

PARKS AND VEGETATION SPECIALIST

JOB PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

Employees in this class perform responsible manual and technical work to maintain and improve plants, shrubs, and ground cover and the irrigation systems connected with them throughout County parks and facilities. Additionally, perform advanced laboring work involving the use of complex equipment and are responsible for the repair, adjustment and maintenance of structures within County parks.

CLASSIFICATION DISTINCTIONS

Work is performed independently and is reviewed by the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor for compliance with pre-established goals and standard procedures. Incumbents work with considerable independence following the standard practices of their trade, insuring that preventative maintenance is performed and urgent repairs are corrected. Where work projects require additional workers, employees in this class are expected to provide lead direction and training to other maintenance workers.

KEY OR TYPICAL TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Conducts an annual review of all plant materials, turf, and shrub beds in assigned areas to establish and prioritize needs.
- Regularly inspects, tests, and calibrates irrigation, water, and sewage systems within assigned areas.
- Designs and/or contributes to the design of irrigation systems to insure standardization of materials and utility of design.
- Follows blueprint specifications, installs and/or makes alterations and repairs to irrigation systems which may include operation of backhoe, rototiller, tractor, and other equipment.
- Determines supplies and equipment required for ongoing activities as well as projects and arrange for availability.
- Maintains and improves turf areas including aeration, thatching, liming, over seeding, and fertilizing.
- Applies knowledge of pesticides and additives in identifying and applying chemicals on weeds, turf, trees, and plants; establishes annual chemical application program.
- Prunes and/or cuts back growth of shrubs, trees, and undergrowth.

- Instructs and leads a small crew of workers in accomplishing any and/or all of the above duties. Includes establishing priorities, monitoring work and providing performance information to the foreman.
- Operates a variety of complex equipment necessary to create, maintain and repair grounds and facilities. Examples of equipment operated include; pickup, ladder truck, backhoe, front-end loader and a variety of mowers and tractors with attachments such as flail, whirley, hole auger, seeder, thatcher, aerator, plow and disc.
- Design, install and maintain structures such as fences, gate barriers, signs, picnic tables, fee booths, storage units, playground equipment and shelters for County parks and green spaces.
- Maintains adequate inventory of supplies, equipment required for ongoing activities and special projects. This includes purchase of plants, stakes, tree ties, lime, seed, fertilizer, building materials, etc.
- Respond to the public's questions, complaints and requests for services in a courteous and helpful manner.
- Defines, develops and performs preventative maintenance programs for all specialty area equipment and systems within County parks
- Installs and repairs all specialty area equipment within County parks.
- Maintains records and work reports on all work performed.
- Obtains competitive price quotes, locates vendors, and purchases supplies necessary to maintain inventory and complete assigned projects.
- Designs, engineers and modifies relevant components of remodel project within County parks.
- Read, understands and utilizes complicated blue prints, schematics and plans.
- Performs other duties as may be assigned and necessary in maintaining the appearance and quality of County grounds.
- Completes various reports and records as may be required.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:

- Four years experience in chemical application, irrigation, plumbing, horticulture, and nursery work;

- OR -

- Washington State Nurseryman Association Incorporated Certificate and pesticide, herbicide, insecticide State license and two years experience;

- OR -

- The equivalent of 45 satisfactorily completed credit hours at a community college, vocational, or trade school in horticulture, irrigation, and chemical application and two years experience.

-OR-

- Two years of general experience in building maintenance, construction, or an additional trade.

-AND-

- A valid motor vehicle operator's license and an intermediate truck and trailer license at time of hire within 30 days of appointment.
- Experience involving parks or grounds maintenance; landscape construction and/or maintenance or any other labor intensive work experience that directly involves the skills required to operate machinery, small tools, power tools, vehicles or equipment.

Knowledge of . . . the care of plant materials, especially shrubs, trees, and ground cover; the principles, techniques, and equipment for irrigation systems; the use of equipment, methods and materials of chemical application including plants; and so forth. Methods, tools and materials used in the assigned trade and in structural maintenance and repair; preventative maintenance procedures; purchasing and bid requirements; occupational hazards and safety precautions associated with the trades.

Ability to . . . maintain and improve turfs, trees, and shrubs; install and repair irrigation systems; use tools and equipment used in irrigation and vegetation control; determine material and supply needs; instruct and lead others in the accomplishment of specified tasks; understand and follow oral and written instructions specifications, blueprints and sketches and in preparation of written reports and schedules; and so forth. View, diagnose and repair a variety of complex equipment within the assigned specialty trade; read construction plans, blue prints, and equipment instruction manuals; demonstrate sufficient strength, agility and dexterity to perform the work of the position; prepare cost estimates and bid specifications; maintain accurate records; safely use and care for tools and equipment.

Office use: 10/03/02
Revised: 10/3/02