

CITY FORESTER

NATURE OF WORK

This is responsible professional, administrative and supervisory work directing the overall operations of the Forestry/Horticulture section in the planning, maintenance, removal and planting of all public trees and public display gardens within the City.

Work involves responsibility for the overall planning, directing and coordinating of a comprehensive urban forestry program and public display gardens program for the City. Work also includes preparing and administering an annual section budget; monitoring the expenditure of a Capital Improvement Program budget; developing and implementing new programs; overseeing ongoing programs; developing grants; drafting new or revised ordinances, municipal standards and specifications pertaining to trees; and recommending equipment purchases and requisitioning necessary supplies. An employee in this class is expected to exercise considerable independent judgment and personal initiative within the framework of departmental policies, rules and regulations. General supervision is received from the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation - Operations with work being reviewed through conferences, reports and appraisal of the overall effectiveness of work performed. Supervision is exercised over subordinate staff assigned to the Forestry/Horticulture section.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Plans, assigns, supervises and evaluates through subordinate supervisors the work of Forestry/Horticulture personnel engaged in planting, maintenance and removal of public trees and display gardens.

Oversees the work of contracted arborists, nurserymen and grounds maintenance professionals involved in planting, maintaining and removing public trees, shrubs and grounds.

Recommends Capital Improvement Program projects and prepares, monitors and directs the expenditure of the annual Forestry section budget.

Advises City departments, other governmental agencies, the Director of Parks and Recreation and the general public on matters pertaining to public and private trees.

Makes presentations to various civic, professional and other related groups on the care and maintenance of trees and shrubs; responds to questions from licensed arborists and the public concerning tree/shrub planting and maintenance; explains City policies and ordinances pertaining to trees.

Enforces City tree ordinances, design standards and municipal specifications; recommends changes to such when necessary through the appropriate approval processes.

Acts as staff resource person for the Community Forestry Advisory Board.

Inspects both public and private trees to determine maintenance or removal work needed.

Submits reports of programs in progress, work completed, and needs for future programs; keeps records necessary to the efficient accomplishment of assigned duties.

Performs related work as required.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Thorough knowledge of professional urban forestry and arboricultural principles and practices, particularly as applied to the planning, planting, care and maintenance of trees.

Thorough knowledge of the methods, materials, and care and use of tools and equipment used in arboricultural and general tree care.

Thorough knowledge of insects and diseases which infest trees, and the composition and use of insecticides, pesticides and fungicides used for their control.

Thorough knowledge of plant biology and the common and botanical names of trees in Nebraska or which may be transplanted in Nebraska.

Thorough knowledge of the occupational hazards of all phases of tree maintenance work and the proper safety precautions necessary to protect employees, the public and property.

Knowledge of supervisory and program administration practices, procedures and techniques.

Ability to determine the presence of tree diseases or harmful insects, to diagnose cause and to determine proper preventive or curative steps for control.

Ability to speak before civic and community groups, and to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

Ability to care for planted trees and other plants and perform duties necessary to their healthy care and establishment.

Ability to plan, assign and coordinate the activities of subordinate personnel and volunteers.

Ability to establish and maintain harmonious relationships with government officials, civic organizations, co-workers and the general public.

DESIRABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with major course work in forestry, urban forestry, forest management resources, horticulture or related field and thorough experience in progressively responsible urban forestry management plus supervisory experience in managing and/or administrating a municipal tree care operation.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with major course work in forestry, urban forestry, forest management resources, horticulture or related field and considerable experience in urban forestry management plus supervisory experience; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the desirable knowledge, abilities and skills.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Possession of a valid driver's license when operating a vehicle is necessary to the satisfactory performance of assigned duties.

Possession and maintenance of a valid City of Lincoln First Class Arborist license *and* a Nebraska Certified Pesticide Applicator's license within six months of appointment.

Certification and maintenance of such certification as an Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture and the Nebraska Arborist Association within twelve months of appointment.

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