

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION

CLASS TITLE: PARK ARBORIST

UNION:114

DEPARTMENT: Parks And Recreation\Operations Division

SG:12

CS:Y

FLSA:Y

EEO4CODE:SC

NATURE OF WORK:

Plans, schedules, implements, monitors, and evaluates work for trees and forest stands in City parks, public spaces, open space areas and right-of-way areas. Provides tree hazard assessments, makes recommendations for forest stand management, removals and plantings. Includes a variety of specialized techniques and equipment for climbing and rigging. Other duties include performing routine maintenance on equipment; training and leading subordinates to assist with tree care. Coordinates activities with other sections of the Parks Department, other City departments as well as developers and contractors. Represents the City as a consulting Arborist for City departments, providing a professional opinion and written reports on City tree issues.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

This is a professional position that performs technical work within the City's urban forest. This position is distinguished from the Park Technician – Urban Forestry by its responsibility for the Urban Forestry program area, to include monitoring, evaluating, scheduling, and implement work in that program. Requires an in depth knowledge and understanding of trees, tree care, tree problems as they relate to the urban environment as well as less managed ecosystems. The specialized nature of this work requires a high level of mental and physical proficiency to perform technical tree work, including aerial work. Is proficient in multiple aerial techniques for ascent, descent and rigging including, rope and saddle, spurs and flip line, aerial lifts and all the associated equipment, gear and tools. Acts as the divisional technical resource for hazard tree evaluation, forest stands, and technical tree care procedures as well as a technical resource for tree and urban forest issues for other City departments as well as community interest. Able to perform aerial rescue.

SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS:

Reports to the Parks Grounds Maintenance Manager. Works in other areas as assigned. Leads Park Technicians, Park Worker, seasonal employees or other resources as assigned. Works with and monitors the work of outside contractors.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

1. Plans, schedules, implements, monitors, and evaluates work activities involved in managing the City's urban forest. Trains and leads the work of others in tree care practices including lifting and lowering devices, chainsaw operation, aerial lift operation, felling, pruning, and chipping. Completes necessary written and computerized reports for area of assignment. Works with Park Grounds Maintenance Manager to plan and prioritize tree work activities.

2. Represents the City as the consulting Arborist for Parks, Planning, and Public Works, as well as developers and contractors. Reviews plans, provides plans, makes recommendations and monitors implementation in the field. Provides job time and cost estimates. Uses GIS and other mapping/information systems to identify and track urban forestry assets in City controlled areas.
3. Performs technical tree work such as pruning, tree felling, bucking, brush clipping, and tree removals using a variety of ground and aerial techniques and equipment. This includes using rope and saddle and spur and flip line climbing techniques, aerial man lifts, cranes, chainsaws, and rigging systems.
4. Assesses hazard tree concerns, considers the City's potential risk and liability and provides recommendations, including written reports.
5. Assesses tree situations and provides recommendations for actions including plantings, removals and other management practices.
6. Directs the daily activities of the Park Technician – Urban Forestry and other assigned resources.
7. Operates a wide variety of equipment such as trucks, brush clippers, tractors, loaders, chainsaws, blowers, trimmers, as well as other power equipment and hand tools. Operates large dump trucks with large brush chippers in tow. Performs routine maintenance on tree care gear, tools and equipment.
8. Answers questions and concerns from the public and from staff in other program areas.
9. Trains others in tree and shrub care and the care and use of the related equipment.

ADDITIONAL WORK PERFORMED:

1. Performs related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- Knowledge of arboriculture in tree species, characteristic and requirements best maintenance practices, pests and local ecology.
- Working knowledge of horticulture including a wide range of both native and ornamental plants including characteristics and maintenance requirements.
- Working knowledge of soil science.
- Working knowledge of integrated pest management concepts and strategies for best management practices.
- Working knowledge of managed and natural ecosystems.
- Knowledge of arboricultural equipment operation, care and maintenance.
- Knowledge of maintenance management systems.

Skill in:

- Team skills including leadership, problem-solving, interpersonal 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 local agencies.
- Computer skills in word processing, GIS and database applications.

Ability to:

- Ability and knowledge to perform technical aerial tree work including rope and saddle, spurs and flip line as well as aerial lifts.
- Ability to read, understand and work from plans and drawings.
- Ability to approach, diffuse and resolve confrontational situations.
- Ability to understand and follow City policies and procedures.
- Ability and willingness to follow directions and to perform assigned work independently with minimal supervision.
- Ability and willingness to pursue on-going training to improve knowledge and skills and to stay current with developments within the field of arboriculture.
- Ability and willingness to adhere to provisions of the team agreements for the Operations Division.
- Ability and willingness to work outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Ability to perform work with minimal supervision.
- Ability to 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 assigned work including:
 - climbing to heights of at least 150 ft.,
 - frequent independent lifting of 50 lbs.,
 - occasional lifting with assistance of up to 100 lbs.,
 - balance, flexibility, and agility to climb and conduct work in trees,
 - Correctible visual acuity, hearing and manual dexterity sufficient to operate a motor vehicle.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT:

Majority of work is performed out-of-doors, in all weather conditions, performing technical tree work and assessing tree hazards and other situations in the City's areas of responsibility. Environment creates potential of hazardous conditions, including working at considerable heights with chain saws and rigging. Must work in natural areas, developed park sites, as well as in the urban streetscape. Some work will be performed in an indoor setting while performing documentation of work and some equipment maintenance. Responds to emergency call-out at all hours.

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

- Four or more years of recent experience in technical arboriculture including technical tree removals and pruning, rope and saddle, spurs and flip line, aerial lifts, rigging and related tools and equipment.
- Successful completion of one year of coursework relative to arboriculture may be substituted for one year of required experience.
- Four or more years of recent (within the last 10 years) experience as an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist participating in the planning and execution of arboriculture in significant rural or urban environments including hazard tree assessment and written reports.

- Must have and maintain International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist certification.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Employment contingent upon passing a criminal convictions check, child and adult abuse records check and local background check.
- Valid Washington State driver's license by time of hire and good driving record. A three-year driving abstract must be submitted prior to hire, with periodic submission of driving abstract per City policy.
- Ability to secure a Commercial Driver's License within six months of hire and to maintain a valid CDL during length of employment.
- Ability to secure a Washington State Pesticide License within 12 months of hire.
- Ability to secure a valid flagging certification within 6 months of hire.
- Ability to secure a valid First Aid and CPR certification within 6 months of hire.
- Ability to secure Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) Certification within 12 months of hire.

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REVIEWED BY: _____
Leslie Bryson, Director
Parks and Recreation

COMMISSION ADOPTION: _____ June 12, 2019