

## **UTILITY ARBORIST/FORESTER**

**Grade: 17**

### General Statement of Duties:

Performs responsible technical work in planning, managing, supervising and performing tasks associated with the ongoing vegetation management activities for the Town of Dallas and its municipal Electric Utility. Specifically responsible for program of tree, brush, and vegetation trimming and clearing to mitigate conflict with overhead electric power lines and structures, along with Right-of-Way maintenance, and the general planting, pruning and maintenance of Town Street and Park Trees and horticultural features.

### Distinguishing Features of the Class:

An employee in this class supervises the labor efforts of the Line Clearance Trimmer/Landscaper, as well as performing more skilled labor and equipment operation in the furtherance of line-clearance tree trimming, pruning, and removal, including clean-up and brush-chipping. Employee is required to independently develop, maintain and monitor programs, schedules and systems for the objective evaluation, monitoring and ongoing maintenance and preservation of Town Street and Park Trees, bushes and horticultural features. Employees are expected to possess a thorough understanding of electric distribution and transmission systems and of all proper and required safety standards and precautions to be employed when working to trim trees and branches in immediate conflict, often at significant heights, with such energized systems. This employee serves as lead worker in assigning and inspecting work, assuring compliance with all safety rules and regulations, and in training Line Clearance Trimmer/Landscapers. Significant independent judgment is utilized in determining the most appropriate work methods, in identifying and solving problems, and in observing safety standards and safeguarding work-sites and subordinates. This employee is subject to hazards associated with both electrical work, along with tree trimming and cutting efforts, in difficult environments, outdoors, in all temperatures and elements, and often at heights. Work is performed under the direct supervision of the Electric Utility Operations Manager and the general supervision of the Electric Utility Director.

### Duties and Responsibilities:

#### Essential Duties and Tasks:

Develops programs for, supervises, and engages in skilled labor to prune, remove, and maintain trees and vegetation from conflict with overhead electric power lines and above-ground structures. Maintains and clears utility and street rights-of-ways. Assures thorough clean-up of work-sites, including proper brush and/or vegetation removal and chipping.

Develops programs for, supervises, and engages in skilled labor to plant, prune, and maintain Town street and park trees, bushes and horticultural features, including the proper application and spraying of herbicides and/or pesticides; along with similar ongoing and assigned programs for Utility and other Town Right-of-way maintenance.

Independently operates and supervises others in the operation of bucket trucks and other equipment around energized lines; operates chain saws, chipper, stump grinder, dump truck, hydraulic pruning tools, tractor, bush-hog, back-hoe, etc.

Inspects trucks, tools, and equipment used in forestry, trimming, and grounds maintenance for safe condition and efficient operation and reports and/or recommends necessary repairs.

Supervises and repairs damages to lawns, fences, and vegetation caused by tree-trimming or maintenance activities.

Safeguards employees and public from hazards in and around work area. Cooperates with citizens, customers, police, fire and emergency crews when blocking streets or public ways. Sets up barriers, warning signs, flags, markers, cones, etc. to protect employees and public. Trained to perform tree and bucket rescue.

Assists with the planning, organizing, scheduling, and evaluating of training programs for personnel.

Independently handles customer complaints involving tree-trimming and vegetation maintenance activities and claims for damages, and works with supervisor(s) to remedy them satisfactorily.

Assists with Budget; maintains various work records and prepares time-sheets and reports; conducts performance appraisals of subordinates.

Maintains thorough knowledge of Town's vegetation maintenance policies and assures compliance.

#### Additional Job Duties:

Must obtain and possess, at Town's expense, NCDOT Flagger Course Certification, as well as NC state herbicide and pesticide licensure.

Performs all other duties as assigned and required.

#### Recruitment and Selection Guidelines:

##### Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Thorough knowledge of the standard techniques and practices used in aerial tree trimming and removal in proximity and conflict with overhead power lines.

Thorough knowledge of the operation, use, and care of all vehicles, tools, equipment, and supplies used in tree-trimming and removal; tree planting and maintenance; and right-of-way maintenance, including application of chemical pesticides and herbicides.

Considerable knowledge of the hazards and safety precautions involved in power-line and power-line-proximate work.

Working knowledge of the principles of electricity as related to transmission and distribution.

Ability to work around high voltage lines independently and to take precautionary measures to avoid accidents.

Ability to make effective decisions in difficult environments and emergency work conditions.

Ability to assign work, inspect work, supervise work, train subordinates and co-workers and insure safety precautions of crew.

Ability to understand and interpret oral and written instructions.

Ability to communicate effectively in oral and written form and to prepare effective work records.

Ability to use tree-trimmer tools and operate required vehicles and equipment.

Ability to maintain effective working relationships with the public, other employees, and supervisors.

### Physical Requirements:

Must be able to physically perform the basic operational functions of climbing, balancing, stooping, kneeling, crouching, crawling, reaching, standing, walking, pushing, pulling, lifting, fingering, grasping, feeling, talking, and hearing. Must be able to perform heavy work at times exerting up to 100 pounds of force occasionally, and/or up to 50 pounds of force frequently, and/or up to 20 pounds of force constantly to lift or move objects. Must possess the visual acuity to operate mobile equipment, monitor work site progress, perform skilled tasks, and inspect and manipulate small parts.

### Desirable Education and Experience:

Graduation from an accredited High school supplemented by, at minimum, considerable experience in the care and pruning of trees and shrubs, as well as aerial line clearance tree-trimming and the operation of vehicles, tools and equipment necessary for such activities. Also, some degree of supervisory experience and demonstrated understanding of electrical distribution and transmission systems and associated safety standards. Associates degree in related field preferred.

### Special Requirements:

Possession of a valid North Carolina CDL driver's license. Certification in CPR; tree-top and bucket rescue; and pesticide/herbicide application. Must possess ability to train and certify subordinates in tree-top and bucket rescue as well. Must be available for emergency call-backs on demand.