

GARDENER

DEFINITION

Maintains lawns, athletic fields, trees, shrubs, unplanted areas, and undeveloped sites.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Maintains lawns and turf on athletic fields by mowing, reseeding, edging, fertilizing, renovating, and weeding.

Plants and tends trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and ground covers by cultivating, pruning and shaping, staking, fertilizing, mulching, weeding, transplanting, and removing hazardous or unnecessary growth.

Operates power equipment including but not limited to mowers, edgers, hedge trimmers, weed trimmers, back blowers, utility tractors, rototillers, and renovators.

Adjusts and performs minor maintenance on tools and power equipment.

Checks for safety hazards in planted areas of a school campus, prepares reports, and performs appropriate repairs.

Maintains, adjusts, and makes minor repairs on lawn sprinkler systems.

Keeps drains and flow lines in planted areas free from debris.

Assists in laying out and marking athletic and recreation fields.

Applies fertilizers and soil amendments.

May be responsible to maintain composting areas.

Maintains athletic facilities such as long jump pits, runways, running tracks, and shot put areas.

May advise and train custodial personnel in proper watering procedures, operation and setting of automatic sprinkler controllers, and maintenance and adjustment of lawn sprinkler systems.

May maintain or replace plants in various containers.

May maintain weed control of elementary agriculture plots and assist in preparation for educational programs.

May drive a van, truck, or other vehicle to transport gardening equipment, tools, and supplies.

May occasionally be assigned to other duties for training purposes or to meet technological changes or emergencies.

Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG RELATED CLASSES

A Gardener performs maintenance gardening for a group of schools or office buildings and works under the general supervision of a Tractor Mower Operator, Area Operations Supervisor, Operations Program Manager, Complex Project Manager, or Central Shops Supervisor.

A Tractor Mower Operator operates gasoline, battery or diesel-powered tractor mower; makes cost estimates of lawn and turf reconditioning; and intermittently supervises lower-level gardening personnel engaged in turf and lawn care.

A Building and Grounds Worker maintains buildings and grounds in a clean, sanitary, and safe condition.

SUPERVISION

General supervision usually is received from a Tractor Mower Operator, Area Operations Supervisor, Operations Program Manager, Complex Project Manager, Principal, Central Shops Supervisor. No supervision is exercised.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Plant materials such as ground covers, turf areas, weeds, trees, and shrubs
Methods, materials, tools and power equipment used in the care of lawns, turf, trees, shrubs, hedges, ground cover, and flowers grown in Southern California
Fertilizers, gardening, and landscaping supplies.
LAUSD's Integrated Pest Management policy in relation to the use of pesticides.

Ability to:

Safely operate and make minor repairs to power equipment
Plant and prune trees, shrubs, hedges, ground cover, and flowers
Deal effectively with District personnel, students, and the public

Special Physical Requirements:

Safely lift and move tools, equipment, and materials related to the work
Ability to kneel and squat for extended periods of time

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Successful completion of four courses in horticulture, agriculture, or related subjects in a high school, college, adult, or vocational school may be substituted for six months of the required experience.

Experience:

One year of experience in general maintenance gardening including care of lawns, trees, shrubs, hedges, ground covers, and flowers.

Special:

A valid driver's license to legally operate a motor vehicle in the state of California
Use of an automobile.

This class description is not a complete statement of essential functions, responsibilities, or requirements. Entrance requirements are representative of the minimum level of knowledge, skill, and/or abilities. To the extent permitted by law, management retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of a position at any time, as long as such addition or change is reasonably related to existing duties.