

Groundworker Municipal Arboriculture

JOB DESCRIPTION

A **GROUNDWORKER** is an entry-level position with 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 background in arboricultural or landscape care.



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EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

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

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *Arborist Equipment: A Guide to the Tools and Equipment of Tree Maintenance and Removal* (Blair)
- ✓ *Arborists' Knots for Climbing and Rigging DVD and Workbook* (ISA)
- ✓ *ArborMaster® Training Video Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Basic Training for Ground Operations in Tree Care DVD and Workbook* (ISA and TCIA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practices Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Chain Saw Safety and Field Maintenance* (Eckert)
- ✓ Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- ✓ *Glossary of Arboricultural Terms 2013 Edition* (ISA)
- ✓ *Introduction to Arboriculture Training Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr)
- ✓ *The ABCs Field Guide to Young and Small Tree Pruning* (Pleninger and Luley)
- ✓ *To Fell A Tree: A Complete Guide to Successful Tree Felling and Woodcutting methods* (Jepson)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

A high school diploma is recommended. A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) may be required.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

CDL is recommended. 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.