

ARBORIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, the incumbent performs professional maintenance of trees, shrubs and related plant materials in the County's parks and along the County parkways, in accordance with established arboricultural practices and procedures. This work is performed to increase tree health and vigor, to preserve the aesthetic qualities and intrinsic value of the County's tree inventory and for public safety. The incumbent is responsible for inspecting trees to determine need for trimming, spraying or other treatment. The incumbent plans and schedules work, maintains records of time and material, completed work, prepares reports and requisitions supplies. Work is performed with considerable independence, although general direction comes from the Director of Maintenance and work requests are submitted. The incumbent supervises a number of the maintenance personnel. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Performs hands-on maintenance of trees owned by Westchester County on all parkland, including pruning, spraying fertilizing, cabling, removal, replacement and wound treatment to preserve the health and vigor of trees;

Plans and assigns work, estimating manpower and equipment needs to effectively allocate resources;

Supervises and trains tree workers, gardeners and park laborers in safe, efficient tree work, and use of equipment, tools and techniques;

Coordinates tree maintenance work with park supervisors, identifying needed work, such as pruning, spraying, cabling, removal, etc., and making recommendations for future maintenance needs;

Diagnoses tree diseases and insect infestations and initiates appropriate control measures, which may including spraying, pruning, etc.;

Operates power saws, spraying equipment, aerial lifts, etc., in performing tree work;

Performs basic maintenance on equipment and trains employees in equipment maintenance;

Maintains records, prepares reports for the tree maintenance program, and prepares information for the section's budget submission;

Recommends new equipment, prepares specification, requisitions equipment and supplies and keeps track of materials so there will be an adequate supply.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of tree maintenance and arboriculture; thorough knowledge of pesticides and their application; thorough knowledge of the safety precautions of the trade; skill in the use of equipment of the trade including power and hand tools; ability to climb trees and tie knots; ability to identify tree species, common insects and diseases; ability to plan, lay out and supervise the work of others; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Either (a) an Associate's Degree* in forestry, horticulture or urban forestry or closely related field and two years experience; or (b) completion of a high school level vocational course in tree work and four years varied experience in tree work including climbing and spraying trees; or (c) a satisfactory equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (a) and (b).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Must be a certified applicator in categories 1A, 2, 3A and 6A according to the N.Y.S.D.E.C. rules and regulations to apply pesticides and must possess a valid CDL Class B New York State drivers license.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary must be from an institution accredited or recognized by the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Depending on work assignment, must meet standards of OSHA regulation 1910.134 Respiratory Protection, and will be required to meet Federal, State and local standards with respect to health and safety.