

GROUNDSKEEPER I

DEFINITION

To perform semiskilled and routine groundskeeping tasks in the care of landscaped areas.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Positions in this class are distinguished from those in the class of Laborer, in that a Groundskeeper I usually performs more of the semiskilled tasks associated with groundskeeping as opposed to the more routine tasks. However, Groundskeepers I may often be required to perform duties similar to those performed by Laborers.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Supervision is normally provided by a combination of a Tree Trimmer, Groundskeeper II, Groundskeeper III, Landscape Supervisor, and Landscape Manager.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED

Groundskeepers I may provide working lead direction to other co-workers as assigned.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

Depending upon assignment, duties may include but are not limited to the following:

Drives water trucks and waters lawn areas, trees and median strips.

Climbs and trims small trees.

Sprays lawn, shrubs and trees with fertilizer, pesticides or growth retardants.

Cuts lawns, using hand mower or power mower.

Trims and edges around walks, flower beds and walls using clippers and edging tools.

Prunes shrubs and trees to shape and improve growth, using shears.

Clears areas of leaves using rake or blower and removes debris.

Plants grass, flowers, trees and shrubs.

Waters lawn and shrubs during dry periods using hose or by activating fixed or portable sprinkler systems.

Cleans out drainage ditches and culverts, using shovel and rake.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES (continued):

Operates tractor equipped with attachments such as mowers, lawn rollers, fertilizer spreaders, edgers and aerifier.

Operates other equipment such as rototiller, trencher, stump remover, dethatcher, and root saw.

JOB RELATED AND ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Practical gardening methods.

The common names and requirements of plants, trees and shrubs as well as safe practices and procedures.

The common names and control methods of plant pests.

Ability to:

Perform semiskilled and routine landscape work.

Operate hand and power tools, equipment and light trucks.

Maintain and repair garden tools.

Follow written and verbal instructions.

Perform heavy physical labor.

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Any combination equivalent to experience and education that could likely provide the required knowledge and abilities would be qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Experience: One (1) year groundskeeping experience involving care of landscaped areas.

Education: Equivalent to completion of the eighth grade.

License or Certificate: Possession of a valid Class C California Driver's License. Must obtain Class B License during probationary period.

Depending upon assignment, a Class A Driver's License and/or a California Tanker Endorsement may be required.

Possession and maintenance of a valid Qualified Applicator Certification (QAC) from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation is highly desirable.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Essential duties require the following mental and/or physical ability to: work in variable indoor and outdoor conditions; tolerate exposure to outdoor elements in all weather conditions (e.g. heat, cold, and rain) throughout the year; work in confined workspaces, and be able to tolerate some exposure to varying amounts of vibration and equipment noise, pesticide chemicals, gas, oil and PVC glue and mechanical hazards; frequent standing and walking and occasional kneeling, crouching, stooping, twisting of the upper body, climbing; handling equipment; digital dexterity; perform repetitive hand movements and fine coordination to prepare documents and data using a computer keyboard and mouse/trackball; sit for prolonged periods of time; ability to safely lift and move equipment weighing up to 80 pounds; converse by telephone, email, in person and be clearly understood; read and comprehend technical and complex documents; and interact with the public and all different levels of City staff in an effective and professional manner. Essential functions must be performed with or without reasonable accommodation.

PROBATIONARY PERIOD: One (1) Year

M205 Groundskeeper I

March 1971

Revised March 1994

Revised January 2025

AAP GROUP: 17

FPPC STATUS: Non-Designated

FLSA STATUS: Non-Exempt