City of Bellingham
Classification Specification

CLASS TITLE	**PARK TECHNICIAN - URBAN FORESTRY**
DEPARTMENT	**Parks And Recreation**
UNION:	**1937**
SG:	**110**
CS:	**Yes**
FLSA:	**Y**
EEO/SOC CODE:	**SC/37-3019**

NATURE OF WORK:

Performs a variety of skilled technical duties and physical labor associated with technical tree work and other arboricultural duties. Assists with, and performs, aerial tree work including climbing and lift-truck operation. Organizes, prepares and sets up climbing and rigging gear, setting up anchors and rigging points, and operates lines and lowering devices. Reviews and comments on developers' Arborist Reports. Serves as lead to assigned staff, providing training, technical guidance and day-to-day direction in all areas of tree work. Work zones include interfacing with public and private properties, occasionally under stressful or hazardous conditions such as storm damage

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

This position is distinguished from the Park Technician – Grounds by its highly specialized training and knowledge in the technical care and maintenance of trees and tree systems. While the Park Technician – Grounds performs general care and maintenance of park landscapes and general groundskeeping tasks, the Park Technician – Urban Forestry performs skilled technical tree care activities that regularly require work in hazardous situations including working at heights, on steep slopes, in streets and over private residences. Incumbents in this classification utilize knowledge and experience of tree work practices and safety in the performance of duties. All related tools and equipment utilized are specific to tree care.

The Park Technician – Urban Forestry is distinguished from the Park Arborist in that it operates primarily in a hands-on capacity, supporting the program by implementing the approved work plan. The Arborist applies in-depth knowledge and understanding of trees and tree care necessary to plan, monitor, evaluate, schedule and implement work in the program area.

SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS:

Reports to the Park Grounds Maintenance Manager. Works closely with and receives daily direction from the Park Arborist Acts as lead worker, providing technical guidance, day-to-day direction and training to Park Workers, as assigned.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

1. Works closely with the Park Arborist as a team to carry out technical tree work. Provides input to the Park Arborist in developing the technical work plan. Assists in assessing the site,

checking for safety hazards, determining equipment and personnel needs for tasks, and determining the scope and magnitude of the job. Monitors the worksite to ensure the safety of the work crew and the public.

2. Supports the Park Arborist in the program area to meet the operational goals of the program.

3. Performs a variety of technical tree work. Organizes, prepares and arranges climbing and rigging gear; establishes anchors and rigging points, and operates lines and lowering devices. Climbs with rope, saddle, spurs and flip line as well as aerial lifts. Operates chainsaws and rigging systems in aerial situations as well as on the ground. Performs work on the ground including tree felling, bucking, and chipping limbs. Conducts work in City streets within the street tree program; prunes, plants and removes trees. Sets up traffic control when needed.

4. Assists in inspecting and monitoring trees and forest stands for safety concerns and maintenance needs using written and GIS-generated plans, maps and Tree Risk Assessment documents, and public and private drawings.

5. Operates a wide variety of equipment and vehicles such as trucks, brush chippers, tractor/loaders, chainsaws, blowers and trimmers, as well as other power equipment and hand tools. Operates large dump trucks with large brush chipper in tow. Conducts daily visual inspection of assigned equipment. Repairs and maintains chainsaws and other equipment used in the Urban Forestry program and housed at Park Operations. Reports equipment issues or damage to supervisor.

6. Works independently or with a crew in other areas of the Parks and Recreation Department to perform horticulture tasks such as pruning, planting, tree removals and related maintenance.

7. Accurately and professionally answers questions and concerns from the public and other City staff related to Urban Forestry.

8. Assists the Arborist in maintaining the inventory of assets and recording work assignments by documenting, mapping, in-field surveying and performing data entry. Works to establish, monitor and document Park Land Boundaries, including encroachments.

9. Serves as lead worker to park workers and seasonal employees in tree care practices, including felling, pruning, and in the safe operation of lifting and lowering devices, chainsaws, aerial lifts and chippers. Provides training, technical guidance and day-to-day direction as assigned.

10. Works to re-vegetate sites including site prep, planting and follow-up care, including removal of existing vegetation; grading and digging by hand or with equipment, planting, pruning and weeding new plantings.

11. Applies pesticides in accordance with City, state and federal regulations under the direction of the Park Specialist.

ADDITIONAL WORK PERFORMED:

1. Performs other related work within the scope of the classification.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS (Knowledge ,Skills and Abilities):

Knowledge of:

- Solid knowledge, understanding and proficiency in tree work practices, climbing and rigging systems, lift-trucks and all related tools and equipment, including chain saws of all sizes.
- Skills and knowledge in most phases of tree work.
- Skills and knowledge in native plant communities.
- Skills and knowledge in tree and shrub care.
- Skills and knowledge in aerial tree work including rope/saddle and spur climbing.
- Skills and knowledge in the dynamics of rigging systems including set up and operation in a wide variety of applications.
- Demonstrate Tree Risk Assessment skills
- Skills and knowledge of the safe and efficient operation of tractors, loaders and other grounds equipment.
- Knowledge of computer operation including word processing and data handling programs.

Skill in:

- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Leadership and team skills including problem solving, interpersonal skills, adaptability/flexibility and time management.
- Good judgment, professionalism, , courtesy and tact necessary to work effectively with diverse groups of people including the general public, other City employees and personnel from other agencies.

Ability to:

- Approach, defuse and resolve confrontations.
- Understand and adhere to City and Parks Operations Division policies.
- Ability and willingness to follow directions and to perform assigned work independently with minimal supervision.
- Perform routine, repetitive activities while focusing on safe work practices**.**
- Ability and willingness to work outdoors year- round in all types of weather conditions.
- Willingness to pursue ongoing training to improve knowledge and skills.
- Willingness to adhere to provisions of the team agreements for the Parks Operations Division.
- Maintain consistent and punctual attendance
- Ability and willingness to demonstrate the Public Service Competencies of Service Orientation, Results Orientation, and Teamwork and Cooperation.
- Maintain consistent and punctual attendance.
- Physical ability to perform the essential functions of the job, including:
  - Frequently climb and work at heights of at least 150 feet;
  - Balance, flexibility and agility to climb and conduct work in trees;
  - Frequently communicate accurate information and ideas with others;
  - Frequently move between work sites;
  - Frequently lift objects weighing up to 50 pounds and transport objects weighing up to 100 pounds.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT:

The majority of work is performed outdoors, in all weather conditions, performing technical tree work and assessing tree hazards and other situations in the City's areas of responsibility. The work environment creates potentially hazardous conditions, including working at considerable heights with chainsaws and rigging, and working in traffic zones. Work is conducted in natural areas, developed park sites, and urban streetscapes. Depending on the project or assignment, may be required to use appropriate safety equipment, wear a variety of protective high visibility clothing rain gear, safety boots, safety glasses and gloves. Occasional work indoors at a desk or computer for documentation, to attend meetings and training or perform equipment maintenance.

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

- Two years of experience in professional tree care including pruning, felling, removals, and using lowering systems.
  Two years or coursework or training in horticulture, environmental science, arboriculture, or a related field may substitute for one- year of required experience.
- Two years of experience in climbing techniques and rigging systems.
- Two years Tree Risk Assessment experience.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Employment contingent upon passing a criminal background check and child and vulnerable adult abuse records check.
- Valid Washington State driver's license and good driving record. A three-year driving abstract must be submitted prior to hire.
- Must secure and maintain an I.S.A. Certified Arborist Certification within 24 months of hire.
- Must obtain and maintain a Washington State Herbicide/Pesticide License within twelve months of hire.
- Must obtain and maintain a valid Commercial Driver's License within 18 months of hire. Must pass CDL-related drug and alcohol testing throughout term of employment in position.
- Must secure and maintain a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Certification TRAQ within 12 months of hire.
- Must secure and maintain a Flagging/Traffic Control Certification within 12 of hire.
- Must secure and maintain a valid First Aid and CPR certification within 12 months of hire.
- Must pass a pre-employment drug test prior to hire.
- Must be willing and able to work weekends or evenings to respond to emergency call-out situations.

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COMMISSION ADOPTION: 11/13/2024_____