

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 5144 **TITLE:** DIRECTOR, URBAN FORESTRY **GRADE:** S-33

DEFINITION:

Under direction, develops and directs the comprehensive urban forest management program including short-term projects and long-term strategic initiatives relating to forest pest, forest conservation, urban forestry, landscape management, and land development; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

The Director, Urban Forestry differs from the Urban Forester III in that the Director, Urban Forestry plans, coordinates and directs the long-term development and programmatic direction of the Urban Forest Management branch whereas the Urban Forester III supervises Urban Forester Is and IIs and/or performs specialized, advanced work.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Directs the development, and execution of management plans and strategic initiatives of Urban Forest Management and the Land Development Services line of business;

Monitors the workload, trends and direction of County's Urban Forest Management program to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of customer service and the appropriate management of County resources;

Develops presentations and training classes for various employee groups, committees and taskforces dealing with various tree, natural resource and landscape management issues;

Interacts with various policy makers, citizens, environmental groups, County engineering staff, developers and builders in the review of land development cases and construction plans and the resolution of issues related to proffers, development conditions, tree preservation, tree planting and landscaping;

Monitors emerging forest pests and diseases and oversees the preparation of contingent treatment plans and documentation necessary to secure official approval for funding to treat;

Interacts with Forest Pest and Forest Conservation Section Chiefs (Urban Forester III's) and other Land Development Services personnel to evaluate the effectiveness of practices and policies in order to develop program improvements and long-term initiatives;

Keeps abreast of emerging political, technological, scientific, regulatory, and legal issues that may impact the forest pest and forest conservation programs and the vitality of the County's vegetation resources;

Educates citizens on the value of the forest pest and forest conservation programs and provides information on how citizens and property owners can successfully interact with and benefit from these programs;

Prepares or oversees the preparation of position papers, policies, and correspondence in response to Board of Supervisor directives relating to forest pests management, forest conservation, hazardous tree conditions, landscaping and transitional screening as these relate to land development, property maintenance, air quality, water quality, public safety and erosion and sedimentation control issues;

Serves as a technical expert for the County during court cases, litigation and public hearings involving urban forestry, hazardous tree cases and forest pest management issues;

Prepares proposed amendments to Virginia State Code, the Code of Fairfax County; and the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, Policy Plan relating to urban forest management, tree preservation, air quality, water quality, and land development issues;
Prepares impact statements in response to new or proposed changes to State and Federal regulations that might affect trees and related natural resources;
Coordinates with the Fairfax County legislative liaison and serves as a technical expert on urban forestry and tree conservation issues at the Virginia State Legislative Assembly;
Interacts with and provides support to the Fairfax County Tree Commission and attends their meetings as needed;
Responds to budgetary inquiries and oversees the preparation of annual budget request for the Urban Forest Pest and Conservation sections;
Communicates on-going issues and recommends program level improvements relating to customer service, regulatory effectiveness, interagency interaction, personnel matters, staffing level and capital equipment needs to the Deputy Director, DPWES for Land Development Services; Supervises Urban Forester IIIs and administrative staff, and monitors workload to ensure equitable distribution of same and optimal utilization of staff resources. Prepares annual performance appraisals and provides interactive comments on performance through the coaching/mentoring process.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Advanced knowledge of forest pest management, urban forestry and arboricultural and horticultural practices;
Advanced knowledge of the principals and practices essential to the management of naturally occurring and planted trees in an urban environment;
Advanced knowledge of federal, state and local regulations and associated issues relating to pest management, land use and forest conservation;
Advanced knowledge of Geographic Position Systems and Geographic Information Systems software, and the ability to generate maps, charts and associated reports using these technologies;
Advanced knowledge of vegetation and forest pest surveys;
Thorough knowledge of delineating vegetation communities and ecosystems using vegetation classification systems such as the United States National Vegetation Classification System and Natural Communities of Virginia;
Thorough knowledge on the acquisition and processing of satellite imagery and its use in spectral analysis of canopy coverage, and the determination of tree canopy levels through remote sensing technology;
Advanced knowledge of the impact of construction activities and urbanization on individual trees and forest stands;
Ability to manage long-term projects and strategic initiatives in an effective, efficient manner;
Ability to create correspondence, reports and presentations using word processing, spreadsheets, databases and presentation software;
Ability to make presentations to policymakers and executive level staff;
Ability to supervise, train and provide guidance/counsel to lower level staff.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Any combination of education and experience equivalent to:

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in urban forestry, forestry, horticulture, environmental science, landscape architecture, agriculture or related field; PLUS seven years of related experience in forestry, arboriculture, landscape architecture relating to urban forest and forest pest management, two years of which must have been in a supervisory capacity.

CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

Possession of a valid Certified Arborist certification issued by the International Society of Arboriculture and within one year of appointment, an incumbent must also obtain the Municipal Specialist certification also issued by the International Society of Arboriculture.

Possession of a valid Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Category 2 Pesticide Applicator Certification or the ability to obtain same within 6 months of appointment.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

None.

REVISED ES: August 13, 2011
REGRADED: July 1, 2007
REVISED: October 26, 2006
REVISED/RETITLED: May 9, 2006
ESTABLISHED: February 11, 1991