

City of Bellingham

Classification Specification - Civil Service or AFSCME

CLASS TITLE	PARK TECHNICIAN - URBAN FORESTRY
DEPARTMENT	Parks And Recreation
UNION:	114
SG:	10
CS:	Yes
FLSA:	Y
EE04CODE:	SC

NATURE OF WORK:

Works closely with Park Arborist to perform technical tree work and other arboricultural responsibilities. Assists with, as well as performs, aerial tree work including climbing and lift-truck operation. Organizes and sets up climbing and rigging gear, setting up anchors and rigging points, and operates lines and lowering devices. This position oversees the worksheet to ensure the safety of the work crew and the public. Oversees and trains assigned staff in all areas of tree work. Work zones include interface between public and private properties, sometimes under stressful or hazardous conditions such as storm damage. May also work independently.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

This position is distinguished from the Park Technician – Grounds by its highly specialized training and knowledge in the technical care and maintenance of trees and tree systems. This position works with the Park Arborist as a team to perform highly skilled technical tree care activities that regularly require work in hazardous situations with regard to heights, steep slopes, in streets and over private residence. This position is key to the safe daily performance of tree care activities. Must use good judgment to ensure own safety as well that of the Arborist and any others who may enter the work zone.

The Park Technician – Urban Forestry must demonstrate a solid knowledge, understanding, and proficiency in tree work practices. This position evaluates hazardous trees for proper action, performs Tree Risk Assessment, and reviews and comments on developer's Arborist Reports. The climbing and rigging systems, lift trucks, and all related tools and equipment are very different from the knowledge and skills of a Park Technician – Grounds.

SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS:

Reports to the Park Supervisor – Grounds. Receives daily direction from the Park Arborist. Acts as lead worker at times in routine tree care, as well as non-routine tree care, activities. This position is also responsible for training and assigning tasks to crewmembers, which may include: other Park Technicians; Park Workers; and other assigned resources.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

1. Works closely with Park Arborist as a team to carry out technical tree work. Gives input to the Park Arborist in developing the technical work plan. Assists in assessing the site, checking for

- safety hazards, determining equipment and personnel needs for task, and determining the extent of the job. Tasks include: organizing and setting up climbing and rigging gear, setting up anchors and rigging points and operating lines and lowering devices. Oversees the work-site to ensure the safety of the work crew and the public.
2. Supports the Arborist in the program area to meet the goals of the program.
 3. Performs tree work including climbing with rope and saddle, climbing with spurs and flipline as well as aerial lifts. This includes the operation of chainsaws and rigging systems in aerial situations as well as on the ground. Performs work on the ground including tree felling, bucking, and chipping limbs.
 4. Conducts daily visual inspection and maintains all assigned equipment.
 5. Assists in inspecting and monitoring trees and forest stands for safety concerns and maintenance needs using written and GIS-generated plans, maps and Tree Risk Assessment documents, and both public and private drawings.
 6. Operates a wide variety of equipment such as trucks, brush chippers, tractor/loaders, chainsaws, blowers and trimmers, as well as other power equipment and hand tools. Operates large dump trucks with large brush chipper in tow. Repairs and maintains chainsaws and other equipment used in the Urban Forestry program and housed at Park Operations.
 7. Works in the street tree program pruning, planting and removing trees. Includes setting up traffic control, using aerial lifts and working in the street. Works independently or with a crew in other areas of the Parks system to perform horticulture tasks such as pruning, planting, tree removals and related maintenance.
 8. Answers questions and concerns from the public and from staff in other program areas.
 9. Assists the Arborist in maintaining the inventory of work and assets by documentation, mapping, in-field survey and data entry. Works to establish, monitor and document Park Land Boundary. Documents encroachments.
 10. Trains and leads the work of other park technician, park workers and seasonal employees in tree care practices including felling; pruning; and, operation of lifting and lowering devices, chainsaws, aerial lift and chipper.
 11. Works to re-vegetate sites including site prep, planting and follow up care. May include removal of existing vegetation; grading and digging by hand or with equipment; planting, pruning and weeding new plantings.
 12. Applies pesticides in accordance to City, state and federal regulations under the direction of the Park Specialist.

ADDITIONAL WORK PERFORMED:

1. Performs related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- Solid knowledge, understanding and proficiency in tree work practices; climbing and rigging systems; lift-trucks; and, all related tools and equipment.
- Skills and knowledge in most phases of tree work.
- Skills and knowledge in native plant communities.
- Skills and knowledge in tree and shrub care.
- Skills and knowledge in aerial tree work including rope/saddle and spur climbing.
- Skills and knowledge in the dynamics of rigging systems including set up and operation in a wide variety of applications.
- Demonstrate Tree Risk Assessment skills

- Skills and knowledge of safe and efficient operation of tractors, loaders and other grounds equipment.
- Knowledge of computer operation including word processing and data handling programs.

Skills:

- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Leadership and team skills including problem solving, inter-personal skills, adaptability/flexibility and time management.
- Good judgment, assertiveness, courtesy and tact necessary to work effectively with diverse groups of people including the general public, other City employees and personnel from other agencies.

Ability To:

- Ability to approach, defuse and resolve confrontations.
- Ability to understand and adhere to City and Parks Operations Division Policies.
- Ability and willingness to follow directions and to perform assigned work independently with minimal supervision.
- Ability to perform routine, repetitive activities and to maintain focus on safe work practices.
- Ability and willingness to work out of doors, year round, in all types of weather conditions.
- Willingness to pursue ongoing training to improve knowledge and skills.
- Willingness to adhere to provisions of the team agreements for the Parks Operations Division.
- Maintain consistent and punctual attendance
- Ability and willingness to demonstrate the Public Service Competencies of Service Orientation, Results Orientation, and Teamwork and Cooperation
- Physical abilities to perform required duties of the position including:
 - the flexibility, balance and agility required to frequently working at heights of at least 150 feet;
 - frequent lifting of up to 50 lbs. and occasional lifting of up to 100 lbs. with assistance.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT:

Majority of work is performed outdoors, in all weather conditions, performing technical tree work and assessing tree hazards and other situations in the City's areas of responsibility. Environment creates potentially hazardous conditions, including working at considerable heights with chainsaws and rigging and working in traffic zones Works in natural areas, developed park sites, as well as in urban streetscapes. Some documentation and equipment maintenance work is performed in an indoor setting.

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

- Two years of experience in professional tree care including pruning, felling, removals, and using lowering systems.
- Two years of experience in climbing techniques and rigging systems.
- Two years Tree Risk Assessment experience.
- Successful completion of coursework relative to arboriculture may substitute for one year of required experience.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

- Valid Washington State driver's license and good driving record. A three-year driving abstract must be submitted prior to hire.
- Must secure and maintain an I.S.A. Certified Arborist Certification within 24 months of hire.
- Ability to secure within twelve months of hire and maintain a Washington State Pesticide License.
- Ability to secure a Commercial Driver's License within six months of hire and to maintain a valid CDL during length of employment (as required).
- Ability to achieve TRAQ or (have similar knowledge) within 36 months of hire.
- Ability to secure and maintain a Flagging Certification within six months of hire.
- Ability to secure and maintain a valid First Aid and CPR certification within six months of hire.
- Must pass a pre-employment drug test prior to hire.
- Must be willing and able to respond to emergency call-out.

PREPARED BY: J. Luce
S. Nordeen
L. Hill
10/04

S. Nordeen
01/15

REVIEWED BY: _____
James King
Parks and Recreation Director

COMMISSION ADOPTION: _____ February 11, 2015