

CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION FOR: TOWN ARBORIST

Class specifications are intended to present a descriptive list of the range of typical duties performed by employees in the class. Specifications are not intended to reflect all duties performed within the job, and all duties described are not necessarily performed by all employees in the class.

POSITION SUMMARY

Under the general direction, performs a variety of semi-skilled and skilled tree maintenance work which includes trimming and climbing. Incumbents will use or operate a variety of hand and power tools, climbing equipment, and appropriate motorized equipment.

The Town Arborist will work as a crew member and will supervise and provide work assignments and technical direction for the Urban Forestry employees. Incumbent may work in collaboration with Lead Parks & Maintenance Worker.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The classification is distinguished from the Tree Trimmer/High Climber by the ability to effectively plan and organize Urban Forestry activities and tasks, supervise field employees, assess tree pruning needs and diagnose tree conditions and disease control requirements. In addition, it is distinguished by the ability to effectively assist the Parks Maintenance Supervisor and Superintendent in conducting tree inspections, assessing environmental impact on existing Town trees, and reviewing new tree planting plans related to development.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS STATEMENTS Essential responsibilities and duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Supervises the work of others, is responsible for maintaining department standards.
2. Plan and organize daily work activities for Urban Forestry crews.
3. Plants, transplants, trims, and removes trees of varying heights and configurations. Will utilize climbing equipment or an aerial (bucket) truck to accomplish the work.
4. Removes tree stumps with stump grinder or truck and chain gear.
5. Sets up traffic control devices and directs traffic; takes all necessary precautions to safeguard crew members, the general public and property.
6. Operates a variety of power and motorized equipment, including but not limited to chain saws, brush chipper, stump grinder, tractors, forklifts, dump trucks, aerial truck, air compressor, concrete saw, auger, and high pressure sprayer.
7. Maintains equipment and sharpens tools.
8. Makes recommendations regarding the purchase of arboricultural equipment.

9. Set up traffic cones and direct traffic as required.
10. Applies chemicals to trees and shrubs.
11. Perform surgical cavity work entailing the cleaning and dressing of tree cavities and wounds, does cabling and bracing.
12. Conduct tree inspections.
13. Deals with the public in answering questions and receiving complaints.
14. Maintain basic work records.
15. As necessary, work protracted or irregular hours in the performance of storm patrol and emergency repair work.
16. Evaluates employee performance.
17. Provides input for employee evaluation.
18. Provides input regarding personnel matters.
19. May serve on the Town's Development Review Committee.
20. Performs related duties and responsibilities as required.

REQUIRED EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING Any combination of experience and training that would likely provide the required knowledge, skills and abilities is qualifying.

- Four (4) years of related experience and training in tree maintenance work and high climbing.
- Possession of, or ability to acquire Arborist Certification, within one (1) year of hire, from the International Society of Arboriculture.
- College-level course work in horticulture or Arboriculture may be substituted for up to two (2) years of the desired experience on a year-for-year basis.
- Completion of the twelfth grade or equivalent

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Techniques, tools and equipment used in tree maintenance work.
- Tree species, chemicals and insects.
- Safe work practices.
- General customer service techniques.

Ability to:

- Effectively and safely climb trees and to use tools and equipment.
- Perform heavy physical labor.
- Operate trucks and other appropriate motorized equipment.
- Work in inclement weather.
- Work extended or irregular hours.
- Understand and follow verbal and written instructions.
- Accurately maintain basic record.
- Lift a minimum of 60 pounds.
- Maintain effective working relationships with other Town personnel and with the public.
- Possession of a valid State of California Class B driver's license.

Each of these essential tasks must be performed individually and unassisted by other persons, since this class of employment requires an ability to work alone

DESIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

- Pest control applicator certificate.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Employees must be able to maintain physical condition necessary for sitting, walking, and standing for extended periods of time; some stooping, crawling, crouching, and climbing; maintain concentration and the capability to make sound decisions; maintain effective audio/visual discrimination and perception to the degree necessary for the successful completion of assigned duties.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Field environment; travel from site to site; exposure to noise, dust, grease, smoke, fumes, gases, traffic, and inclement weather conditions.

FLSA:

This position is designated as non-exempt

PROPERTY INTEREST:

This classification is represented by AFSCME

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