

Jurisdiction: City of Ithaca

Jurisdictional Class: Competitive

Adopted: 05/14/90

Revised: 10/15/91, 05/19/97, 4/12/99, 09/15/10, 02/29/12, 09/07/22

CITY FORESTER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for directing, overseeing and supervising all urban forestry activities, and for administering and enforcing the City of Ithaca Shade Tree Ordinance. The incumbent develops, implements and administers City forestry programs in such areas as tree maintenance, tree replacement, tree siting, horticultural assessment, and tree and shrub nurseries. The incumbent also enforces ordinances and regulations governing the planting, maintenance, protection and removal of trees and shrubs on public streets, parks and other City-owned property. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Assistant Superintendent of Public Works, in accordance with the Shade Tree Ordinance and regulations established by the Board of Public Works. Wide leeway is permitted for the exercise of independent professional judgment. Supervision is exercised over staff engaged in forestry activities. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Plans, develops, implements and oversees tree and shrub maintenance programs, including the determination of needs and establishment of priorities;
- Plans, develops, implements and oversees tree and shrub replacement programs, including the assessment of needs and selection of trees and shrubs for replacement;
- Assesses and develops programs for specialized tree maintenance, including chlorosis treatment and determination of high hazard locations;
- Assesses and selects locations for tree and shrub siting;
- Determines if trees or shrubs on City-owned property are hazardous, and directs removal of hazardous trees or shrubs;
- Establishes, maintains and oversees tree and shrub nurseries;
- Oversees contracted forestry operations, including on-site inspection and supervision of work;
- Reviews requests to plant, spray, fertilize, prune, remove, replace or otherwise disturb trees or shrubs located on City-owned land;
- Issues permits and sets standards for permits granted, for work that could impact trees or shrubs located on City-owned land;
- Reviews requests from private citizens for planting of new street trees, and approves/disapproves such requests;
- Serves as an advisor to the Shade Tree Advisory Committee, Parks Commission, Natural Areas Advisory Committee, Site Plan Review Committee and Board of Public Works and assists in the development of arboricultural and horticultural rules and regulations;
- Educates staff and the public on arboricultural and horticultural practices and issues;
- Directs, supervises and trains staff engaged in forestry activities;
- Prepares a variety of narrative and statistical reports;
- Assists in the preparation of annual departmental budget relating to forestry operations.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the modern principles, practices and techniques of urban forestry; good knowledge of the modern principles, practices and techniques of horticulture; good knowledge of the practices, tools, terminology, equipment and materials used in tree and shrub planting, maintenance and removal; ability to plan and develop forestry and horticultural programs; ability to enforce ordinances and regulations in a firm, yet tactful manner; ability to work effectively with people and establish cooperative working relationships; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to train and supervise staff; ability to successfully work with and serve a diverse local community; sound professional judgment; integrity; initiative and resourcefulness; tact and courtesy; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Possession of a Master's Degree in Forestry, Arboriculture, Horticulture, Plant Science or a closely related field with similar course curriculum, and two (2) years of full-time paid professional or practical experience, or its part-time paid equivalent, in urban forestry or arboriculture; or
- B. Possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry, Arboriculture, Horticulture, Plant Science or a closely related field with similar course curriculum and four (4) years of full-time paid professional or practical experience, or its part-time paid equivalent, in urban forestry or arboriculture; or
- C. Possession of an Associate's Degree in Forestry, Forest Technology, Horticulture, Arboriculture, Plant Science or a closely related field with similar course curriculum and six (6) years of full-time paid professional or practical experience, or its part-time paid equivalent, in urban forestry or arboriculture; or
- D. Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and eight (8) years of full-time paid professional or practical experience, or its part-time paid equivalent, in urban forestry or arboriculture; or
- E. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A), (B), (C) and (D) above.

NOTE: Paid experience as a teacher or instructor in forestry or arboriculture may be credited toward the experiential requirement; provided, however, that such teaching experience must have included workshop, laboratory or field instruction involving the actual planting, growth, maintenance or removal of plants, trees or shrubs.

Note: College degrees must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education and/or U.S. Secretary of Education. If an applicant's degree was awarded by an educational institution outside the United States and its territories, the applicant must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies who provide this service can be found at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm>. Applicants are responsible for payment of the required evaluation fee.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Possession of a valid New York State Class D driver license or a valid driver license equivalent to a New York State Class D driver license at the time of appointment and maintenance of said license for the duration of employment.
- 2. Candidates must obtain a "Certified Arborist" certification issued by the International Society of Arboriculture within twelve (12) months of the date of appointment and must maintain said certification for the duration of employment.