

PLAYGROUND TECHNICIAN

CLASS DESCRIPTION

General Responsibilities:

This is specialized technical work inspecting, installing, servicing, repairing and maintaining city playgrounds, and playground equipment and surfacing. Work includes directing and performing duties related to playground equipment safety and inspection, and providing technical information and assistance to supervisors, seasonal staff, equipment installation contractors and manufacturers, other park staff and the general public. The work involves laboring tasks, equipment operation, the use of common and specialized tools, and snow removal during winter months. Work is typically performed independently under the general supervision of the Landscape Construction Supervisor with independent judgment exercised with respect to repairs and ensuring user safety until repairs occur.

Examples of Duties and Responsibilities:

Perform monthly safety inspections at each City playground to identify loose, shy, sharp, worn and damaged components; exposed concrete footers; and proper surfacing material levels. Conduct routine safety audits of each City playground. Ensure proper playground signage at all City playgrounds. Complete and file playground inspection forms. Track and monitor all repairs and maintenance.

Determine when repairs are needed, how to properly make repairs according to manufacturers specifications, and when to take equipment out of use. Read, interpret and adhere to ASTM, CPSC and NPSI regulations and manufacturers specifications. Make recommendations for equipment and surfacing replacement.

Investigate and write incident reports of reported injuries. Place unsafe playgrounds/equipment out of service, in consultation with supervisor.

Review plans for new playgrounds and consult on safety, design and maintenance analysis. Determine if equipment specified is appropriate for the area and meets safety use zones guidelines.

Communicate and coordinate with manufacturers and distributors on issues related to new and old equipment, orders, and warranties.

Maintain a current file for each playground including inspection and manufacturers information, and inventory and condition of playground equipment and surfacing.

Order replacement parts, supplies and materials for routine repair and maintenance. Stock work vehicle with tools and materials to allow for immediate repairs.

Repair and replace worn, cracked and defective equipment and parts. Rake and redistribute surfacing materials, and remove foreign objects. Remove graffiti from play equipment, benches, retaining walls, etc. using power washing equipment or solvents.

Remove snow from bike paths, sidewalks, service drives, parking lots and skating rinks using plows, snow blowers and hand shovels. Assist with maintaining city ice rinks. Groom city cross country ski trails.

Direct and coordinate the work of seasonal workers.

Perform related work as required.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Working knowledge of the materials, methods, tools and techniques used in the installation, repair and maintenance of playgrounds, and playground equipment and surfacing. Working knowledge of playground safety standards as set forth by the ASTM, CPSC and NPSI. Working knowledge of and ability to use computer software applicable to the duties of the position. Knowledge of reading, reviewing and understanding pre-construction plans and specifications, layout sketches, blue print diagrams and CAD designs. Knowledge of or ability to learn policies, and procedures within the Parks Department. Knowledge of the principles, laws and ordinances regulating equipment operations. Knowledge of relevant safety practices and skill in operating various types of standard and heavy (greater than one ton) equipment. Skill in directing and assigning work to others. Skill in performing mechanical tasks to repair and maintain the City's playgrounds. Ability to interpret and explain park policies and procedures, and to apply them. Ability to conduct equipment safety inspections and site safety audits involving extensive field work. Ability to analyze equipment and surfacing materials, and make recommendations. Ability to operate heavy equipment and related maintenance equipment, and perform heavy manual and semi-skilled tasks incorporating strenuous physical activity for extended periods of time often under adverse weather conditions. Ability to operate and adjust automotive and other equipment. Ability to make decisions rapidly. Ability to maintain required records. Ability to develop maintenance schedules and establish priorities. Ability to work independently within established guidelines. Ability to carry out oral and written instructions. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships including interactions with other City staff and the general public. Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing. Ability to operate a motor vehicle. Ability to maintain adequate attendance.

Training and Experience:

Generally, positions in this classification will require:

Two years of experience related to maintenance and safety inspection of recreational equipment and grounds, supplemented by college coursework or an Associate's degree in construction, recreation, operations or a related field. Other combinations of training and/or experience which can be demonstrated to result in possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to perform the work of this position will also be considered.

Specific training and experience requirements will be established at the time of recruitment.

Necessary Special Qualifications:

Possession of a valid Class B Commercial Driver's License. The successful candidate must have passed the written portion of the relevant Department of Transportation testing process before starting employment. A condition of continued employment is passage of the skills portion of the test and obtaining the required operator's license within a specified timeframe.

Specific endorsement requirements will be determined on a position by position basis.

Must attain and maintain Certified Playground Safety Inspector certification within six (6) months of hire. Failure to obtain the certification within the required time period may result in forfeiture of the position, absent extenuating circumstances.

Physical Requirements:

Employees in this position must be able to lift/carry objects weighing up to 50 pounds and must be capable of lifting heavier objects with another employee. This position requires a high percentage of work outdoors in all types of weather while walking, including over uneven terrain, and standing. In addition, employees must be able to frequently bend, twist, squat, climb and reach for extended periods of time. Employees will be expected to safely use solvents to remove graffiti.

Department/Division	Comp. Group	Range
Parks Division	16	14

Approved: _____
Brad Wirtz
Human Resources Director

Date