

CITY ARBORIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for directing, overseeing and supervising all urban forestry activities for the City of Albany. Work includes responsibility for enforcing ordinances and regulations governing the planting, maintenance, protection and removal of trees on all City streets, parks and other City owned property. This position is responsible for the direct supervision of the Forestry division. Supervision is exercised over a number of laborer and technical personnel assigned to the tree removal, trimming and planting programs. Supervision is received from the Commissioner of General Services or his/her representative. Does related work as required. This position is responsible for the direct supervision of the Forestry division.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only)

- Develops goals and policies related to urban forestry, including protection and expansion of a sustainable urban forest;
- Adheres to, and updates as necessary, urban forest master plan and incorporates same into other City and community planning processes;
- Develops and enforces design standards for trees in the development process;
- Participates in permit review processes;
- Develops the annual departmental budget, based on management needs and trends;
- Secures funding from additional sources to support and enhance existing programs;
- Conducts public outreach to educate City staff, the business community and the general public on the environmental and economic benefits of trees;
- Incorporates youth and young adult programming into stewardship activities;
- Serves as an advisor to other City departments, and assists in the development of arboricultural and horticultural practices and issues;
- Enforces ordinances, policies and regulations governing the planting, maintenance, protection and removal of trees and shrubs on all City streets, parks and other City owned property, as well as private trees that may impact the City right of way;
- Oversees tree inspection and maintenance programs performed by City personnel and contractors, including on-site inspection and supervision;
- Directs, supervises and trains staff engaged in forestry activities;
- Tracks all tree inspections and work through a database management system;
- Reviews permits to plant, spray, fertilize, prune, remove, replace or otherwise disturb trees and shrubs located on City-owned property;
- Reviews requests from private citizens for planting of new trees and approves or denies request, based on the merits of the request;
- Documents compliance with local, State and Federal safety regulations for tree care operations;

- Develops and implements a risk management program, utilizing the latest arboricultural best standards and practices;
- Supervises City personnel and contractors performing tree planting and care activities;
- Conducts staff development and training;
- Plans, develops, implements and oversees tree replacement programs, including site assessment and species selection;
- Assesses and develops programs for specialized tree maintenance;
- Makes periodic inspections of City trees in order to assess condition and maintenance needs;
- Enforces City Code in tree related matters;
- Manages and oversees contracts with related vendors (planting, removal, trimming);
- Advises the City's Engineering Division on tree removal and replacement for City construction projects;
- Liaises with State and Federal Agency representatives on urban forest issues;
- Liaises with Utility Providers in tree related issues;
- Serves on the Planning Department's Technical Review Committee (TRC) reviewing construction projects that involve tree removal and/or tree planting;
- Oversees the maintenance of the City's Tree Inventory;
- Maintains records and makes reports on Forestry Division activities;
- Advises the public on the care of City Street Trees;
- Reviews government periodicals and other current literature in the field of arboriculture and horticulture;
- Performs related work as required.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Thorough knowledge of urban forestry principles and best arboricultural and horticultural management practices;
- Thorough knowledge of construction and engineering practices of other infrastructure and their impact on trees;
- Thorough knowledge of planning and policy practices as it relates to infrastructure development, housing, public safety and transportation, and their relationship to urban forestry;
- Thorough knowledge of tree physiology and pathology;
- Good knowledge of local, State and Federal laws, ordinances, codes and regulations related to urban forestry;
- Ability to identify tree species, understand which species grow best in different environments and know how to best place trees in urban settings.
- Ability to communicate effectively with diverse groups including elected officials, various levels of City management and members of the public;
- Ability to train and supervise both labor class and technical employees;

- Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including the ability to communicate complex and technical information in a simple, clear and straightforward manner, including the use of graphs and tables as needed;
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team in a fast-paced, high-pressure environment with tight time constraints;
- Strong quantitative analytical abilities, including a thorough understanding of common data analysis tools and programs;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Bachelor's degree in forestry, horticulture, arboricultural science or a related field, **and** five (5) years of professional-level work experience, or its part time equivalent, in an urban forestry or similar program involving planning and management of urban forestry activities, such as planting, inspecting and evaluating trees in the field and urban forestry education, which must have been in a supervisory capacity; or,
- B. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with an Associate's degree in forestry, horticulture, arboricultural science or a related field, **and** seven (7) years of professional-level work experience or its part time equivalent, in an urban forestry or similar program involving planning and management of urban forestry activities, such as planting, inspecting and evaluating trees in the field and urban forestry education, five (5) years of which must have been in a supervisory capacity; or,
- C. Nine (9) years of professional-level work experience, or its part time equivalent, in an urban forestry or similar program involving planning and management of urban forestry activities, such as planting, inspecting and evaluating trees in the field and urban forestry education, five (5) years of which must have been in a supervisory capacity.
- D. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A) through (C).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT

- I. A valid New York State driver's license is required at the time of appointment and for the duration of employment;

- II. At time of appointment, must possess current certification as a Certified Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and maintain certification thereafter as a term and condition of continued employment.