

<b>Position:</b>	Skilled Groundskeeper, Senior - Irrigation	<b>FLSA:</b>	Non-Exempt
<b>Department/Site:</b>	Plant Operations/Grounds & Landscape	<b>Salary Grade:</b>	19
<b>Reports to/Evaluated by:</b>	Grounds Supervisor	<b>Salary Schedule:</b>	Operations

**SUMMARY**

Performs a variety of skilled work involving grounds and landscape maintenance of public access grounds, gardens, and sports fields. A Senior Skilled Groundskeeper will have an area of specialization such as irrigation, integrated pest management, or advanced horticulture and turf management.

**DISTINGUISHING CAREER FEATURES**

The Senior Skilled Groundskeeper represents the senior level in a career path for grounds and turf management. Advancement to Senior Skilled Groundskeeper is possible based on at least 3 years' experience as a skilled groundskeeper or equivalent, and one of the following:

Specialization in irrigation systems

Advanced certification in integrated pest management or

Advanced credentials in landscape, horticulture, and turf management

Advancement to Grounds Team Leader is based on need and compliance with the qualifications of the position

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Senior Skilled Groundskeeper –Irrigation is capable of performing in all of the following areas, however, has credentials, serves as a skill leader, and performs work in the area of irrigation.

**Irrigation**

- Installs, repairs and replaces landscape irrigation systems following and interpreting blueprints, sketches or verbal instructions. Designs and prepares plans for irrigation systems and/or makes necessary changes to blueprints for irrigation system design compliance and to locate shutoff valves, irrigation valves, and physical layouts. Meets with contractors, architects, approves plans, and performs utility locates.
- Installs, adjusts, maintains and repairs electronic timers. Installs, inspects and performs major repairs to electronic and hydraulic valves and controllers. Replaces and repairs a wide variety of sprinkler heads and lines by removing, disassembling and replacing worn or broken parts.
- Drains, flushes, cleans, and repairs water storage reservoirs and irrigation boxes from water sources on a periodic basis. . Assists with installation of new water lines.

## **Landscape Maintenance and Horticulture**

- Serves as a resource on landscape and horticultural matters. Designs and installs new landscaping by cultivating and renovating areas and installing or replacing turf, trees, ornamental plants, shrubs, ground covers, annuals, and bulbs. Selects, plants, prunes, and trims trees, ornamental plants, shrubs, and ground covers to accomplish landscaping objectives.
- Removes weeds, blows, rakes, and removes trash and debris from walkways, culverts, stairways, roadways, planters, and parking. Mows, grooms, and replants lawn areas. Fertilizes turf and various landscaped areas. Maintains in-ground drains and culverts.
- Stakes, prunes, thins, and transplants turf, trees, ornamental plants, shrubs, ground covers, annuals, and bulbs. Levels, cuts, fills, trenches, and excavates grounds with tractors and other rolling stock. Prepares sites for portable buildings.

## **Field Preparation**

- Interacts and coordinates with Physical Education and Athletics Division faculty members regarding classroom setup and maintenance in District athletic fields/areas, as appropriate. Constructs, sets up, takes down, maintains, and repairs athletic activity courses, tracks, ranges, fields, and other equipment and constructions.
- Maintains athletic fields, areas, surfaces, and outdoor classrooms in a safe and usable condition. Mows, grooms, contours, paints, and lines athletic and public use play fields to comply with required dimensions.
- Sets up signs, scoreboards, goals, clocks, benches, trash cans, public address systems, and bleachers for athletic or other events.

## **Equipment Operation**

- Operates specialized irrigation equipment and demanding machinery to dig, excavate, contour, and construct special land uses such as athletic fields and pedestrian parks, e.g., jackhammers, compressors.
- Operates combination front loader/back hoe, trenchers, dump trucks, and equivalent machinery. Inspects machinery before use to ensure proper servicing and safe operating condition.
- Trains other staff in the proper use of specialized and heavy equipment.

## **Spraying Applications**

- Monitors and diagnoses weed, disease, and pest problems in athletic fields/areas, taking appropriate measures to mitigate or eliminate the problems.
- Sets calibration on tank sprayers, drop spreaders, and wheel-driven spreaders.
- Applies fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides to areas, as authorized. Places postings where pesticides are being applied. Disposes of product containers per instructions and applicable environmental regulations. Applies biological/organic controls for pests and weeds.
- Maintains up-to-date knowledge of safe pesticide/herbicide application.

## General

- Maintains adequate inventories of irrigation parts and glues, primers, pesticides, fertilizers, paints, oils, tools, seed, compost, sod, and equipment. Maintains records of purchases and uses.
- Maintains work order records, equipment parts listings, equipment oil change logs, equipment service/repair logs, irrigation repair logs, and records of supplies used on athletic fields.
- Maintains current Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for potentially hazardous materials. Maintains logs and files pesticide use reports with the District and/or local governmental agencies.
- Performs other duties as assigned that support the overall objective of the position.

## QUALIFICATIONS

**Knowledge and Skills:** The position requires thorough knowledge of turf management and maintenance practices and techniques including those for athletic fields. Requires knowledge of horticulture and methods of planting, cultivating, pruning, and caring for plants, trees, and lawns. Requires knowledge of sprinkler and irrigation system design, installation, operation, and maintenance. Requires knowledge of the operating and mechanical characteristics of a full range of grounds maintenance equipment sufficient to skillfully operate and perform maintenance and major repairs. Requires knowledge of and skill at reading landscape blueprints and specifications. Requires knowledge of proper and safe application of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. Plant diseases and pests and their biological and chemical controls, record keeping techniques. Requires knowledge of safe lifting techniques; techniques for safe handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. Requires sufficient math skill to calculate distances, proportions, and sums. Requires sufficient human relations skill to work cooperatively as part of a team to serve internal and external customers.

**Abilities:** Requires the ability to plant, cultivate, prune, and care for plants, trees, and lawns. Requires the ability to use herbicides and pesticides safely and effectively. Perform roadway and sidewalk repairs, including mixing and pouring concrete, asphalt, etc. Must be able to manage and maintain lawns, athletic fields, gardens, and perform roadway and sidewalk repairs. Must be able to accurately identify turf and other plant diseases and pests and take steps to mitigate or eradicate. Must be able to design, install, operate, maintain, and repair sprinkler and irrigation systems. Requires the ability to read and interpret blueprints and specifications. Must be able to operate large vehicle, excavating and other mechanical equipment safely. Requires the ability to use and operate hand tools, mechanical equipment and power tools and equipment required for the work in a safe and efficient manner. Requires the ability to maintain accurate records. Requires the ability to repair pumps and motors used in irrigation systems and engines, running gears, suspensions and electronic controls used in powered equipment. Requires the ability to safely apply pesticides and herbicides. Requires the ability to skillfully and safely operate grounds maintenance power equipment and hand tools. Requires the ability to lead projects and oversee student and/or other temporary help. Requires the ability to work as part of a team with minimal supervision. Requires the ability to work varying schedules in support of projects and events.

**Physical Abilities:** Requires the ability to stand for extended periods of time, walk up to 400 yards uninterrupted, and manipulate (lift, carry, move) light to heavy weights of up to 75 pounds on a regular basis. Requires the ability to push, pull, and guide materials over 75 pounds. Requires the ability to climb (e.g. ladders), stoop, kneel, and crouch on a regular basis. Requires sufficient hand-eye coordination, hand and finger dexterity including ability to grasp, and visual acuity to operate common grounds equipment and read instructions and safety information. Requires auditory ability to hear machinery sounds and alarms. Requires near and far visual acuity to read printed materials and observe grounds objects. Requires speaking ability to carry on ordinary conversations. Requires the ability to work in extreme temperature conditions.

**Working Conditions:** Work is performed mostly outdoors where significant health and safety considerations exist from physical labor and working with machinery.

**Education and Experience:** The position typically requires a High School diploma or equivalent and three (3) to five (5) years increasingly responsible grounds keeping and irrigation systems experience, to include, heavy equipment maintenance, operation of excavating equipment, and having specialized knowledge of landscaping and horticultural techniques. Post high school training in landscaping or related area may substitute for some experience.

**Licenses and Certificates:** Requires a valid Driver's License. Irrigation credentials.