

**Title:** City Arborist  
**PG:** 49  
**Status:** Civil Service  
**Position Reports to:** Superintendent of Parks  
**Department:** Parks & Recreation

**Job Class:** 8234  
**Date:** 10/08

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS:**

This is skilled supervisory work in the area of urban forestry. Work involves responsibility for supervising and assisting in the planting, trimming, topping, removing and other care of trees. Work requires the establishment and maintenance of safety rules and practices and the use of judgment in directing the trimming, tipping and removal of trees to maintain public safety or improve established beautification objectives and allow for growth of the trees. Work is performed in accordance with departmental policies and general instructions from the Superintendent of Parks. Work requires the exercise of independent judgment based upon experience and technical knowledge. Supervision is exercised over a group of subordinates and is reviewed through conferences, inspection and evaluation of completed projects. Maintains clearance and trims trees around energized power lines.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:**

1. Plans, schedules, supervises and assists a group of lead men and semi-skilled workers engaged in pruning, cutting, topping, transplanting, planting, spraying and removing of trees, stumps and roots.
2. Investigates complaints from citizens concerning the possible encroachment on private property by trees planted on public property.
3. Makes house-to-house calls requesting permission to trim privately owned trees that are a hazard to pedestrians and street traffic.
4. Evaluates trees for removal according to electric utility line clearance guidelines.
5. Operate power chainsaws and supervises care and maintenance of tools and equipment.
6. Confers with supervisor regarding work schedules, problems with removal or transplanting and tree-shaping and pruning methods.
7. Prepares reports relating to work program, equipment needs and time worked by employees on projects.
8. Supervises crews involved in trimming trees and limbs from high-voltage power lines.
9. Sprays trees with chemical agents and performs the more skilled pruning activities.

**ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Property uses and supervises subordinates use of axes, power chainsaws, chipper, chipper truck, aerial-lift truck and other tools required to perform duties.
2. Properly uses and supervises return to proper storage the City-owned tools and equipment. Receives reports of broken or missing tools from subordinates.
3. Follows all occupational safety, health and environmental standards and trains subordinates in these areas. Helps maintain a safety working environment.
4. Performs related work as required.

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES:**

1. Thorough knowledge of the methods and equipment used in pruning, treatment and removal of trees. Through knowledge of rigging methods and the use and maintenance of tools and equipment of the trade.
2. Thorough knowledge of the hazards involved in the work and of the necessary precautionary measures to be observed.
3. Thorough knowledge of methods, equipment and safety methods required in line clearance around energized high voltage power lines.
4. Considerable knowledge of tree diseases and methods of treatment.

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5. Skill in the use and care of climber hooks, ropes, knots and the tools and equipment commonly used in tree trimming and tree surgery operations.
6. Ability to plan and supervise the work of semi-skilled workers in the care and removal of trees.
7. Ability to instruct subordinates in proper tree trimming, toppings and removal methods.
8. Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.
9. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisor, co-workers, other City employees and the general public.

**WORKING ENVIRONMENT/CONDITIONS:**

Medium work that involves walking, standing, stooping, jumping, stretching and exerting up to 100 pounds of force and lifts up to 50 pounds on an occasional basis. May be exposed to hot/cold temperatures, adverse weather conditions, noxious odors and wet, humid conditions, electrical shock, fumes, heights, traffic, moving machinery, bright/dim lights. This job requires normal visual acuity, field of vision, hearing, speaking, color perception, sense of smell, depth perception, and texture perception.

**QUALIFICATIONS (EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE):**

1. High school diploma or its equivalent.
2. Five (5) years of experience in tree trimming supervisory work and in the use of tree trimming and felling tools and equipment, including electric utility line clearance.
3. Certified Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture.
4. An equivalent combination of education and experience that is determined to be directly related to the foregoing specific requirements may be substituted.
5. Completion of City University Level one (1) or completion within twelve (12) months.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Must possess a valid state of Florida driver's class.
2. Must maintain a working phone number.
4. May be required to work overtime, or alternate hours, as necessary for the efficient operation of the department. Position may be designated as Mission Critical by Department Director.