

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 5145

TITLE: URBAN FORESTER III

GRADE: S-27

DEFINITION:

Under general direction, develops and manages complex or advanced urban forest management programs, 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 Urban Forester III differs from the Urban Forester IV in that the Urban Forester III plans, coordinates and supervises a section performing specialized urban forestry work whereas the Urban Forester IV plans, coordinates and directs more global urban forest management activities such as the preparation of amendments to Virginia State Code, and local codes and policies, and the preparation of position papers, policies, and correspondence in response to Board of Supervisor directives.

The Urban Forester III differs from the Urban Forester II in that the Urban Forester III supervises Urban Forester Is and IIs and/or performs specialized, advanced work whereas the Urban Forester II performs journeyman level urban forest management work.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Develops a comprehensive annual forest management program for approval by the Board of Supervisors;

Supervises the execution of forest pest and forest conversation programs, ensuring proper procedures and practices are adhered to in their execution;

Monitors pest populations and forest health to determine effectiveness of management and control techniques and practices and makes recommendations to improve the effectiveness of same;

Monitors emerging forest pests and diseases, and prepares contingent treatment recommendations and documentation necessary to secure official approval for funding to treat;

Evaluates the effectiveness of comprehensive forest pest and forest conservation management practices and policies in order to develop program improvements and long-term initiatives;

Keeps abreast of emerging technological, scientific, regulatory, social and legal issues that may impact the forest pest and forest conservation programs and the ability of Urban Forest Management staff to provide effective customer service;

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 Urban Forest Management Branch Chief.

Participates in annual work plan and periodic strategic planning sessions;

In consultation with the Urban Forest Management Branch Chief, responds to budgetary data and information inquiries and prepares annual budget request for the Urban Forest Pest and Conservation sections;

As assigned, will supervise Urban Forester I's and II's, monitoring 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;

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;

Provides support at Tree Commission meetings and activities on an as needed basis;

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;

Works collaboratively with zoning staff while preparing recommendations for proposed zoning cases, and with County review staff to ensure the quality and on-time review of site plans and waivers;

Mediates code issues between county staff, developers and citizens, and inspects constructions sites for conformance with approved plans.

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;

Thorough 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;

Basic 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;

Ability to conduct vegetation and forest pest surveys as well as the ability to assess 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, spreadsheet database software and presentation software;

Ability to make presentations to small and medium sized audiences;

Ability to supervise, train and provide guidance/counsel to lower level staff.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARD: 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:

Three years of related experience in forestry, arboriculture or landscape architecture relating to urban forest management and /or forest management.

CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

None.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Possession of a valid Certified Arborist certification issued by the International Society of Arboriculture may be required for certain positions as identified to the Department of Human Resources.

Possession of a valid Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Category 8 Pesticide Applicator Certification or the ability to obtain same within 6 months of appointment may be required for certain positions as identified to the Department of Human Resources.

REVISED: October 26, 2006
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