

City of Bellingham  
**Classification Specification - Civil Service or AFSCME**

CLASS TITLE	Park Technician - Grounds
DEPARTMENT	Parks And Recreation\Operations Division
UNION:	114
SG:	10
CS:	Yes
FLSA:	Y
EE04CODE:	SC

**NATURE OF WORK:**

Performs a variety of skilled technical duties associated with maintenance, improvements and construction of Park and other public facilities. Coordinates work of peers and subordinate personnel, as assigned. Assists Park Specialist to meet program goals and objectives.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

This position works within a program area under the Park Specialist as assigned. May be assigned to work in any program areas with Parks Operations Grounds division. This includes Turf/Irrigation, Horticulture, and Natural Resources program areas. In each assignment this position is responsible to help carry out the assigned work plans with general supervision and direction from the Specialist. Provides Specialist with input on designs and how to best implement plans. Operates independently using experience and good judgement to carry out work plans and tasks to meet goals within established parameters. This involves prioritizing and guiding the work of subordinate personnel and recording project completion information. Operation of backhoes, tractors, loaders, trucks, and other specialized equipment and tractor attachments is a key role of this class.

The specific duties, equipment and tools will vary depending on which of the program areas the Technician is assigned.

**SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS:**

Reports to an assigned Park Specialist. Acts as lead worker at times in both routine maintenance as well as non-routine projects. This position is also responsible for training and directing assigned staff, which may include Park Technicians, Park Workers, and other assigned resources. Provides input to the Specialist for performance evaluations of assigned seasonal employees.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:**

1. Supports the Specialists in the program area to meet the goals of the program area by providing input on designs and how to best implement work plans and schedules.
2. Carries out work plans with minimal supervision providing input on maintenance practices as well as new construction and renovation.

3. Manages and adjusts daily work schedule of assigned activities to meet demands, usage, ground conditions and availability of equipment. Coordinates with the work activities of others.
4. Inspects and monitors assigned areas for safety concerns and maintenance needs.
5. Leads the work of Park Workers, seasonal employees and other resources as assigned.
6. Operates backhoes and excavating equipment for a variety of tasks including excavations exposing underground utilities such as gas, water, electrical and fiber optic.
7. Operates a variety of tractors and specialized attachments for technical work within Turf/Irrigation, Horticulture and Natural Resources programs.
8. Operates a wide variety of equipment such as brush mowers, compressors and attachments, chainsaws, blowers, trimmers, mowers, as well as other power equipment and hand tools.
9. Assists the Specialist in maintaining the inventory of assets by documentation and mapping.
10. Trouble shoots, repairs, maintains, and installs irrigation and drainage systems including work on piping, valves, wiring and programming of automatic controllers.
11. Trains and leads the work of the Horticulture, Mowing or Natural Resources crew and other assigned resources.
12. Works independently or with a crew to perform horticulture tasks such as pruning, weeding, mulching, planting layout, and planting.
13. Works in the street tree program pruning, planting and removing trees. Involves traffic control, use of aerial lifts and working in the street environment.
14. Constructs trails and trail structures including sub grades, surfacing, drainage, bridges, handrails, fencing bollards, elevated walks, steps, retaining walls, signage and re-vegetation.
15. Works from plans, maps and drawings using a variety of tools such as laser levels to build and reconstruct areas of trails, turf features, drainage, irrigation and horticulture installation.
16. Works to establish, monitor and document Park Land Boundaries and documents encroachments and invasive weed locations.
17. Implements regularly scheduled maintenance activities such as mowing, seeding, aerification, top dressing, fertilization, pruning, planting, debris removal, ditching, trailside maintenance and other maintenance tasks.
18. Operates a variety of automotive style equipment such as dump trucks, flatbeds and pickup trucks, trailers (as assigned).

19. Applies pesticides in accordance to City, state and federal regulations under the direction of the Park Specialist.

**ADDITIONAL WORK PERFORMED:**

1. Performs related duties within the scope of the classification as assigned.

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:**

- Skills and knowledge in most phases of grounds care and horticulture.
- A working knowledge of managed and natural ecosystems.
- A working knowledge of horticulture including a wide range of both native and ornamental plants including characteristics and maintenance requirements.
- Skills and knowledge of irrigation and drainage systems operation, care, repairs and installation.
- Skills and knowledge of safe and efficient operation of backhoes, tractors with a variety of implements, and other grounds equipment.
- Skill in planning, assigning and scheduling the work activity of assigned crews.
- Supervisory skills including leadership, problem-solving, interpersonal sensitivity, adaptability/ flexibility and time management.
- Strong oral communication skills, good judgement, 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.
- Ability to understand and adhere to City and Parks Policies.
- Knowledge of computer operation including word processing and data handling programs.
- Ability and willingness to follow oral and written instructions.
- Ability to perform assigned work independently with minimal supervision, or as part of a team.
- Ability to perform routine, repetitive activities.
- Ability to document incidents and prepare written reports.
- 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 Operations Division.
- Ability and willingness to demonstrate the Public Service Competencies of Service Orientation, Results Orientation, and Teamwork and Cooperation.
- Physical abilities to perform assigned work:
  - Adequate hearing, correctable vision, manual dexterity to operate hand tools and power equipment safely in a noisy work environment.
  - Ability to perform heavy physical labor and occasionally lift and carry equipment and materials of up to 50 lbs.; heavier items of approximately 50-100 lbs. are lifted on a rare basis utilizing proper body mechanics, assistance and mechanized equipment.

**WORKING ENVIRONMENT:**

Most work is performed out-of-doors in all weather conditions. Hazardous conditions exist around machinery and uneven ground. Some hazardous conditions exist when required to handle and apply pesticides.

**EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:**

- Two years experience in professional grounds care.
- Successful completion of coursework relative to horticulture/turf/grounds care may substitute for one year of required experience.

**NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- Valid Washington State driver's license by time of hire and proof of good driving record. A three-year driving abstract must be submitted prior to hire.
- 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).
- Must pass a pre-employment drug/alcohol test prior to hire (as required).
- Ability to secure within twelve months of hire and maintain a Washington State Pesticide License.
- Ability to secure within twelve months of hire and maintain a Flagging Certification.
- Ability to secure and maintain a valid First Aid and CPR certification.

**PREPARED BY:** John Ivary  
12/84

**REVIEWED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**COMMISSION ADOPTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ February 13, 2008