City of Bellingham
Classification Specification

CLASS TITLE	**Park Technician - Grounds**
DEPARTMENT	**Parks And Recreation\Operations Division**
UNION:	**1937**
SG:	**110**
CS:	**Yes**
FLSA:	**Y**
EEO/SOC CODE:	**SC/37-3011**

NATURE OF WORK:

Performs a variety of skilled technical duties and physical labor associated with maintenance, improvements and construction of Park grounds including trails, trail structures and features and irrigation and drainage systems, and other public facilities. Maintains records as required by City policy, state and local laws. Assists Park Specialist and works collaboratively with other teams within the Parks Operations division and staff from other City departments to meet program goals and objectives. This position may be assigned to work in any Grounds program area within the Parks Operations Grounds division, including Turf/Irrigation, Horticulture, and Trails. Provides Specialist with input on designs and how to best implement plans. Operates independently using experience and good judgement to carry out work plans and tasks to meet goals within established parameters. The specific duties, equipment and tools will vary depending on which of the program areas the Technician is assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

The Park Technician – Grounds is distinguished from other Park Technicians by its focus on general park grounds maintenance and assignments in broader park groundskeeping. The Park Technician – Grounds works across multiple park program areas and infrastructure, utilizing experience and knowledge to implement approved work plans, and coordinate daily activities to maintain park landscapes and infrastructure.

The Park Technician – Grounds is distinguished from the Park Specialist – Grounds in that it operates primarily in a hands-on capacity, supporting the program by implementing the Park Specialist's approved work plan. The Specialist operates in a broader capacity which includes planning, scheduling and monitoring program area work.

SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS:

Reports to a Parks Manager or Supervisor. Receives direction and guidance from assigned Park Specialist. Work is performed under general supervision and the guidance of applicable federal, state and local statues, regulations, policies and contractual agreements. Park Technicians may serve as a lead worker for lower classified staff as assigned, providing training, day-to-day direction and technical guidance. Maintains close working relationships with Park Operations staff and other City Departments.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

1. Provides support in assigned program area to meet program goals by providing input on designs, work plan implementation, maintenance and construction practices, renovation and schedules.

2. Manages and adjusts daily work schedule of assigned activities to meet demands, usage, ground conditions and availability of equipment. Coordinates with the work activities of others.

3. Inspects and monitors assigned areas for safety concerns and maintenance needs.

4. Leads the work of Park Workers and seasonal employees as assigned. Provides training, day-to-day direction and technical guidance. Provides feedback on performance to supervisor.

5. Operates heavy equipment such as dump trucks, flatbeds, backhoes, tractors, loaders, trucks with trailers and other specialized excavating equipment for a variety of tasks including excavations exposing underground utilities such as gas, water, electrical and fiber optic.

6. Operates a wide variety of equipment such as brush mowers, compressors and attachments, chainsaws, blowers, trimmers, mowers, as well as other power equipment and hand tools.

7. Assists the Specialist in maintaining the inventory of assets by documentation and mapping. Works to establish, monitor and document Park Land Boundaries and documents encroachments and invasive weed locations.

8. Works from plans, maps and drawings using a variety of tools such as laser levels to build and reconstruct areas of trails, turf features, drainage, irrigation and horticulture installation.

9. Trouble shoots, repairs, maintains, and installs irrigation and drainage systems including work on piping, valves, wiring and programming of automatic controllers.

10. Works independently or with a crew to perform horticulture tasks such as pruning, weeding, mulching, planting layout, and planting.

11. Works in the street tree program pruning, planting and removing trees. Involves traffic control, use of aerial lifts and working in the street environment.

12. Constructs trails and trail structures including sub grades, surfacing, drainage, bridges, handrails, fencing bollards, elevated walks, steps, retaining walls, signage and re-vegetation.

13. Implements regularly scheduled maintenance activities such as mowing, seeding, aerification, top dressing, fertilization, pruning, planting, debris removal, ditching, trailside maintenance and other maintenance tasks.

14. 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:
- Working knowledge of most phases of grounds care and horticulture.
- Working knowledge of managed and natural ecosystems.
- Working knowledge of horticulture including a wide range of both native and ornamental plants including characteristics and maintenance requirements.
- Irrigation and drainage systems operation, care, repairs and installation.
- Safe and efficient operation of backhoes, tractors with a variety of implements, and other ground equipment.
- Computer operation including word processing and data handling programs.
- Safety rules and regulations
- Use of hand tools, power tools and equipment.

Skill in:
- Leading the work activity of assigned crews including guidance, problem-solving, interpersonal sensitivity, adaptability/flexibility and time management.
- Strong oral communication skills, good judgement, courtesy and tact necessary to work effectively with diverse groups of people including the general public, other City employees and personnel from local agencies.

Ability to:
- Understand and adhere to City and Parks Policies.
- Follow oral and written instructions.
- Perform assigned work independently under general supervision, or as part of a team.
- Perform routine, repetitive activities.
- Use or operate, or learn to use and operate, a variety of hand and power tools and motorized equipment safely and efficiently.
- Match the appropriate tool to the task
- Ability and willingness to work outdoors, year-round, in inclement weather conditions. .
- Willingness to pursue ongoing training to improve knowledge and skills.
- Willingness to adhere to provisions of the team agreements for the 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.
- Physical ability to perform the essential functions of the job, including:
  - Occasionally operate a computer and other office machinery such as a keyboard, mouse and phone.
  - Frequently communicate accurate information and ideas to others;
  - Frequently operate hand tools and power equipment safely;
  - Frequently move throughout City facilities and worksite locations;

- Hear and see sufficiently to respond quickly in a noisy, fast-paced environment while meeting mandated safety standards;
- Stand, stoop, bend, dig, reach, kneel, squat, ascend and descent terrain and equipment;
- Frequently operate mechanical and electrical equipment of varying lengths and width and small hand tools;
- Frequently lift and move objects up to 50 pounds and occasionally transport objects up to 100 pounds.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT:

Work is performed primarily outdoors in developed and undeveloped areas with frequent exposure to outdoor weather conditions. Work is occasionally performed in an office setting at a desk or computer terminal to attend meetings or training. Frequent exposure to difficult terrain and loud noises. Employees are required to use appropriate safety equipment and follow established safety policies. This is a field work position with continuous physical exertion requirements.

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

- Two years of experience in grounds care in one or more of the following areas required:
  - Performing turf irrigation and horticulture maintenance of a large facility OR
  - Forestry, trail maintenance and feature construction OR
  - Athletic fields and grounds maintenance.

- Two years of coursework or related training in horticultural, groundskeeping, turf, natural resources field work or similar field may be substituted for one-year of experience.
- Experience in preparation of facilities/fields for special events preferred.

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 at time of hire and proof of good driving record. A three-year driving abstract must be submitted prior to hire.
- Positions assigned to the Trails work group must secure and maintain a Commercial Driver's License within 18 months of hire. Must pass CDL-related drug and alcohol testing throughout term of employment.
- Must secure and maintain a Washington State Herbicide/Pesticide License within 12 months of hire.
- Must secure and maintain a Flagging/Traffic Control Certification within 12 months of hire.
- Must secure and maintain First Aid and CPR certification within 12 months of hire.
- Must complete City Chainsaw Safety Training within 12 months of hire.

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12/84

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COMMISSION ADOPTION: 12/11/2024