

Jurisdiction: City of Ithaca
Jurisdictional Class: Competitive
Adopted: 01/04/06
Revised: 09/12/07, 09/15/10, 01/10/18, 09/07/22

FORESTRY TECHNICIAN

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for performing a variety of technical and administrative urban forestry tasks to support management and field operations activities in the Parks and Forestry Section of the Department of Public Works. The work is performed under the general supervision of the City Forester with latitude given for the exercise of independent judgment in the performance of the work. While some work is performed in an office environment, most is performed outdoors, in all weather conditions. Forestry Technicians may be required to respond to emergencies at night and on weekends. Supervision may be exercised over the work of Citizen Pruners, other volunteers, and seasonal interns in daily activities. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Collects data, prepares cost estimates, and develops specifications for tree maintenance, planting, removal, and pest control, and inspects and monitors contractors' work;
Recommends payment of contractor, documenting inferior work when necessary;
Reviews requests for emergency work on public trees, inspects site and recommends actions to be taken;
Inspects and monitors reconstruction projects as they relate to preserving existing trees or planting new ones;
Assesses damage to city-owned trees occurring during construction operations and motor vehicle accidents; prepares documentation and follows case until resolution;
Reviews work requests and recommends actions to the City Forester regarding removal, planting or trimming trees in City owned or maintained property;
Identifies limitations on planting of new trees, such as the location of sidewalks, property lines, and underground and surface utilities;
Inspects existing City-maintained trees and collects data on their location, species, health and structural condition;
Maintains automated database for City-maintained trees, updating files as changes in tree conditions occur and work is performed;
Responds to questions and complaints, via phone or in person, from the public, contractors, and other City offices, regarding proposed or ongoing forestry projects;
Inspects parks and natural areas for invasive species;
Assists in the application of pesticides to control invasive or problematic plant species;
Coordinates and facilitates volunteers groups, such as the Citizen Pruners Program;
Assesses and inspects trail systems and recommends maintenance or improvements;
Assists in the preparation materials for grant applications, grant reporting and program award applications;
Prunes trees for structure and clearance using hand tools;
Keeps current with advances in urban forestry by reading various relevant publications.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of the principles and practices of arboricultural and urban forestry including the planting, growth, maintenance, transplant, pruning and protection of trees in an urban or residential environment; good knowledge of tree species commonly planted in cities and parks, including growth habits, hardness of wood, susceptibility to pests, decay, disease, and maintenance needs; good knowledge of the practices, tools, terminology, equipment and materials used in tree and shrub planting; good knowledge of how to safely perform forestry work in the public right-of-way and near power lines, homes, buildings, etc.; good knowledge of the principles of integrated pest management, including applicable regulations related to pesticide use; good knowledge of tree preservation techniques in construction work zones; ability to select appropriate tree species and planting methods for various needs and locations; ability to develop cost estimates for planting and maintenance of trees; ability to communicate effectively with technical, supervisory and skilled laboring personnel, as well as with the public, both orally and in writing; ability to write clearly, in order to write brief reports, complete forms and keep written records; ability to read and interpret a variety of maps, plans, contracts and technical documents; ability to use and access the

Full Performance Knowledges, Skills, Abilities, Personal Characteristics – continued:

division's automated tree inventory and information system; ability to successfully work with and serve a diverse local community; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Possession of a Master's degree in Forestry, Horticulture, Plant Science or a closely related field with similar course curriculum; or
- B. Possession of a Bachelor's degree in Forestry, Horticulture, Plant Science or a closely related field with similar course curriculum and two (2) years of full-time paid experience, or its part-time and/or volunteer equivalent, identifying tree disease, insect infestation or other tree maintenance needs, and which shall have included performing maintenance on large trees located in urban or residential areas; or
- C. Possession of an Associate's degree in Forestry, Horticulture, Plant Science or a closely related field with similar course curriculum and four (4) years of full-time paid experience, or its part-time and/or volunteer equivalent, identifying tree disease, insect infestation or other tree maintenance needs, and which shall have included performing maintenance on large trees located in urban or residential areas; or
- D. Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and six (6) years of full-time paid experience, or its part-time and/or volunteer equivalent, identifying tree disease, insect infestation or other tree maintenance needs, and which shall have included performing maintenance on large trees located in urban or residential areas; or
- E. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A) and (B) above.

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.
3. Candidates must obtain a Commercial Pesticide Technician License issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation within twelve (12) months of the date of appointment and must maintain said certification for the duration of employment.