent to a property line.

4. Significant trees which will be used as part of a low impact development (LID) storm water facility.

5. Significant trees over sixty (60) feet in height or greater than twenty-four (24) inches diameter breast height.

c. For lots larger than 20,000 square feet, excluding lots within the shoreline jurisdiction as defined by MMC 16.66.050, the tree density ratio shall be achieved as follows:

i. At least 20 percent of the required significant trees as determined by MMC 16.52.090 shall be retained equally within the site perimeter as follows:

1. 10 percent within the first 15-feet of the front property line.

2.10 percent within the first 15-feet of the rear property line.

- ii. At least 20 percent of the required significant trees as determined by MMC 16.52.090 shall be retained within the site interior.
 - iii. In the event there are not enough existing significant trees to meet the requirements of this section, the applicant shall work with the city arborist to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, tree retention occurs throughout the site and is not concentrated in one area (e.g., only along the back property line).
- e. Compliance with the required tree density ratio pursuant to MMC Table 16.52.090(B).
 - f. If applicable, a list of supplemental trees to be planted consistent with the requirements of this chapter.
 - g. If right-of-way trees are proposed for removal, an analysis of the tree mitigation and a list of replacement trees to be planted.
 - h. The list of required tree plantings shall include the size, genus, species and common names.
 - i. As applicable, a proposed landscaping plan that includes the required tree plantings and other vegetation being planted, as appropriate, for determining compliance with other provisions of the Medina Municipal Code (i.e., grading and drainage and shoreline master program regulations).
- B. The director may authorize modifications to the tree preservation plan on a case-by-case basis that reduce submittal requirements if the director concludes such information to be unnecessary.
- C. The director may require additional information to be included with the tree preservation plan, such as tree protection measures, where the director concludes the information is necessary to determine compliance with this chapter.
- D. The applicant may combine the survey, site plan drawing, and/or tree preservation plan into a single document, or may combine the required information with other documents, provided the city determines the submitted information is reasonably easy to understand. All plans shall be drawn to a scale acceptable by the director.
- E. Permits not involving land under development do not require a tree preservation plan. However, this shall not preclude the director from requiring such information as necessary to determine compliance with this chapter.

16.52.180 Fee-in-lieu of supplemental plantings.

- A. The director or designee may authorize payment of a fee-in-lieu provided:
- 1. There is insufficient area on the lot or adjacent right-of-way to meet the number of replacement inches prescribed by MMC 16.52.090; or
 - 2. Tree replacement provided within public right-of-way or a city park in the vicinity will be of greater benefit to the community.

3. Fees shall be provided in lieu of on-site tree replacement based upon the following:
 - a. The expected tree replacement cost including labor, materials, and maintenance for each replacement tree; and
 - b. The most current Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers Guide for Plant Appraisal.
5. The applicant executes a written agreement with the City demonstrating compliance with the criteria in this section.

16.52.190 Tree protection measures during construction.

A. Tree protection measures shall be implemented and maintained before and during all construction activities to ensure the preservation of significant trees that are planned to be retained. Tree protection measures shall be shown on grading and drainage plans, tree protection plans, and construction mitigation plans.

B. Tree protection measures shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Establish tree protection zones and install protective fencing at the drip line or other barriers that are at least four feet in height, except where tree protection zones are remote from areas of land disturbance, and where approved by the director, alternative forms of tree protection may be used in lieu of tree protective fencing; provided, that the critical root zones of protected trees or stands of trees are clearly delineated and protected;
2. Limit grading levels around subject trees to not raise or lower grades within the larger of the following areas:
 - a. The drip line area of the tree; or
 - b. An area around the tree equal to one foot in diameter for each inch of tree diameter measured at DBH;
3. Installation of a tree well, but only where necessary and only with pre-approval of the city;
4. Designation of areas on site for parking, material and equipment storage, construction ingress and egress, and similar designated areas that do not negatively impact significant trees;
5. Locate trenches for utilities that minimize negative effects on the tree root structure with provisions for filling the trenches with a suitable growing medium in the vicinity of the trees;
6. Employ measures to protect critical root systems from smothering and compaction;
7. Implement a tree care program during construction to include watering, fertilizing, pruning and pest control; and
8. Measures for the disposal of potentially harmful items such as excess concrete, polluted water runoff, and other toxic materials.

C. The director may approve deviations to the tree protection measures set forth in subsection (B) of this section if the director determines that the deviation will provide equal or better tree protection than the required tree protection measure.

16.52.200 City tree removals.

A. This section sets forth the requirements applicable to all trees located on city-owned property and city rights-of-way.

B. General Provisions.

1. This section is intended to be of general application for the benefit of the public at large; it is not intended for the particular benefit of any individual person or group of persons other than the general public;
2. In addition to the limits set forth in MMC 16.52.020, no city tree shall be broken, injured, mutilated, killed, destroyed, pruned or removed unless authorized by the provisions of this section; and
3. The exemptions in MMC 16.52.040 apply to this section.

C. Pruning and trimming of city trees is permitted provided ANSI standards in their most recent form are followed and the trimming and pruning comply with the requirements for tree activity permits set forth in MMC 16.52.160.

D. Removal of a city tree located within an open or closed city right-of-way may be allowed for the following:

1. Hazard trees designated pursuant to MMC 16.52.120;
2. Nuisance trees designated pursuant to MMC 16.52.130;
3. Trees not suitable under utility lines, or in the city right-of-way, as prescribed in the “City of Medina List of Suitable Tree Species”;
4. Any tree having less than a 10-inch diameter breast height size; and any trees not included on the “City of Medina Suitable Tree Species List” for the right-of-way having less than a 36-inch diameter breast height size;
5. Trees where pruning and trimming for utilities caused significant defects to the primary stem of the tree resulting in significant abnormal growth;
6. Trees where removal is necessary to allow vehicle access to a property;
7. Trees where removal is necessary to restore a view significantly obstructed by the tree provided all of the following criteria are satisfied:
 - a. The owner of the adjoining property to the subject tree and the city both accept allowance to have the tree removed;

b. The person claiming the view obstruction establishes the tree causes an unreasonable view obstruction using the provisions established in MMC 14.08.040 through 14.08.080; and

c. The approval of a nonadministrative right-of-way activity permit is obtained pursuant to MMC 16.72.090.

E. Where subsection (D) of this section allows removal of a city tree, the following shall apply:

1. Removal of city trees, including hazard and nuisance trees, is permitted only if replacement trees are planted in accordance with the requirements in Table 16.52.200(E)(1), except as allowed otherwise by this section;

Table 16.52.200(E)(1) Replacement City Trees

	Diameter Breast Height of Removed Tree	Significant/Nonsignificant Tree Species	Tree Replacement
Each Tree (Include Nuisance Trees)	Less than 6 inches	All	None
	6 to 10 inches	All	Plant one tree
	Greater than 10 inches, but less than 24 inches	Nonsignificant	Plant one tree
		Significant	Plant two trees
	24 inches and larger	Nonsignificant	Plant two trees
Significant		Plant three trees	
Each Hazard Tree	6 to 10 inches	All	None
	Greater than 10 inches	All	Plant one tree

2. Replacement trees shall meet the following standards:

a. To be eligible as a replacement tree, the tree species must be selected from the appropriate list in the “City of Medina List of Suitable Tree Species” established in MMC 16.52.060;

b. Replacement trees shall be planted within the city right-of-way adjoining the subject lot;

c. Each replacement tree shall have a minimum caliper of two inches or, if the tree is coniferous, it shall have a minimum height of six feet at the time of final inspection by the city;

d. Replacement trees shall be planted in a manner of proper spacing and lighting that allows them to grow to maturity;

e. At least one replacement city tree shall be of the same plant division (coniferous or deciduous) as the city tree removed;

f. Approval to remove a city tree shall include conditions to make certain that replacement trees remain healthy and viable for at least five years after inspection by the city, including measures to replace those replacement trees that do not remain healthy and viable;

3. In addition to the requirement for replacement trees in subsections (E)(1) and (2) of this section, the public benefits lost due to the removal of the city tree shall be mitigated by paying a contribution to the Medina tree fund in accordance with the following:

a. The contribution shall be determined by multiplying the diameter breast height inches of the tree removed (significant and nonsignificant tree species) by a rate of \$25.00;

b. Where more than one city tree is removed, the contribution for each removed tree shall be added together to produce the total payment to the Medina tree fund;

c. The contribution rate for a city tree designated a hazard pursuant to MMC 20.52.120 is zero;

d. If removal of the city tree was not authorized by the city at the time of its removal, the contribution rates shall triple and be in addition to any other penalties that might apply;

e. Unless a city tree qualifies for the emergency exemption pursuant to MMC 16.52.040(B), city trees removed before a hazard or nuisance determination is made by the city shall be presumed not to be a hazard or a nuisance.

F. The following planting requirements apply within the city right-of-way when a city tree is removed:

1. The maximum number of trees in the city right-of-way shall be one tree for each 17 feet of linear public street frontage, or one tree for each 300 square feet of plantable area within the city right-of-way, whichever is greater, adjoining the subject lot;

2. The director may increase the maximum number of city trees prescribed in subsection (F)(1) of this section, provided there is sufficient space in the city right-of-way adjoining the lot to accommodate the increase in city trees;

3. If the tree replacement requirements prescribed in subsection (E) of this section would result in the total number of city trees in the right-of-way to exceed the maximum prescribed in subsection (F)(1) or (2) of this section, an applicant shall contribute \$290.00 to the Medina tree fund for each replacement tree above the maximum in lieu of planting replacement trees above the maximum;

4. If the tree replacement requirements prescribed in subsection (E) of this section would result in the total number of city trees in the right-of-way to be below the maximum prescribed in subsection (F)(1) or (2) of this section, an applicant may plant additional trees in the right-of-way, subject to the limits in subsection (F)(1) or (2) of this section, and reduce contributions to the Medina tree fund by:

- a. Six hundred dollars for each coniferous tree planted;
- b. Five hundred dollars for each deciduous tree planted; and

5. New trees shall not be planted within three feet of the edge of any paved roadway.

G. The requirements of this section may be used to satisfy the requirements set forth in MMC 16.52.210.

H. Where a proposal includes application of this section and application of MMC 16.52.090 and/or 16.52.100, the requirements for supplemental trees and restoration trees shall be applied independent of the requirements in this section for replacement trees.

16.52.210 Minimum street tree standards.

A. This section shall apply to properties adjoining the following city rights-of-way:

1. Minor arterial and collector street rights-of-way as defined in Chapter 10.08 MMC;
2. NE 8th Street;
3. 82nd Avenue NE between NE 8th Street and NE 12th Street;
4. 84th Avenue NE south of NE 12th Street; and
5. Evergreen Point Road north of 78th Place NE.

B. The following street tree standards shall apply when the lot adjoining the right-of-way is under development pursuant to MMC 16.52.070:

1. There shall be at least one city tree planted for each 300 square feet of plantable area within the city right-of-way adjoining the lot with a minimum of two trees planted; and
2. The new city trees planted shall have a minimum two-inch caliper with coniferous trees also having a minimum height of six feet at the time of final inspection; and
3. The requirements of this subsection may be satisfied with existing trees in the adjoining city right-of-way measured to the centerline; and
4. New city trees shall not be planted within three feet of the edge of any paved roadway; and
5. Trees shall be planted in an informal pattern to create a natural appearance.

C. The following exceptions shall apply:

1. Shrubs, trees and plantings within the required sight line areas at private drives, private lane outlets and street intersections shall not interfere with required sight distances;
2. The director may waive the requirements of this section if the right-of-way to be planted is planned for modification in the Medina capital improvements plan.

16.52.220 Owner responsibility within city rights-of-way.

A. All owners of property adjoining a city right-of-way shall be responsible for maintaining all trees, shrubs, and other landscaping planted in the adjoining right-of-way by the property owner or previous owner of the property, or for which responsibility has been assumed by the owner through a recorded agreement with the city.

B. All owners of the property adjoining a city right-of-way shall ensure the trees, shrubs and landscaping in the right-of-way adjoining their property do not interfere with the free passage of vehicles and pedestrians or cause any risk of danger to the public or property.

C. No hazardous or destructive tree species shall be planted in the city rights-of-way. The city shall maintain a list of suitable trees that are acceptable to be planted in city rights-of-way consistent with MMC 16.52.060.

D. The requirements of this section shall apply equally to the city rights-of-way whether the city's title to the right-of-way was obtained by dedication, condemnation, deed or in any other manner.

E. For the purpose of this chapter, an owner shall be considered adjoining up to the centerline of the city right-of-way.

16.52.230 Liability.

Consistent with MMC 16.10.070, nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed or form the basis for any liability on the part of the city, or its officers, agents, consultants or employees, for any injury or damage resulting from any person's failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter or by reason of or in consequence of any act or omission in connection with the implementation of or enforcement of this chapter.

16.52.240 Other general provisions.

A. Implementation and Costs.

1. All costs associated with trimming and removal of trees shall be the responsibility of the applicant or property owner; and
2. Any tree trimming or removal governed by this chapter shall be performed by a state of Washington licensed tree service contractor, bonded and insured for the liabilities associated with tree removal.

B. Survey. The city may require as a condition of approving a tree removal permit that the applicant obtain a survey by a state of Washington licensed surveyor to determine if the trees described in the application are located on the subject property, or if a tree is located within a city right-of-way.

C. Supplemental Notice. The following shall supplement noticing requirements set forth in MMC 16.80.140(A) when applied to tree activity permits:

1. Notice shall be posted on or near the subject tree or trees in a manner that clearly identifies all trees being considered under the application;

2. The director may approve the use of a variety of reasonable methods to identify trees provided the methods clearly identify all trees being considered under the application; and
3. The director may require additional notices to be posted when, in the opinion of the director, it is determined necessary to provide reasonable notification to the public of a pending application.

D. **Limitations on Occupancy.** A certificate of occupancy shall not be issued until all required tree plantings and landscaping associated with this chapter is complete and receives final approval from the city. Temporary occupancy may be granted pursuant to MMC 16.40.100 before completion of the tree planting and landscaping work provided all of the following criteria are satisfied:

1. The property owner provides a financial guarantee to the city to ensure completion of the tree planting and landscaping;
2. The financial guarantee may take the form of a bond, line of credit, cash deposit, or another form acceptable to the city;
3. The minimum amount of the financial guarantee shall be 150 percent of the estimated cost of landscaping and required tree plantings not completed at the time of the inspection; and
4. Terms of the financial guarantee shall include, but are not limited to, conditions for approving the financial guarantee, a timeframe for the work to be completed, and terms under which the city shall release the financial guarantee.

E. **View and Sunlight Obstructions Caused by Trees.** Pursuant to MMC 14.08.040, unreasonable obstructions of views or sunlight by uncontrolled growth or maintenance of trees may constitute a private nuisance subject to redress as set forth in Chapter 14.08 MMC.