

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (GARDENER)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision of the Park Superintendent or Park Foreman, an incumbent performs specialized manual work throughout the year in the maintenance, care and cultivation of plants, shrubs, flowers, trees and lawns that make up municipal walkways, parks, grounds, gardens and medians. Work is performed with considerable technical independence while adhering to general directions, plans or design of administrative superior. Employee establishes work priorities in accordance with climatic, soil, vegetation or seasonal conditions. Work is reviewed in progress and upon completion for condition of landscaped area and compliance with work orders. Supervision may be exercised over subordinate employees. Does related duties as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative only)

Provides care to plant collections, greenspace floriculture crops, garden displays, lawns, outdoor landscapes, and plant life of municipal parks, grounds, greenhouses, gardens and medians;

Ensures all plantings remain healthy and attractive; adds mulch and removes diseased flowers, plants and small trees, replacing soil as necessary;

Makes landscaping improvements by watering, seeding, fertilizing, planting, grafting, propagating, pruning, trimming, thinning, grooming, training, weeding, culling and inspecting for pests and disease;

Maintains soil conditions as required by species of vegetation;

Ensures that seasonal schedules are followed for planting and cleanup;

Uses hand tools or motorized equipment including tractors and front loaders to perform work related tasks and move supplies and equipment;

Makes minor repairs on equipment as needed;

Maintains inventories of tools, equipment and materials, including chemical and fertilizer inventories and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) compliance records;

Schedules specialty services at parks such as fence repairs, irrigation visits, removal of dead trees, and/or electricians;

May be assigned to apply pesticide to plant collections, garden displays, and greenhouse floriculture crops if appropriately licensed.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of the techniques, materials and tools used to cultivate, plant, maintain and care for shrubs, flowers, lawns and trees; good knowledge of the growth characteristics and typical diseases of plants and flowers common to the region; good knowledge of horticulture and greenhouse propagation; good knowledge of the methods and equipment used in landscaping, gardening, fertilizing, drainage, and irrigation; skill in the use of gardening equipment and tools; ability to understand and carry out written and oral instructions; ability to communicate with the public; ability to get along well with others; ability to read, write, speak, understand and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential duties of the position; ability to use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, e-mail, and database software; initiative; resourcefulness; physical condition commensurate with the duties of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Either: (a) graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and four (4) years of experience where the primary function was landscaping; or (b) eight (8) years of experience as outlined in (a.)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) At time of appointment, possession of a valid license, appropriate for the vehicle to be operated and issued by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. The appointing authority is responsible for verifying and ensuring that the candidate meets these conditions at time of appointment and throughout the course of employment.
- (2) If assigned to apply pesticide, possession of a valid New York State Pesticide Applicator Certification, issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC.) The appointing authority is responsible for verifying and ensuring that the candidate meets these conditions at time of appointment and throughout the course of employment.