DEFINITION

Under general direction, performs a variety of skilled work involving the trimming, pruning, removal, installation and general maintenance of trees; to operate equipment; and to serve as a lead worker on a tree maintenance work crew; responsible for the development and implementation of an urban forest management program involving trees and shrubs located in City parks and public rights-of-way; provide liaison between the City and the community; and performs related duties as required.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

General supervision is provided by the Park Maintenance Supervisor and higher level professional or management positions may provide functional and technical supervision. Responsibilities of the Senior Arborist may include the technical or functional supervision of Park Maintenance Worker I/II and temporary employees.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (Illustrative Only)

Essential:

- Plans, develops and directs the implementation of an urban forest management program including the maintenance, removal and planting of trees and shrubs.

- Provides recommendations on the planting, removal and retention of City trees.

- Inspects contractor’s work for compliance with City standards; identifies problems and takes corrective action.

- Inspects trees to determine required maintenance; identifies insects and diseases and selects appropriate treatment methods; determines scope of work required, estimate time and materials schedules.

- Develops and maintains street tree data and prepares planting, removal and maintenance schedules.

- Posts private property for vegetation encroachments.

- Responds to complaints, service requests and inquiries from citizens; schedules themselves and/or contractors to respond to emergency situations.

- Works independently and as a crewmember in removing trees and stumps; use of high ranger, handsaws and power saws to trim trees.
SENIOR ARBORIST

- Remove fallen trees, dead limbs, and other debris resulting from storm damage and general conditions.
- Clean and maintain trimming equipment.
- Check location of power lines, personnel, equipment, pedestrians, and traffic before cutting limbs.
- Develops and maintains positive public relations with emphasis on customer service.
- Fosters employee empowerment in the delivery of services.
- Encourages employees to develop entrepreneurial and innovative ideas.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with employees and the general public.
- Has the ability and willingness to work cooperatively in a team environment with other City employees in the course of daily activities.
- Performs related work as required.

QUALIFICATIONS

NOTE: The required level and scope of the following knowledge and skills relate to the level of the position as defined in the class characteristics.

Knowledge of:

- Principles, practices, materials, tools and equipment used in tree and landscape installation and maintenance.
- Tree species, plant material, and the methods and techniques used in their planting and maintenance.
- Soil and climate conditions, fertilization, drainage and irrigation systems conducive to the growth of trees, shrubs and plants.
- Diseases and pests and their respective chemical and biological controls.
- Laws, regulations, procedures and practices pertaining to trees and urban forest management.
- Basic methods and techniques of research, statistical analysis and report preparation.
- Safety precautions and procedures in tree and landscape maintenance.

Skill in:

- Reading and interpreting plans and specifications.
- Planting, spraying and injecting trees with pesticides/herbicides as necessary.
- Operating a chipper, aerial truck and tree sprayer.
SENIOR ARBORIST

• Interpreting and applying Federal, State and local policies, procedures, laws and regulations.

• Providing technical advice and assistance on problems relating to street and park tree and landscape maintenance, preservation and protection.

• Performing grounds maintenance or other parks maintenance work when not assigned to tree duties.

• Operating a personal computer and applicable software.

Ability to:

• Monitor, assess and assign the work of others; assist in the training, supervision and evaluation of less experienced personnel.

• Gather and analyze a variety of data; analyze problems, identify alternative solutions, project consequences of proposed actions and implement recommendations in support of goals.

• Provide technical advice and assistance on problems relating to street and park tree and landscape maintenance, preservation and protection.

• Communicate effectively both orally and written.

• Maintain accurate records and prepare reports.

• Establish and maintain cooperative and effective relationships with those contacted during the course of work.

• Work independently; organize and prioritize workload for self.

• Understand and carry out both written and oral directions.

• Meet the physical requirements necessary to safely and effectively perform the assigned duties; perform heavy manual labor.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Any relevant combination of education and experience that would demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities outlined above is qualifying. A typical way to gaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities is:

Education equivalent to completion of high school, supplemented by collegiate level courses in landscape maintenance, landscape design, horticulture, arboriculture or a related field. Four (4) years of recent, full-time increasingly responsible experience in arboriculture, landscape maintenance, horticulture or tree trimming experience.

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES:

Possession of a valid California Class B driver’s license is required. Possession of a Qualified Pest Control Applicator’s Certificate from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and Certificate as an Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture.
PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORKING CONDITIONS:

Hearing sufficient to understand conversations, both in person and on the telephone. Hear warning signals on equipment. Chop tree roots with an axe. Climb ladder to trim trees. Prune trees/shrubs with hand tools/hand trimmer/chainsaw while standing on the ground or from a ladder or from a bucket truck. Use of assorted hand and power tools used in the planting or removal of trees and shrubs for prolonged periods without physical injury. Work at moderate heights of at least 50 feet. Perform heavy physical labor including lifting and moving objects weighing more than 75 pounds with or without assistance. Ability to work out-of-doors in all weather conditions, carry equipment and work safely near heavily trafficked roadways. Manual dexterity and vision sufficient to operate a personal computer for potentially long periods of time without experiencing abnormal hand, wrist or eye strain.

Working conditions in the office are clean, well lit and free from extremes of temperature and humidity. Working conditions in the field are subject to extreme various in temperature, humidity and can include high wind and rain. The incumbent is subject to dust and pollen and other factors such as poison oak. Incumbent may occasionally be required to work on slippery or uneven surfaces.

Some accommodations may be made for some physical demands for otherwise qualified individuals who require and request such accommodations.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

This class description lists the major duties and requirements of the job and is not all-inclusive. Not all duties are necessarily performed by each incumbent. Incumbents may be expected to perform job-related duties other than those contained in this document and may be required to have specific job-related knowledge and skills.

DATE APPROVED/REVISED

6/2002