

# GROUNDWORKER - MUNICIPAL

## JOB DESCRIPTION

A groundworker is an entry-level position with a city public works or parks department. Duties include chipping brush, assisting aerial lift operators or climbers, and general site clean-up. Work will most likely include other landscape and non-arboricultural duties such as snow removal.

## TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Many individuals entering at this level have little, if any, background in arboricultural or landscape care.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Individuals must be able to perform physical labor outdoors in any weather condition. The attainment of a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) will likely be required. A high school diploma is preferred.

## EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- Orientation to the tree care profession
- General work site safety and hazard recognition
- Selection and use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Back injury prevention
- Vehicle safety, safe operation, and safe driving
- Understanding work orders and work plans
- Job briefings
- Emergency procedures
- Electrical hazards training
- Chain saw use and safety
- Chipper use and safety
- Basic knots and rope operation for rigging
- Proper equipment use and maintenance
- Pruning principles and techniques
- Tree identification

## EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- NAA/ISA Video Training Series and Workbook: *Basic Training for Ground Operations in Tree Care*
- ISA ArborMaster Video Series and Workbook: *Chain Saw Use and Safety*
- ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards
- NAA Tailgate Safety Program
- Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- NAA Pocket Guides: *Preventing Falls, Safe Tree Felling, Identifying Hazard Tress, Preventing Struck Bys Preventing Electrocution*
- NAA Video: *Back Injury Prevention*
- NAA Video: *Chipper Use and Safety*
- NAA Video: *Chain Saw Selection and Maintenance*
- Best Management Practice: Pruning
- FANDEX Tree Identification Guide
- Tree Care Specialist Training Program



## CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSES

Commercial Drivers License (CDL) will most likely be required. State Pesticide Applicator License is often required.

## TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Groundworkers usually progress to the position of aerial lift operator, climber, or other more advanced maintenance staff positions with public works or parks departments. Some workers may switch to other areas of tree care such as commercial or utility arboriculture.