

DEFINITION

The work involves arboriculture care and removal/disposal of trees and shrubs in all City parks, boulevards, roadways and other City properties. A variety of skilled arboriculture and horticulture functions are performed under the general supervision of the Forestry Parks Leader or a Lead Hand (Arborist II).

Positions in this class perform working activities involving strenuous physical exertion at various heights during all weather conditions while utilizing the required personal protective equipment. Incumbents must use precaution to ensure the safety of others on public and private property, and must exercise courtesy and tact in the exchange of routine information with other City employees and the general public.

Instructions are received either verbally or in written form and work may be done independently or as a member of a team. Given the nature of work performed, awareness and adherence to health and safety procedures remains a high priority.

TYPICAL DUTIES *

Inspects the condition (performs structural risk assessments) of individual trees to ascertain overall health, identify problems such as disease, insect and fungus infestation, injury, overgrowth, or related conditions and takes appropriate remedial actions such as pruning, surgical repair, etc.

Assesses trees damaged by disease, weather events, drought, age, fire, lightning, collision, vandalism and other factors to determine the appropriate removal strategy. Clear hazardous trees and shrubs from light standards, power lines (adhering to limits of approach), public trails, roadway sight lines, parks, natural areas, or an area within the City.

Remove small to large sized trees in the appropriate manner and disposes of them in accordance with approved practices including the removal of stubs.

Prepares grounds and planting sites for the planting of trees and/or shrubs, plants specimens in the appropriate manner, and applies stakes, braces, guys and similar supports as required. Ensure that the appropriate amount of fertilizer, growth agent, water, etc. is applied during the planting process.

Records arboriculture data, fertilizer application data, tree and shrub inventory, and prepares written reports and performs related administrative tasks as required.

Operates and performs minor maintenance on arboriculture equipment such as power saws, augers, water pumps, stump cutters, chippers, fertilizer drills and various hand tools.

Drives trailer trucks, water trucks, aerial towers, cranes, trenchers, tree spades, ropes & braces and tractors/loaders with a variety of attachments.

May perform grounds and turf repair by sodding, seeding, fertilizing and watering grass.

Performs related duties as required.

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KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Working knowledge of municipal park operations and City of Edmonton, Forestry Operations Hazard Assessments & Controls and Occupational Health and Safety standards and procedures.

Knowledge of:

- the various species of trees and shrubs in place throughout the City, including their susceptibility to disease, drought, infestations and other factors that affect their ability to thrive
- tree pruning & removal in accordance with the current ANSI standards
- fertilizers, growth agents and related chemicals, along with the safety practices associated with the mixing and application thereof
- the theories, practices, and procedures used in tree and shrub maintenance

Ability to:

- remove small and large (with direction) sized trees safely and efficiently
- practice appropriate health and safety precautions and procedures during pruning and felling operations in accordance with ANSI Standards.
- exercise courtesy and tact in answering routine inquiries from the general public and attend to tree work generated by these inquiries.
- withstand periods of strenuous physical activity when performing arborist work during all weather conditions and seasons
- maintain work, time, statistical, tree surveys, "Alberta 1st Call" calls and tool inventory records
- communicate effectively, orally, and in writing

Skilled in the safe and efficient use of a wide variety of general and special hand and power tools used in arborist work as well as the operation of all vehicles and equipment used in the arborist program

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Job Level

Completion of the twelfth school grade, supplemented by current ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certification – or, completion of the twelfth school grade with the condition that ISA certification is attained as a condition of employment, within a defined period of time.

Completion of the following required training: Standard First Aid certification including Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) and air brakes.

3 years of urban tree care experience is required.

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“Urban tree care experience” shall include demonstrated ability and completion of mandatory training in the following areas:

1. chainsaw operation
2. ground worker operation
3. tree hazard assessment
4. tree felling
5. tree pest and disease management
6. ropes/knots/rigging
7. bolting and cabling
8. pruning
9. barricading
10. flagman
11. fall protection and
12. electrical awareness.

Possession of a class 3 Alberta Motor Vehicle Operator's license and eligible for a 12,300 kg City driving permit

Candidates who do not possess Job Level Qualifications may be considered on a developmental basis. Progression will be subject to the attainment of satisfactory performance/required experience hours and completion of the required educational requirements:

Developmental Step 1:

Candidates remain at step 1 until they have satisfactorily completed:

- Grade 12 or GED
- The required experience (3 years) in urban tree care. Note: Eligible experience will include hours worked as a Forestry Labourer, developmental Arborist I, and/or related external urban tree care experience
- ISA certification
- The 12 mandatory urban tree care training courses cited above, plus Standard First Aid certification including AED and CPR, WHMIS and air brakes.

Thereafter Rate:

Candidates at this step have completed the Job Level required Education and Experience.

* *This is a class specification and not an individualized job description. A class specification represents and defines the general character, scope of duties and responsibilities of all positions within a specific job classification. It is not intended to describe nor does it necessarily list the essential job functions for a specific position in a classification. Positions may perform some of the duties listed above but this does not necessarily qualify for placement into this classification.*

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| Salary Plan | <u>10M</u> | <u>10A</u> | <u>10B</u> | <u>10C</u> |
| Job Code | 2130 | | | |
| Grade | 108 | | | |

Last Updated:

Previous Updates:

Originated:

July 2008