



PROJECT OF THE MONTH – June 2007

Client – Beth Sagli
Location – North Portland

SITUATION

Beth Sagli and her family have created a wonderful garden for themselves in their N Portland yard. But they had some issues with their trees. The Sawara False Cypress in their front yard had been storm battered and was congested with deadwood and broken limbs. Beth had called a year ago asking for an opinion with about their "cedar tree" and had decided to wait for a little while on it. In the back yard, they had a neighbor's very large flowering plum tree lying on their children's play structure and had noted that they had removed plenty of brush a couple years prior. "We love the tree but just need a little space." Finally, a young Japanese maple in the side yard was growing into the fence and lacked direction.



APPROACH

The false cypress was large and had some storm damage near the top where winds or ice had broken over the tops but had not completely broken them out of the tree. They were still attached and growing although they were weak and susceptible to complete breakout if they were allowed to continue to grow. The decision was made to remove them for safety. The tree had also never had any of the deadwood removed from it resulting in a thick, congested appearance. The Before picture above was actually taken during the first portion of the pruning. Arborist Trainee Dan Gould can be seen part way down the tree after removing the broken tops and deadwood from the top section. You can tell the difference removing just the deadwood made in the amount of light that is visible through the tree.

One of the goals was to raise the canopy to create space under the tree for plantings to occur and be tended to. As the canopy and sheer presence of the tree was shared with the neighbor, we consulted him to find out what his preferences were on raising the canopy. He requested a height generally higher than the Saglis. We blended the two heights and came up with an attractive trunk in the bargain.

The flowering plum was pruned by taking branches back to suitable laterals or to the larger stem. We removed water sprouts that had resulted from prior tipping of the branches and sprouts along the main stems from prior pruning cuts. As a result of any pruning to the flowering plum is noted for producing prodigious sprouts and further pruning will be necessary to maintain the open appearance.

The Japanese maple was establishment pruned to develop a structurally sound branch structure and to get branches up and over the neighbor's fence. The resulting tree will have less issues with crossing branches and will not need to be pruned for several more years.

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