

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 5147 **TITLE:** URBAN FORESTER I **GRADE:** S-18

DEFINITION:

Under direct supervision, plans and implements basic forest pest, forest conservation, urban forestry, landscape management and land development practices, procedures and projects within a geographical subset of Fairfax County; and performs related work as required. May serve in a trainee (i.e. underfill) capacity with non-competitive promotional progression to the full performance Urban Forester II.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

The Urban Forester I differs from the Urban Forester II in that the Urban Forester I performs less specialized, developmental level work, whereas the Urban Forester II performs journeyman level work.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Plans and implements forest pest treatment activities in an assigned area including aerial and ground spraying;

Participates in the evaluation of the health condition, structure and survivability of naturally occurring trees and associated vegetation as well as planted nursery grown plant materials;

Participates in field surveys to collect data pertaining to forest pests, plant species and forest composition, structure and health;

Interprets survey results and offers recommendations on changes to increase program efficiency;

Monitors/inspects work of contractors involved in the treatment of forest pests, landscape installations and arboricultural work;

Uses Geographic Position System and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) databases to record the position and extent of plant species, forest communities, forest pests and other natural resources;

Participates in the development of reports/correspondence regarding urban forest and forest management issues;

Participates in annual work plan and periodic strategic planning sessions;

Participates in public outreach activities such as civic association meetings and public notification meetings;

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

Inspects construction sites for compliance with requirements on approved site plans relating to landscaping, screening, tree preservation and vegetation related proffers and development conditions;

Participates in on-site conferences and preconstruction meetings held on construction sites to resolve issues and ensure contractor compliance with County code requirements.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Basic knowledge of urban forestry, forest pest management and arboricultural practices;
Basic knowledge of horticultural and landscape installation practices;
Knowledge of Geographic Position Systems and Geographic Information Systems software and the ability to generate maps, charts and associated reports using these technologies;
Knowledge of and the ability to conduct vegetation and forest pest surveys;
Ability to create correspondence and reports using basic word processing, spreadsheet and database software;
Ability to assess the impact of construction activities and urbanization on individual trees and forest stands.

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.

CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

None.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

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 is required for certain positions as identified to the Department of Human Resources.

REVISED: October 26, 2006
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