

MUNICIPAL ARBORIST/FORESTER

JOB DESCRIPTION

The municipal arborist, or forester, is the individual responsible for the long-term care and management of city trees. Duties include the application of a tree management plan including planting, pruning, and removal programs; budget preparation; and interaction with residents, politicians, and other agencies.

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Individuals entering this position have a tree and plant background, including a four-year degree and experience in a role such as foreperson or supervisor with the city or a private tree care company.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A college degree in forestry, horticulture, or related fields will most likely be required. Individuals will also be required to have 3-5 years of experience in tree and plant care operations and be an ISA Certified Arborist. Proficiency in computer use and operation is highly desired.

EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- Knowledge of personnel rules and management
- Scientific technologies of the industry
- Governmental procedures and policies
- Understanding of OSHA rules and other pertinent laws
- Good communication skills – verbal and written
- Computer skills (word processing, databases, spread sheets)
- Specification preparation
- Ability to read and understand plan drawings
- Knowledge of safe use and proper equipment operation procedures
- Tree identification and diagnosis
- Proper tree selection and planting procedures
- Hazard tree recognition and assessment
- Ability to read and understand a MSDS sheet
- Pruning principals and techniques

CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist; Commercial Drivers License (CDL) likely will be required; State Pesticide Applicator License is often required.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Individuals who choose to move from the position progress to positions of greater management responsibility within the organization such as assistant director or department head. Some individuals may switch to similar positions in other aspects of tree care such as commercial or utility operations.



EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ISA: *Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas*
- ISA: *Arborists' Certification Study Guide*
- ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards
- ANSI A300 Pruning
- ANSI A300 Cabling and Bracing
- Best Management Practice: Pruning
- Best Management Practice: Tree Support Systems
- ISA: *Plant Health Care for Woody Ornamentals*
- ISA: *Guide to Report Writing*
- ISA: *Guide to Plant Appraisal*
- ISA: *Arboriculture and the Law*
- ISA: *Trees and Development*
- *Urban Forestry: Planning and Managing Urban Greenspaces*
- *Urban Soils: Applications and Practices*