

CLASS TITLE: URBAN FORESTER

PURPOSE OF THE CLASSIFICATION: Under direction performs administrative, technical, and supervisory work involving the development, promotion, and direction of the urban forestry program, and other related assigned duties.

ESSENTIAL TASKS:

- Develops and institutes a comprehensive educational program to promote public awareness and interest in preservation of urban forest resources
- Analyzes and evaluates existing federal, state, and local ordinances and regulations involving tree plantings and related maintenance problems and methods, and provides recommendations for changes
- Evaluates trees and/or turf for condition, needs and worth, as required
- Provides written and verbal reports to management regarding work progress, operational concerns, budget, and planning assessments
- Must report to work on a regular and timely basis

For Parks

- Establishes, administers, supervises, and implements a reforestation program, tree pruning, maintenance, and removal contracts and work crews for various City parks
- Presents lectures and talks before civic groups and garden clubs and participates in panels on landscape ordinances and tree campuses
- Inspects field work performed by outside contractors and by staff
- Prepares requests for licensing necessary for chemical application

For Stormwater

- Directs equipment operation, including mowing, grading, hauling, and removal activities
- Formulates response plans and responds to all emergency work projects
- Provides supervision to vegetation management maintenance agencies and work crews, evaluates maintenance contracts for compliance, and writes or edits specifications for new contracts, as needed

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential tasks.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Training and Experience: Completion of sixty (60) hours from an accredited college or university with an emphasis in forestry, urban forestry, horticulture, or a closely related field, and five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in an urban forestry management program including at least one (1) year of supervisory experience; or an equivalent combination of training and experience per Personnel Policies and Procedures, Section 128.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills: Considerable knowledge of the practices, techniques and materials of the urban forestry and/or vegetation management field(s); considerable knowledge of public information program needs; and good knowledge of regulations and ordinances related to urban forest preservation; good knowledge of regional trees plants, and grasses. Ability to develop and promote a comprehensive urban forestry program to meet the needs of the department to which the employee is assigned; and the ability to utilize the highest level of interpersonal skill in order to understand, select, develop, and motivate people at any level within or outside the organization. Skill is utilizing pesticides safely (in some positions); skill in maintaining large numbers of trees utilizing best practices in water, pruning, planting, and removal with accepted techniques (in some positions).

Physical Requirements: Physical requirements include arm and hand steadiness and finger dexterity enough to use a keyboard and telephone; occasional lifting and carrying up to 20 pounds; may be subject to walking, standing, sitting, reaching, bending, kneeling and handling; and vision, speech and hearing sufficient to perform the essential tasks.

Licenses and Certificates: Possession of a valid Oklahoma Class "D" Driver's License; certification as an Arborist from the International Society of Arboriculture (in some positions); certification as an arborist/tree care specialist from the International Society of Arboriculture or the Tree Care Industry Association (some positions); possession of a pesticide applicators license from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture in the ornamental, turf, and aquatic categories (in some positions).

WORKING ENVIRONMENT: Working environment is primarily outdoors and occasionally indoors, and in inclement weather; and may be exposed to the following: hazardous materials, flammable liquids, traffic, excessive dust, weather/temperature extremes, rough terrain, cutting/chipping/grinding, damp/wet surfaces, snow/ice covered surfaces, insect bites, poisonous plants, toxic fumes/vapors/odors, high noises, confined spaces, inadequate lighting, extreme heights and refuse/garbage/litter; requires travel to various locations for tree evaluation, supervision of contractors and crew, presentations, and lectures; and requires occasional evening and/or weekend work.

Class Code 2005
EEO Code: E-01
Pay Code: EX-36

Group: Cultural, Legal and Sciences
Series: Science

Effective date: September 22, 2021