Class Title: General Laborer – Streets and Sanitation

Characteristics of the Class

Under immediate supervision, performs unskilled manual work of a physical nature in the performance of various work operations and is assigned to all bureaus and sections within the Department of Streets and Sanitation, including the Bureau of Rodent Control, Forestry, Sanitation and Street Operations; and performs related duties as required.

Class is a multi-rate title; rate of pay to individual positions is dependent on specific duties assigned and performed.

Essential Duties

- Assigned to graffiti removal crew, rides lift equipment such as a cherry picker to reach and remove graffiti 10 feet or higher above ground.
- Drive a city pick-up truck to transport tools and needed resources (i.e. port-a-potty) to various work sites for S.W.A.P. (Sheriff's Work Alternative Program).
- Climbs trees and/or is lifted in a mechanical device to remove selected limbs with power saws or pruners.
- Cuts tree trunks on the ground with gasoline or electric power saws.
- Helps to load severed tree trunks onto trucks.
- Operates power sprayers on trees and shrubs to combat disease and insects.
- Repairs trees by bolting and cabling or filling cavities in trees.
- Dates and prepares trees for planting and/or plants trees.
- Prepares cuttings of shrubs to facilitate propagation.
- Repairs and maintains a variety of equipment used in the planting, transplanting, and pruning of trees.
- Ensures the availability of adequate tree trimming supplies and equipment on site.
- Load refuse carts by pushing/wheeling carts to the back of refuse truck, positioning carts and operating hydraulic lever to lift, dump and compact the refuse into the truck’s hopper.
- Clean areas around refuse carts, shoveling, lifting and loading loose garbage, debris and bulk refuse onto truck’s hopper.
- Work on graffiti removal crews, using soda blasting equipment by positioning and aiming hoses to remove graffiti from surfaces of structures.
- Assigned to Loop Operations, lift and dump filled garbage bags, replace bags in street waste baskets, lift and dump street baskets into refuse truck hoppers.
- Assigned to all day barricade crew, traveling to various sites to load, set up, take down, and transport barricades.
Lift and load garbage bags in wire refuse baskets located on main thoroughfares, lifting and dumping refuse from baskets into truck’s hopper and compacting refuse using hydraulic level mechanism.

Remove debris and bulk items to clean vacant lots, viaducts and homes under court ordered cleaning, shoveling, sweeping, and picking up garbage and loading onto trucks for removal.

Post street sweeping and other sanitation signs, carrying cardboard signs and walking assigned geographical areas, tying signs onto trees and fences and/or removing old signs.

Bait rat burrows with rodenticides, carrying buckets of rodenticide pellets and placing them directly into burrow, closing off burrow entrance and re-baiting as needed.

Load and unload rodenticides onto work vehicles and performs related laborer tasks.

Explain to homeowners purpose of site visit and obtains permission to access and walk around the outside areas of private property to visually locate and identify rat burrows.

Remove active wasp hives or insect nests found in trees in city parkways, using poles or riding in a lift basket to required heights to cut down hives and nests and/or apply pesticides.

Bait sewers, lifting sewer covers and lowering block form of rodenticide into sewers.

Remove dead animals from streets, parkways and private property, lifting and placing animals into required bags and loading and unloading them for transport and proper disposal.

Assemble new refuse carts by snapping on wheels and steel bars on carts.

Load and unload carts and deliver to ward offices and residential homes; pick up damaged refuse carts and return to warehouse.

Load and unload snow fence materials and installs by rolling fence material and attaching to poles using wire and wire cutters.

Clean and clear vacant lots and viaducts of debris, using shovels, picks, rakes and brooms to pick up and bag garbage and debris and load onto dump trucks.

Assist with garage demolitions, shoveling, picking up and loading trucks with debris and materials left after tear down of structures.

Power wash streets, sidewalks and viaducts, lifting and using hoses and cleaning solvents to clean designated areas.

Mounts quick hitch plows to refuse trucks, shovels sand to fill sand bags and manually spreads sand; breaks up salt to ensure proper spreading; loads, unloads and sets up barricades.

Assigned to Loop Operations, perform a variety of duties including:

1. driving a pick-up truck to various sites to sweep, pick up garbage and clear areas of debris.
2. manually clean and remove graffiti using spray solvents.
3. spread sand in vehicle accident areas.
4. sweep and clean sidewalks and curbs using heavy-duty long handled dustpans and brooms.
5. power wash sidewalks and alleys.
NOTE: The list of essential duties is not intended to be inclusive; there may be other duties that are essential to particular positions within the class.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education, Training, and Experience

• Willingness and ability to perform the duties of the job

Licensure, Certification, or Other Qualifications

• Depending on job assignments, some positions require a valid State of Illinois driver’s license

WORKING CONDITIONS

• Exposure to outdoor weather conditions

EQUIPMENT

• Manual equipment (e.g., shovels, rakes, brooms, scoops, hand tools)
• Power equipment (e.g. power hoses, sandblasters)
• Tree trimming and landscape equipment (e.g. chain saw, pole saw, axe, weed cutter, pesticide application sprayer, )
• Personal protective equipment (e.g., shoes, glasses, gloves, safety vest, )

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

• Extremely heavy lifting and carrying ranging from 75 to 100 pounds is required
• Ability to use and operate applicable hand tools and equipment requiring continuous hand gripping
• Ability to physically endure working in outdoor weather conditions
• Ability to move one’s hands and arms to grasp, grip or manipulate equipment and other objects
• Ability to stand, walk and bend for extended or continuous periods of time
• Ability to climb (e.g. access cabs of trucks or vehicles, staircases)

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND OTHER WORK REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge

Some knowledge of:

• geographical areas of the city
• applicable safety practices and procedures specific to unskilled labor and maintenance work

Knowledge of applicable City and department policies, procedures, rules, regulations, and ordinances

Skills

• ACTIVE LISTENING - Give full attention to what other people are saying, take time to understand the points being made, ask questions as appropriate, and not interrupt at inappropriate times

Abilities

• COMPREHEND ORAL INFORMATION - Listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences
CLASS TITLE: GENERAL LABORER – STREETS AND SANITATION

- SPEAK - Communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand
- COMPREHEND WRITTEN INFORMATION - Read and understand information and ideas presented in writing

Other Work Requirements

- STAMINA - Demonstrate energy and stamina to accomplish work tasks
- DEPENDABILITY - Demonstrate reliability, responsibility, and dependability and fulfill obligations
- ATTENTION TO DETAIL – Pay careful attention to detail and thoroughness in completing work tasks

All employees of the City of Chicago must demonstrate commitment to and compliance with applicable state and federal laws, and City ordinances and rules; the City’s Ethics standards; and other City policies and procedures.

The City of Chicago will consider equivalent foreign degrees, accreditations, and credentials in evaluating qualifications.

* May be required at entry.

City of Chicago
Department of Human Resources
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