

SPRINKLER MECHANIC

DEFINITION:

Under general supervision of the Supervisor of Maintenance and Grounds, plans and installs new or replacement lawn and landscape sprinkler systems, maintains and repairs existing lawn sprinkler systems; performs general grounds maintenance duties as assigned; assumes and performs related work as necessary or required.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS:

This is a journey level class having strong skills in all aspects of lawn and landscape sprinkler maintenance. Incumbents are expected to work independently in the planning, installation, troubleshooting and repair of large lawn and/or landscape sprinkler systems. Incumbents are also expected to work with, train and provide direction in the work of assigned staff.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Installs new lawn and landscape sprinkler systems, including automatically operated controls, timing devices, valves, sprinkler heads, lines, clock motors, switches, and pump motors; *E*

Converts existing irrigation systems from manual to electric operation, and clocks from hydraulic to electric; *E*

Investigates reported problems with fields to determine if irrigation is proper, troubleshoots problems, repairs and/or matches sprinkler heads, finds and repairs hydraulic leaks, replaces failed valves and maintains existing lawn and landscape sprinkler systems; *E*

Inspects, cleans, adjusts sprinkler controls to ensure correct irrigation; *E*

Performs backflow testing; unplugs and reroutes water and control lines and performs general troubleshooting of system or component malfunctions; *E*

Reads, works from blueprints, makes changes to and records Asas built information on blueprints for irrigation systems; *E*

Estimates and records time, labor and materials, maintains repair parts inventory and orders supplies as necessary;

Performs a variety of grounds maintenance tasks, including operating a variety of grounds maintenance equipment, such as, wire tracers, metal detectors, backflow testing equipment;

Operates motorized vehicles and equipment, such as, backhoes, bobcat skip loaders and dump trucks;

May perform general custodial or semi-skilled plumbing maintenance tasks;

E denotes an essential function of the job.

SUPERVISION:

Supervision is received from the Supervisor of Maintenance and Grounds. Leadership and direction is received from the Grounds/Gardener Lead Worker.

Leads and/or directs the work of assigned apprentice/helpers. Supervision is not exercised over other employees.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**Knowledge of:**

Backflow testing;

Proper methods, materials, tools, equipment used in the installation, maintenance and repair of complex automated sprinkler systems;

Sprinkler system installation, maintenance and repair;

Sizes pipes and fittings necessary to ensure proper volumes and pressures in irrigation systems;

Safe, efficient, effective use of power grounds maintenance equipment;

Principles of leadership and direction;

Simple record keeping;

Basic electrical safety and principals;

Mathematics used in calculating areas, flow rates, irrigation requirements, and other grounds specific calculations.

Ability to:

Plan, design, determine watering requirements, and install an effective irrigation system for a variety of locations;

Read blueprints, make changes to As built drawings;

Perform backflow testing;

Safely and efficiently operate a variety of hand and power tools and equipment used in sprinkler system repair/maintenance and grounds maintenance tasks;

Safely and efficiently operate a variety of motorized equipment, motor vehicles and grounds maintenance equipment;

Safely and efficiently work on 110 volt electrical timing clocks and underground low voltage electrical systems;

Perform heavy manual labor in outdoor weather and damp ground conditions;

Understand and carry out oral and written instructions;

Prepare and maintain records as required;

Lead or direct the work of assigned helpers;

Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Individuals possessing the foregoing knowledge, skills and abilities are considered to possess education necessary to succeed in this class. The basic educational skills are typically acquired in completion of high school. Job specific skills are typically acquired through completion of a backflow prevention training course and one to two years of experience in general grounds/gardening or irrigation system work. At least two to three years of prior successful work experience in automated sprinkler system installation, maintenance and repair is required.

LICENSES/CERTIFICATES REQUIRED:

Possession of a valid and appropriate California Driver License.

Possession of a valid County of Orange certificate of competence to test backflow prevention devices.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT:

Stands, walks, frequently climbs into and out of holes, maintains balance, frequently stoops, bends, and kneels; Does heavy work, digging holes & trenches, lifting, carrying, pushing objects weighing 100 pounds; repetitively uses fingers on both hands, twists and exerts pressure with wrists and hands, and reaches over head to perform work; uses both hands/legs simultaneously; requires rapid mental/muscular coordination; communicates clearly and is able to understand normal voice conversation; has good depth perception and normal color vision; visual acuity sufficient to see small details, and distance vision to safely operate heavy equipment on school grounds and observe proper irrigation; works in various lighting conditions; works with a variety of powered equipment and sharp tools; works outside subject to ambient temperature changes; frequently exposed to fumes, odors, dust, and occasionally to toxic materials; has direct contact with District staff; works without direct guidance from supervisor; wears safety equipment appropriate to the job. Employment is contingent upon passing a physical examination and back evaluation test.

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