

#### 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 management plan including planting, pruning, protecting, and removal programs for public trees and associated vegetation; budget preparation; and interaction with the community (both public and private), politicians, and other agencies. Municipal arborists' activities also encompass forestry, ecology, hydrology, atmospheric science, energy, and stormwater control.

#### 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.



#### EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

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

#### EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *A Consultant Guide to Writing Effective Reports* (ASCA)
- ✓ *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning* (Gilman)
- ✓ *ANSI A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations* (or applicable national standards)
- ✓ *ANSI Z133 Safety Standard for Arboricultural Operations* (or applicable national standard)
- ✓ *Arboriculture and the Law* (Merullo and Valentine)
- ✓ *Arboriculture: Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, Shrubs, and Vines* (Harris et al.)
- ✓ *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* (ISA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practices Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Guide for Plant Appraisal* (CTLA)
- ✓ *Municipal Specialist: Certification Study Guide* (ISA)
- ✓ *The Practical Science of Planting Trees* (Watson and Himelick)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)
- ✓ *Up By Roots: Healthy Soils and Trees in the Built Environment* (Urban)

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

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.

#### CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist<sup>®</sup> credential and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) are required. ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist<sup>®</sup> credential is recommended. State Pesticide Applicator License is often required.

#### TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Individuals who choose to move from this 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.