

Position Description

Position Title: Technical Field Arborist
Department: Parks, Recreation, and Facilities
Last Updated: November 2024
Classification: PT3

where it all happens.

Summary

The Technical Field Arborist supports the development, implementation and maintenance of the City's programs, policies, and processes related to the Tree Protection Bylaw, reforestation plan, municipal tree inventory, service requests, and tree maintenance. This position performs a combination of office and fieldwork to optimize the health and survival of all City owned trees. As a technical expert, this position will determine the appropriate treatment for diseased and injured trees in City Parks and the urban forests, and coordinates removal and replacement with contractors.

Key Duties & Accountabilities

- Assists in the development, implementation, and maintenance of a variety of City programs and policies, in accordance with current professional industry standards, including but not limited to:
 - Tree Protection Bylaw
 - Urban Forest Management Plan
 - Arboricultural Maintenance
 - Planting programs
- Issues work requests to crews and contractors for specific arboriculture activities, providing direction and reviewing progress to ensure conformance during and up to completion
- Assists in ensuring the consistent application of the Tree Protection Bylaw by conducting site inspections on City-owned and private trees and coordinating third-party arborist reports
- Prepares logs, forms and reports documenting inspections and other events or activities
- Recommends urban forestry practices (pruning, etc.), including coordinating contract crews and conducting site inspections for work on all City-owned trees
- Provides technical expertise to identify, monitor and make recommendations on control of pests and diseases impacting urban forests
- Provides input and recommendations for the Tree Protection Bylaw and maintains and develops City policies and procedures
- Assesses problems involving tree maintenance and tree hazards by performing tree risk assessments and evaluating removal requests on public land
- Evaluates and authorizes Tree Cutting Permit applications for private land in accordance with the Tree Protection Bylaw
- Responds to and assesses storm damaged trees, as required
- Prepares budget estimates, monitors and controls expenditures, and maintains various manual and computerized records
- Reviews and approves Tree Cutting Permit applications
- Responds to enquiries from other departments, landscape architects, engineers, developers, and the public
- Participates as an active member of the department planning team in the review of proposed land acquisitions and development projects to determine future maintenance needs

- Maintains positive relationships with the City's primary contractors and collaborates with arboricultural consultants and contractors as needed, ensuring effective communication and support
- Provides excellent and efficient service to both internal and external customers
- Responds to afterhours emergency calls as required, including in support of local emergencies
- Performs other related duties as required

Qualifications

- Technical school diploma in Natural Resources Management or a related field and five (5) years' related experience ideally in a municipal government environment (or an equivalent combination)
- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Arborist Certification Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)
- Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or Registered Forest Technologist (RFT) certification is an asset
- Wildlife Dangerous Tree Assessor (Parks and Recreation module) is an asset
- Valid BC Driver's License (Class 5)
- Considerable knowledge of tree species, diseases and integrated pest management methods
- Considerable knowledge of arboricultural methods, practices, materials and equipment
- Ability to read blueprints, sketches, plans and diagrams
- Ability to effectively and efficiently plan, organize and manage workloads and projects, set priorities, meet deadlines, and work under pressure
- Ability to plan, assign and evaluate the work of contractors, analyze complex data and resolve problems
- Demonstrated ability to properly use and maintain a variety of forest measurement and mensuration tools
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills with the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with internal staff, contractors, community groups and organizations
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of information related to the function of the position
- A commitment to excellent customer service, continuous improvement, and life-long learning
- A team player with a strong work ethic
- A sense of humour with the ability to take your work seriously but not yourself.