

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

TITLE: Agronomist
SERIES: Natural Sciences

GRADE: H **CODE:** 4446
DATE: 1/13/88

Class Definition

Under general direction, performs difficult agronomic, athletic field management, turfgrass science, soil stabilization, soil conservation and farming practices management services on a county-wide basis. Plans, develops and coordinates with Park Department regions comprehensive management programs to insure high quality playing surfaces for sports turf areas and lawns. Develops, monitors and evaluates fertilization and pest control programs for some one hundred athletic fields and other turf areas in County Park system. Evaluates and recommends turf varieties for various needs; develops farm management programs for lands leased from the Commission. Assumes lead resource role on agronomic and edaphic issues. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Examples of Important Duties

1. Plans, develops, oversees and coordinates maintenance programs for athletic fields and turf areas. Defines goals and objectives, sets standards. Reviews and approves athletic field management programs.
2. Provides technical assistance on agronomic and soil conservation issues. Furnishes professional analysis and advice with coordination of diverse professional staff. Provides policy advice on various issues, procedures and programs.
3. Works with architects on athletic field design projects. Coordinates major land renovation and soil stabilization projects with other Commission units and government agencies.
4. May direct and supervise staff. Plans, schedules and assigns work. Evaluates work and counsels staff on ways to improve performance. Selects and trains staff. Initiates disciplinary action. Approves time cards and leave requests.
5. Designs bid specifications and requests for proposals (RFP's) for fertilizers, soil amendments, contract seeding, sodding, soil stabilization, soil conservation projects. Evaluates bids. Inspects work of contractors. Approves payments.
6. Conducts important research in agronomy, soil science and athletic field management. Reviews technical literature, conducts surveys, exchanges information with other organizations

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Examples of Important Duties (Continued)

and attends professional conferences to identify new programs, methods and materials which might be useful to unit.

7. Meets with citizens, community groups, recreation councils, sports leagues, Board of Education, County Council and other government agencies to identify needs, plan programs and answer questions about agronomic, soil conservation and athletic field programs. Investigates complaints.
8. Prepares program budget requests. Prepares and coordinates annual budget requests for programs.

Important Worker Characteristics

- A. Considerable knowledge of (1) agronomy; (2) turf grass science; (3) soil science; (4) supervision; (5) management; (6) pesticides; (7) Commission activities;* (8) environmental science; (9) parks; (10) Commission organization;* (11) horticulture; (12) chemistry.
- B. Skill in operation of (1) vehicle; (2) calculator; (3) microcomputer;* (4) user-friendly software;* (5) soil chemistry sampling equipment.
- C. Considerable ability to (1) apply agronomic and soil science principles to solve complex problems involving many variables; (2) plan, organize and coordinate work of unit efficiently and effectively; (3) supervise and evaluate the work of staff; (4) conduct data analyses and prepare technical reports and correspondence; (5) make effective written and oral presentations; (6) negotiate effectively among varying view points; (7) communicate effectively with the public; (8) establish and maintain effective working relationships, both inside and outside the Commission.

* Developed primarily after employment in this job class.

Minimum Qualifications

1. Bachelor's degree in agronomy, turf grass science or related field or five years of relevant and increasingly responsible agronomic experience, or master's degree and three (3) years of

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Minimum Qualifications (Continued)

such experience which involved supervision or management of other people; or

2. An equivalent combination of education and experience.
3. Valid Maryland driver's license or ability to acquire one.
4. State pesticide certification within six (6) months.

Working Conditions

Works in office and field. Moderate pressure to meet deadlines.