Tree Permit Activity Report
October 2026
By Andy Crossett

TreePlotter Tree Inventory Update: The right-of-way tree inventory is wrapping up, with a final check underway to ensure all ROW trees have been accounted for. The majority of the inventory work will be completed this month, followed by a final review of the administrative information to ensure the records are complete and accurate.

At the end of this report, I've included a summary of two recent arboricultural training courses and how the information relates to tree protection, development review, and public tree management in Medina.

Issued Non-Development Tree Permit Activity Table

Picture #	Permit Type	Address	# Trees Removed	Removed Tree (Size)	Supplemental Required	Description
1	TREE-PERFORMANCE	842 84TH AVE NE	1 Douglas fir, 2 Katsura, 3 Western redcedar, 4&5 Katsura, 6 Plum, 7 Spruce, 8 Pine	12, 12, 10, 6, 6, 12, 6, 18	N/A	Site exceeded minimum tree unit requirements. As a result, no supplemental tree planting required.
2	TREE-PERFORMANCE	8437 NE 10TH ST	1 Norway maple, 1 Japanese cherry	15, 12	N/A	Site exceeded minimum tree unit requirements. As a result, no supplemental tree planting required.
3	TREE-PERFORMANCE	2424 79TH AVE NE	1 Western redcedar, 1 Douglas fir	21, 23	N/A	Site exceeded minimum tree unit requirements. As a result, no supplemental tree planting required.
4	TREE-PERFORMANCE	7665 NE 14TH ST	1 Black Cottonwood	60	N/A	Site exceeded minimum tree unit requirements. As a result, no supplemental tree planting required.

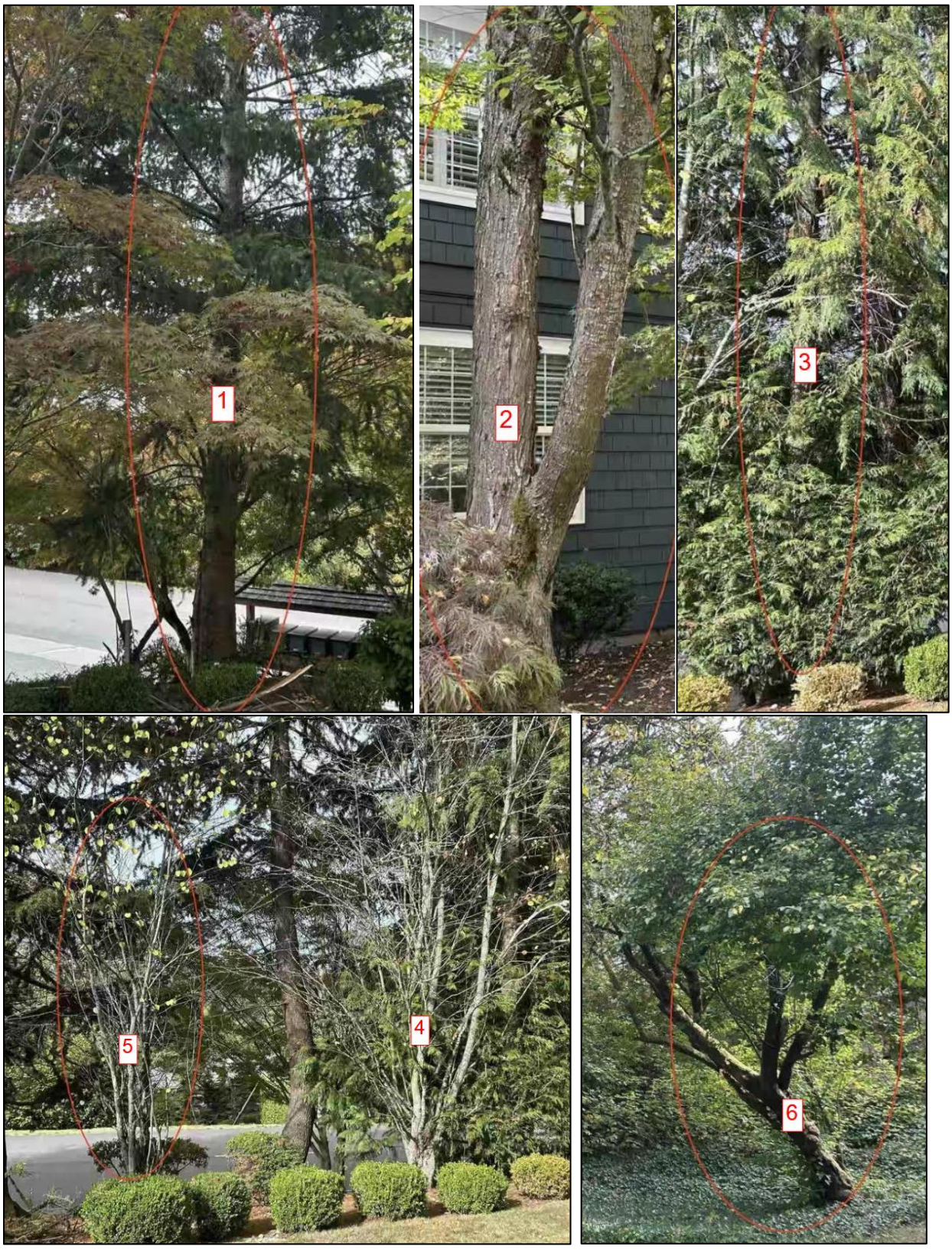
No new development applications or pre-application meetings occurred in September.

Issued Development Tree Permit Activity Table

Picture #	Permit Type	Address	# Trees Removed	Removed Tree (Size)	Supplemental Required	Description
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Photographs

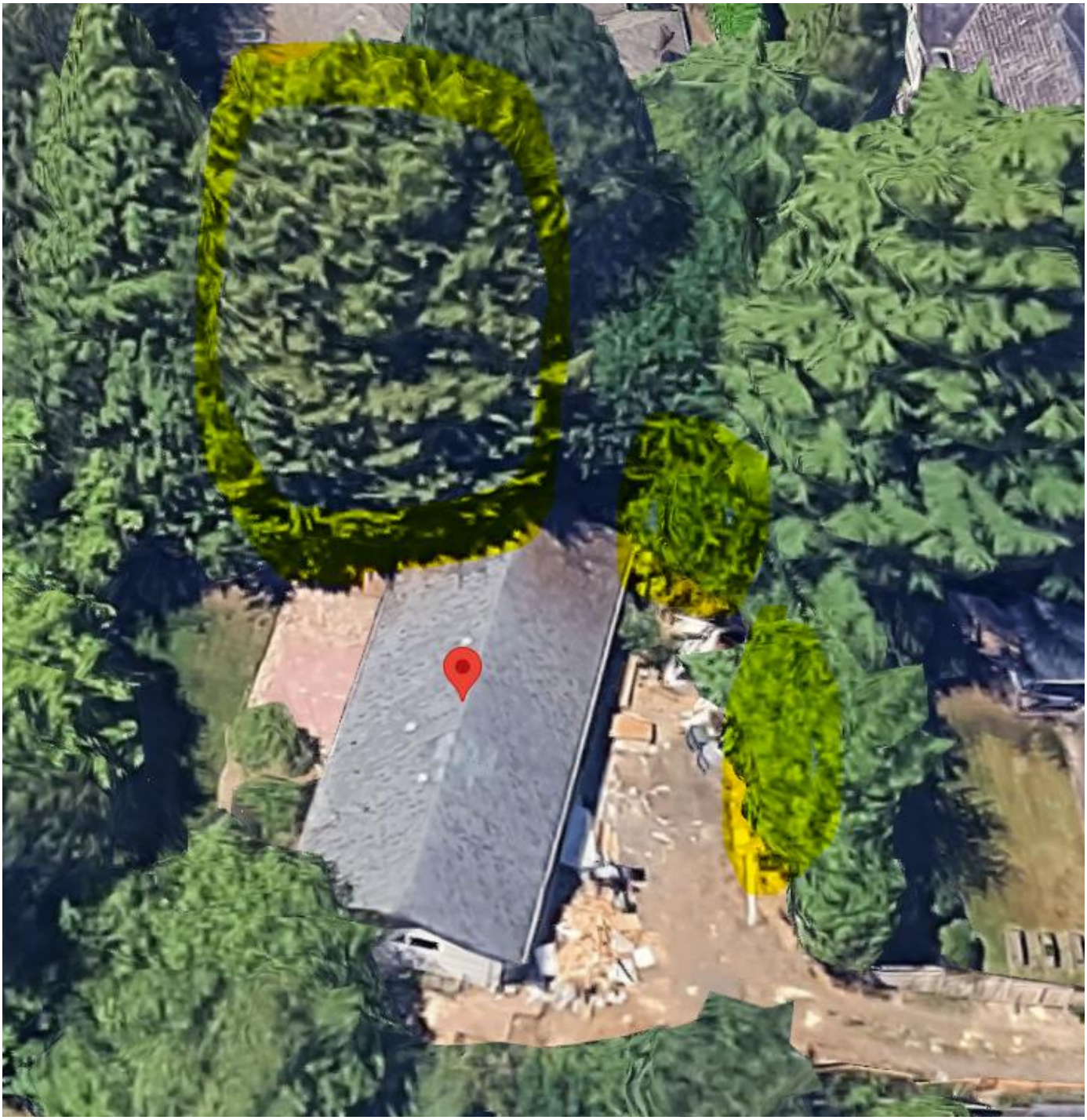
Picture 1. 842 84TH AVE NE: Owner removing trees they believed were unhealthy or too crowded.




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Picture 2. 8437 NE 10TH ST: An ornamental Japanese cherry, a Norway maple (invasive), and a row of non-regulated Leyland cypress trees, all highlighted in the provided photograph, were removed.



Picture 3. 2424 79TH AVE NE: The Western redcedar had roots infiltrating the drainage system, with additional concerns regarding power line clearance and potential impacts to the driveway. The Douglas-fir had a codominant crown, which concerned the resident, along with potential future conflicts with overhead power lines.



Picture 4. 7665 NE 14TH ST: One large cottonwood, highlighted in the provided photograph, was removed due to concerns about tree risk. Cottonwood is not designated as a legacy or landmark tree species under Medina's tree code, regardless of size. This tree was located on the 7665 property, while a second cottonwood with an overlapping canopy was removed from the 7661 property under a separate permit after a portion of that tree failed and fell into a neighboring yard.



Improving Tree Management in Medina

I recently attended two arboricultural training courses that are directly relevant to my work for the City of Medina. The information covered will help support the City's tree protection requirements during development, improve tree risk assessments, and inform management decisions for trees within the public right-of-way.

Trees and Construction: Managing Trees Before, During and After Development

In August, I attended the Trees and Construction: Managing Trees Before, During and After Development course, which focused on the challenges of retaining trees during development and the consulting arborist's role throughout the construction process. The course emphasized the importance of planning tree protection measures before construction begins, including identifying qualified tree removal and pruning contractors, arranging for mulch and other protection materials, and establishing clear procedures for tree removal. This includes specifying whether trees should be felled or dismantled in sections, along with equipment access, staging areas, and material storage locations.

Additional topics included permanent versus adjustable tree protection fencing, accurately surveying tree locations to the center of the trunk, and using alternative construction methods, such as pier foundations rather than conventional continuous footings, to reduce root disturbance. The course also discussed temporary irrigation using IBC water tanks and the use of construction bonds to help ensure compliance with tree protection and replacement requirements. This information is particularly relevant to Medina, where development often occurs on properties with established trees that must be considered during site design and construction. The training reinforced the importance of involving the project arborist early in the design process and establishing clear construction procedures to avoid preventable tree damage.

Common Fungi Affecting PNW Trees & Coastal BC Trees and Their Importance to Tree Risk Assessment

I also attended the Common Fungi Affecting PNW Trees & Coastal BC Trees and Their Importance to Tree Risk Assessment workshop, which covered the identification of common wood decay fungi, their effects on tree health and structure, and their implications for tree risk assessment. One particularly relevant topic was velvet-top fungus (Phaeolus schweinitzii), which has been observed on two separate right-of-way trees during Medina's ongoing tree inventory.

Velvet-top fungus causes Schweinitzii root and butt rot, a disease that gradually decays the structural roots and lower trunk of conifers, particularly Douglas-fir. The fungus is concerning because infected trees can maintain healthy-looking crowns despite significant internal decay. As the wood deteriorates, the tree can lose structural strength and become susceptible to trunk breakage or uprooting during wind events, potentially resulting in catastrophic failure without obvious signs of declining health. The disease can also occur alongside other root pathogens, including Armillaria, which may further compromise tree health and stability.

The workshop reinforced the importance of recognizing fungal fruiting bodies and understanding the associated decay patterns when assessing tree risk. This is particularly relevant to Medina's right-of-way inventory, where identifying structural defects in otherwise healthy-looking trees is an important part of evaluating public safety.