

TURF AND SPORTS FIELD TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

To perform a variety of technical duties related to the optimization of City turf and horticulture material within sports fields, park and landscape turf areas; and to perform related duties as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from assigned management or supervisory staff.

Exercises direct supervision over parks maintenance staff.

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL DUTIES - Duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Implement agronomic and horticulture schedule of maintenance activities and oversee the overall care of turf and horticulture material, including sport field maintenance and renovations, irrigation, and chemical and fertilizer applications.

Assist in the planning and organizing the maintenance and construction of turf maintenance, grow in, and rehabilitation projects.

Oversee the planting and cultural practices involved in growing various turf grasses and ornamental plants.

Perform routine assessment of plant and turf conditions and determine remediation actions as necessary.

Schedule, provide or coordinate staff training on best management practices, proper equipment use, and methods to complete agronomics activities.

Ensure all City policies and procedures are followed including compliance with Federal, State and local regulations.

Supervise, plan, prioritize, assign, and review the work of lower-level parks maintenance staff; participate in the recommendation of the appointment of personnel; provide or coordinate staff training; and work with employees to improve performance.

Understand, analyze, interpret and apply fertilizer, pesticide, and other chemical labels information supplied by manufacturers.

Oversee and ensure the proper calibration, care and maintenance of equipment.

Operate, program and troubleshoot centrally controlled irrigation system.

Plan and assist in the rehabilitation and retrofit of turf conversion projects with water-wide irrigation systems and/or life cycle renewal projects within existing parks, facilities, landscapes and streetscapes/medians.

Read and interpret diagrams, blueprints, specifications, and operating manuals to understand the mechanical and electrical systems to assist in the installation, maintenance, and repair of irrigation systems.

Make decisions on the safety and playability of sports fields.

Assist in yearly planning, scheduling, and coordination of maintenance activities with user groups, internal recreation programs and other departments.

Assist in the research and procurement of supplies and materials; reconcile and code invoices.

Maintain records of annual maintenance activities and costs and labor.

Observe and address reported environmental concerns.

May represent the Department at meetings relating to water conservation, landscaping, sport field use and irrigation.

Build and maintain positive working relationships with co-workers, other City employees and the public using principles of good customer service.

Perform related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Plant physiology, horticulture and agronomic practices.

California Pesticide Regulations and safe use and handling procedures.

Principles of pest management.

Components and operational characteristics of a computerized irrigation maintenance management system.

Best practices and safe and proper use of equipment for turf maintenance.

Proper irrigating techniques for turf and sports fields.

Methods and materials used in sprinkler and irrigation system maintenance and repair.

Pertinent local, State and Federal laws, codes, and ordinances.

Modern office equipment, methods, procedures, and computer hardware and software.

Techniques and principles of effective interpersonal communication.

English usage, spelling, punctuation and grammar; and arithmetic, basic mathematical calculations and statistics and statistical methods.

Principles and practices of supervision

Ability to:

Independently participate in the maintenance and rehabilitation of sports fields, park and landscape turf areas.

On a continuous basis, know and understand operations, and observe safety rules; intermittently analyze problem equipment; identify and locate equipment; interpret work orders; remember equipment location; and explain jobs to others.

Intermittently, sit while studying or preparing reports; bend, squat, climb, kneel and twist when performing parks/recreation gardening and facilities maintenance duties; perform simple and power grasping; pushing, pulling, and fine manipulation; and lift or carry weight of 50 pounds or more.

Operate park/landscaping maintenance equipment such as backhoes, front loader, trencher, tractors and safely operate power tools such as mowers, edgers, and blowing; maintain hand tools and assigned equipment.

Operate vehicles with trailers, safely load and unload large equipment for transit onto trailers.

Understand and interpret pesticide and chemical labels and terminology.

Handle complex procedures and processes with a high attention to detail and data quality.

Plan, organize and direct the work of assigned staff.

Prepare and maintain written and verbal reports of work activities.

Accurately record use records and man-hours of tasks associated with applications.

Use sound judgment and initiative within standards provided; understand and follow verbal and written instructions.

Identify safety hazards and remediation

Prepare and develop cost estimates related to work orders and various projects.

Work On-call on evenings, weekends, or holidays; work in a variety of weather conditions.

Keep records and prepare reports; use a personal computer to enter and retrieve data, track work order status, and communicate electronically.

Read, interpret, and apply information from construction drawings related to construction documents.

Communicate effectively verbally and in writing.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Experience and Training

Experience:

Two years of increasingly responsible experience performing sports fields, turf and horticulture management and maintenance as primary work function, including one year of lead experience and experience operating irrigation systems.

Training:

Equivalent to completion of the twelfth (12th) grade. Additional course work or training in landscape maintenance, irrigation or agriculture is highly desirable.

License or Certificate

Possession of a valid California driver's license by date of appointment.

Possession of a valid Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC) from the Department of Pesticide Regulations within one year of date of appointment.

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