

URBAN FORESTRY SPECIALIST - PUBLIC WORKS

NATURE OF WORK

To assist Public Works in providing technical, professional, and advisory services to residents and city personnel regarding forestry and horticulture and assist in a variety of technical activities designed to promote and maintain a healthy urban forest ecosystem.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

Provides the public and city personnel with technical and professional guidance related to controlling shade tree diseases (Dutch Elm, Oak Wilt, Emerald Ash Borer) and hazardous trees on public and private property within the city. Emphasis is placed on maintaining positive relationships with city residents.

1. Implement Dutch Elm Disease (DED), Oak Wilt, and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) sanitation programs, including identification and marking of diseased/infested trees, determining ownership of trees, completing related paperwork, delegating assignments to contractor and in-house crew, providing education to the public, and monitoring and enforcing diseased tree ordinance.
2. Perform insect and disease inspections to urban forest and advise residents on insect, disease and other urban forest/landscape pests.
3. Follow established City procedures for tree inspection, marking, monitoring and removal in conformance with state and local guidelines.
4. Work with City personnel and contractors for removals and follow-up inspections.
5. Maintains accurate records and reports to effectively manage the diseased tree control program.
6. Responds to public requests for information regarding trees and shrubs.
7. Correctly identifies trees and shrubs, both native and exotic and accurately diagnoses environmental stresses, both biotic and abiotic.
8. Enforces Tree and Weed Services ordinances (visibility obstruction, brush in the alley).
9. Provides recommendations and guidelines for planting efforts with regard to energy conservation, appropriate species and cultivator selection, and post planting care.
10. Supports Map Feeder Tree Manager (asset management program) and relevant GIS applications by inputting data to maintain GIS inventory including tree inventory, invasive plant communities, and property corners.
11. Keeps immediate supervisor promptly informed of developments in areas of accountability to foster well-coordinated program efforts
12. Assists in tree-care programs which include trimming, watering, storm damage clean up and removals.
13. Performs other duties and assumes responsibilities as apparent or assigned.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Tree Inspector Certification

Working toward a degree in Urban Forestry, Horticulture, or related field.

Ability to read maps and use compass, work outdoors, walk on uneven surfaces and through varied terrain.

Valid Class D Minnesota driver's license

One year experience with word processing and spreadsheet applications

Familiarity with mobile iPad GIS technology

Excellent verbal and written skills

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Course work in dendrology, entomology and pathology

Two years of experience in Urban Forestry, Horticulture or related field.

Working knowledge of site preparation, planting techniques, and associated maintenance of reforestation projects.

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of the methods, materials, tools, and equipment utilized in area of assignment.

Knowledge of the work hazards and applicable safety precautions associated with the area of work assignment.

Ability to follow oral and written instructions.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers and the general public.

Physical strength and agility sufficient to perform manual labor for extended periods, occasionally under unfavorable weather conditions.

Skill in the performance of assigned tasks.