

GROUNDWORKER I

Job Summary:

Under supervision, performs a variety of semi-skilled and skilled grounds maintenance and landscape gardening duties such as mowing, irrigating and operating maintenance equipment and tools.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

This is the first, experienced level class in the Groundworker Job Series. Incumbents typically have appropriate specialized training with job related experience. Employees within this class are distinguished from Groundworker II by the performance of the work assigned to the journey level, but without the independence or full responsibility expected of positions at the journey level. Assignments are generally limited in scope and are set within a procedural framework established by the supervisor. As experience increases, the incumbent performs with increasing independence and becomes proficient by demonstrating those skills necessary to perform as a Groundworker II.

Incumbents in this classification must complete one year in this classification, must meet the minimum qualifications of Groundworker II and must meet the Job Series guidelines to promote to Groundworker II.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

(These functions are representative and may not be present in all positions in the class. Management reserves the right to add, modify, change or rescind related duties and work assignments.)

1. Performs a variety of grounds maintenance duties in the care and upkeep of city parks, medians and landscape areas.
2. Performs continuous maintenance duties such as mowing and edging lawns, watering and weeding lawns and gardens, trimming and pruning shrubs, hedges and trees.
3. Assists in performing project duties such as renovating City parks and ball diamonds.
4. Plants, transplants, removes, stakes, fertilizes and cultivates grass, trees, bushes and flowers; aerates, grades, renovates and seeds grass areas; prepares soil for planting.
5. Assists in fabricating, installing and maintaining steps, guardrails, drains, drainboxes, concrete walkways, ramps, gates and fences.
6. Performs general grounds clean up including removing litter and debris and cleaning paths and walkways.
7. Operates a variety of grounds maintenance equipment and machines including lawnmowers, edgers, trimmers, blowers, saws and other hand and power tools; maintains tools, equipment and vehicles in clean and proper working condition.
8. Assists in maintaining, repairing, replacing or installing various types of irrigation systems or hardware such as heads, valves, solenoids, pipes, controllers, backflows, quick couplers, swings and electrical and hydraulic lines; assists in modifying irrigation systems as needed.
9. Applies pesticides and herbicides for the control of pests and plant diseases.
10. Places street cones to divert traffic and maintain safe work areas.
11. Maintains records related to equipment operation and maintenance, service requests and other grounds maintenance activities.
12. Operates trucks to carry equipment and crew; operates a variety of tractors in hauling trash, dirt and rocks and in clearing and leveling park areas and roadways.
13. Performs related duties as required.

Qualification Guidelines

A typical way to obtain the requisite qualifications to perform the duties of this class is as follows:

Education and Experience:

Completion of high school or GED which ensures the ability to read and write at a level necessary for successful job performance and one (1) year of full-time experience performing grounds maintenance work including landscape gardening experience. Related vocational or college course work is desirable.

Knowledge of:

- Methods, equipment, materials and tools used in grounds maintenance work.
- Appropriate safety practices and procedures.
- Applicable sections of the California Vehicle Code.
- Characteristics and care of plants, trees and grass common to the area.
- Techniques for maintenance and installation of baseball diamonds and care of football fields.
- Plant diseases and pests and techniques for the control of plant diseases and pests.
- Maintenance, repair and installation of various types of irrigation systems.
- Record-keeping techniques.

Skill and Ability to:

- Perform a variety of grounds maintenance work.
- Operate a variety of grounds maintenance equipment safely and efficiently.
- Maintain tools, equipment and vehicles in clean and proper working condition.
- Identify common park plants and trees.
- Read and interpret landscape blue prints.
- Observe safety practices and procedures.
- Lift objects weighting up to 75 pounds.
- Perform heavy manual labor.
- Understand and follow oral and written directions.
- Observe legal and defensive driving practices.
- Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others.

License or Certificate:

Possession of a valid California Class C driver's license. Employees in this classification will be enrolled in the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Government Employer Pull Notice Program which confirms possession of a valid driver's license and reflects driving record.

Special Requirements:

Ability to pass a physical examination for strenuous/arduous labor.

Physical Requirements and Working Conditions:

Employee accommodations for physical disabilities will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Positions in this class normally:

- Require mobility to stand, stoop, reach, twist and bend.
- Require mobility of arms to reach above shoulder level and dexterity of hands to grasp and manipulate small objects.

- Perform work which involves the frequent lifting, pushing and/or pulling of objects which may approximate 75 pounds and may occasionally weigh up to 100 pounds.
- May be required to work in inclement weather without effective protection from sun, cold and rain.
- May be required to respond to emergency call back.
- May be required to work with harsh and toxic substances and hazardous materials.
- May be required to wear a uniform, safety shoes, protective apparel including goggles, face protectors, aprons and oxygen breathing apparatus.
- May be required to work within enclosed spaces or at heights above ground level.
- May be required to work around loud noise.
- May be required to work around moving mechanical parts.
- May be required to work around electrical currents.
- May be required to work overtime after regular work hours, including weekends.