The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

TITLE: Tree Worker/Climber GRADE: L06 DATE: 8/5/2020
SERIES: Building and Grounds Maint CODE: 2543 EEO: Service and Maint FLSA: Non-Exempt

Class Definition:

Under general supervision, climbs trees to perform skilled tree maintenance work. Removes hazards, diseased, dead and unwanted trees and tree limbs from woods, parks, and other areas owned by the Commission. Assists in inspecting and identifying hazardous trees and limbs. Works with ground crew in cleanup of work sites and removal of debris when tree climbing is not required. May be asked to provide on-call service to respond to tree emergencies. Work contributes to the safety and timely completion of work assignments; work is checked by Tree Maintenance Supervisor or higher-level Tree Worker/Climbers. Applies knowledge of industry standards and equipment used in tree trimming and removal, tree maintenance techniques and related safety practices and local tree species and related diseases. Follows procedures and applies standard solutions to a range of common or recurring problems. Interacts with people inside and outside the work unit to exchange routine and non-routine information. Performs other duties, as assigned.

Work is assigned in terms of continuing responsibilities. Specific instructions are given for new assignments. The incumbent carries out regular, recurring work in conformance with established policies and procedures, resolves routine work problems by selecting and applying the appropriate guideline(s), keeps the supervisor informed, and brings procedural exceptions to the supervisor or a higher-grade employee for guidance or resolution. The work is subject to review, and upon completion for conformance with instructions and other guidelines, quality, quantity, timeliness, teamwork, customer service and other factors.

Examples of Important Duties:

1. Safely climbs trees in accordance with safety requirements (e.g. American National Standards Institute (ANSI)) using saddle, ropes, climbing hooks and safety lanyards.

2. Removes or lowers trees and limbs utilizing ropes, pulleys and lowering devices; operates chain saws in accordance with approved standards to fell and trim unwanted, diseased, hazardous or dead trees from ground level.

3. Clears fallen trees and brush debris from roads, trails, creeks, bike paths and buildings; utilizes manual and motorized tools for cleanup and removal.

4. Assists in inspecting trees for hazards, safety, and health in accordance to guidelines; identifies and applies corrective course of action. Mixes and applies soil fertilizers and amendments; performs soil aeration. Attaches braces and wires to support trees with weak structural systems.

5. Works with ground crew (e.g. equipment operators, park/general maintenance workers) in cleanup of work sites. Utilizes mechanical devices and manual labor to assist with site cleanup and debris removal.

6. Responsible for inspecting equipment and ensuring equipment is properly secured and accounted for before leaving work sites. Wears hardhat, ear and eye protection, leg chaps, and other appropriate gear when equipment is operated and/or materials moved; maintains work records, complies with legal reporting requirements.

7. Cleans and maintains tools and machinery; makes necessary adjustments and repairs; conducts routine preventive maintenance on assigned equipment (e.g., chain saws, chipping machine).

8. Drive trucks, often with trailers, to carry crew and equipment to work sites. Provides routine maintenance; takes vehicles and equipment to garage for major maintenance and repairs.

9. May be required to perform other park maintenance duties as assigned.

Important Worker Characteristics:

A. Knowledge of: (1) Commission organization, policies, and procedures*; (2) industry standards (e.g. Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), American National Standards Institute (ANSI)**)** and specialized equipment used in tree trimming and removal; (3) first aid and CPR*; (4) tree maintenance techniques and related safety practices; and (5) local tree species and related diseases.

   **Typically acquired or fully developed primarily after employment in this job class.*

B. Skill in operation of: chain saws, chipping machines, hand tools, motor vehicles, two-way radio, and other tree service equipment.

C. Ability to: (1) follow directions; (2) understand a system of procedures; (3) read routine reports and instructions; and (4) write routine reports; and (5) obtain CPR and First Aide Certification.

D. Skill in problem solving to select, organize and logically process relevant information (verbal, numerical or abstract) to solve a problem. Examples include inspecting trees for hazards, safety, and health in accordance to guidelines and identifying and applying corrective course of action.

E. Skill in communication to understand verbal and written information (including facts, descriptions and ideas) and to express such information so that others will understand.

F. Interpersonal skills to interact effectively with business contacts in a businesslike, customer service-oriented manner; this includes skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships and working as a member of a team.

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Minimum Qualifications (MQs):

1. High school diploma or Certificate of General Educational Development (GED).

2. One (1) year of tree maintenance experience including six months of tree climbing experience.

3. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted, which together total 1 year.

4. Valid driver's license in accordance with both State and Commission rules and regulations. Driver's license must be unencumbered by restrictions, revocations, suspensions, or points that could limit the employee's ability to drive Commission vehicles or perform driving duties required by the position of assignment.

5. Depending on area of assignment, a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with appropriate endorsements, and must be in accordance with both State and Commission rules and regulations.

6. Pass Commission medical examination.

Working Conditions:

Primarily works outdoors. Requires exposure to adverse weather conditions, noise, vibration, dust, and hazardous materials while working at considerable heights. Hazardous conditions exist due to exposure to power tools, power lines, wild animals, stinging insects, poison ivy, oak or sumac, and dead and dangerous trees and limbs. Incumbents in this class must frequently: remain in a stationary position, balance and pull while removing trees, operate vehicles, tools and equipment, ascend and descend ladders and trees, position self to complete manual work, move equipment, tools and supplies weighing over 100 pounds. Overtime and emergency on-call time may be required.