Assistant City Forester, City of Springfield (Springfield, MA)

Deadline: November 18, 2010

Under administrative direction of City Forester, participate and supervise a City-wide program of care and maintenance of trees on public properties, parks, greenbelts and forested areas of the City; to assist with the implementing of the City's urban forestry plans; to prepare and implement a public relations program to protect and preserve the City's forest resources; and to do related work as required.

Must be available for emergency callout duties after normal working hours and on weekends.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE, but are not limited to:
* Assisting the City Forester with the following:
  * Scheduling and supervising, as well as participating in, the inspection, planting, removal, pruning, trimming and maintenance of trees on City property.
  * Supervising the trimming of trees by public utilities for clearance from utility lines.
  * Instructing personnel in good forestry practices.
  * Inspecting trees for pests and disease and scheduling spraying or treatment operations; keeping abreast of developments of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides; diagnosing tree and plant diseases; making chemical tests of soil to determine treatment needed to promote tree or plant health and growth.
  * Preparing budget requests for forestry programs.
  * Supervising maintenance of tree and plant nursery stock.
  * Requisitioning and purchasing of materials.
  * Using safe working methods in operation of equipment.
  * Making tree surveys.
  * Implementing a public relations program for forest resources, preparing press releases and public information.
  * Preparing, maintaining and implementing the forestry management plan, including tree trimming and care, site improvement, tree plantings and removals.
  * Preparing and maintaining an inventory of tree population by species and age groups within the City and a general survey of trees on private property within the City.
  * Drafting reports and preparing contract specifications, soliciting bids, monitoring contract work in the field, administering payments to contractors.
  * Acting for the Urban Forester in his/her absence, under the direction of the Director of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation.

SKILLS/COMPETENCIES REQUIRED INCLUDE, but are not limited to:
* Thorough knowledge of arboriculture and methods, tools and equipment used in the care and maintenance of trees, plants, and shrubs.
* Thorough knowledge of tree trimming and safety practices and equipment used in tree climbing including aerial lift truck.
* Thorough knowledge of plant and tree diseases and pests, and their eradication and control.
* Considerable knowledge of modern supervisory methods; the operation and maintenance of power equipment and tools used in tree work.
* Ability to prepare, present, implement and enforce the City's Tree Protection Ordinance.
* Ability to prepare contract specifications.
* Ability to schedule, supervise and participate in the work of several crews.
* Ability to make chemical tests of soils.
* Ability to instruct others in the safe use of tree and plant maintenance tools and equipment.
* Ability to present information verbally and in writing; to maintain records of activities; to establish and maintain effective relationships with others.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE/CERTIFICATIONS REQUIRED:
* Any combination equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Forestry or related field, including courses in arboriculture and horticulture, specializing in urban forestry, and, five (5) years in a supervisory capacity in tree and grounds care and maintenance.
* Possession of a valid Massachusetts Class B License (CDL) at the time of appointment with an acceptable driving record.
* Possession of a valid Pesticide License.
* Possession of or the ability to obtain an Arborist Certificate within six (6) months of employment.


TO APPLY
For application procedure, see job posting on City of Springfield website: click here.  

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U.S. Forest Service

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