**CONSERVATION STEWARD/ARBORIST**

Full-time position with benefits package. Under the general direction of the Township Planning Director, the candidate provides oversight for the management of the community forest and open spaces in the Township of Montgomery. The work requires independent judgment and initiative and is performed with departmental and horticultural guidelines in coordination with the Public Works Department, Shade Tree Committee and Open Space Committee. This position directs the work of other employees and independent contractors.

**Job Duties and Responsibilities herein are not comprehensive and duties may be added or removed at the Township’s discretion:**

* Inventory and assess the health of trees in parks, the Montgomery Arboretum of Native Flora, open space areas including along pathways, street trees, and forested land owned by the Township
* Write specifications and recommendations for tree removal, maintenance, disease/pest treatment, chemical treatment and planting programs
* Prioritize, complete and oversee planting, pruning, maintenance needs, felling, and cabling of township trees
* Implement plans, strategies, and programs to conserve, preserve and increase urban canopy and to manage invasive plants
* Consult with the Open Space and Shade Tree Committees regarding planting, pruning and maintenance of street trees, trees and shrubs in the Arboretum and in parks
* Operate grounds maintenance equipment (e.g. lawnmowers, chainsaws) power tools, hand saws, etc.
* Maintain trails, picnic areas, and other passive use recreation areas and amenities
* Plan, design and construct trails; monitor ongoing maintenance needs
* Develop and execute stewardship plans for open space properties
* Plan and execute reforestation and restoration projects
* Create baseline reports for Township-owned lands, conduct monitoring
* Prepare cost estimates for projects and budget requests
* Recommend new equipment and requisitions supplies
* Attend meetings of the Shade Tree Committee, Open Space Committee, Environmental Commission, Recreation Committee, and Township Committee as needed
* Attend meetings, conferences, workshops, training sessions and reviews publications and audio-visual materials to become and remain current on the principles, practices and new developments in assigned work areas,
* Interact with the public and other Township departments
* Respond to emergency calls during snow/ice storms, wind and rainstorms; member of Emergency Management Team

**Required Key Technical Skills and Knowledge:**

Extensive knowledge of:

* Principles and practices of urban forestry, tree maintenance, arboriculture; prior management of an emerald ash borer program a plus,
* Horticulture: particularly ability to identify native plants (especially in Climate Zones 6-7) and invasive species
* Hazard tree assessment and abatement methods,
* Familiarity with tree management software,
* Skills in using tools and equipment necessary to execute the above duties
* ANSI A300 standards relating to tree pruning, chemical treatment, planting site analysis and tree identification as it relates to urban forestry in Climate Zones 6-7
* ANSI Z133 safety standard relating to tree removal
* Safe work procedures including traffic safety principles
* Ability to use a lift truck; P-OSHA compliant

**Required Key Technical Skills and Knowledge continued:**

* Principles and practices of contract inspection and compliance
* Pesticides application and Integrated Pest Management
* Ability to read surveys & maps to identify property boundaries

**Required Education, Certification, License:**

* Four-year degree; preferred fields of study in forestry, horticulture, biology, environmental studies or landscape architecture
* New Jersey Certified Tree Expert (CTE) license certification
* Two years urban forestry experience
* Tree Care Operator License
* Contract administration and coordination experience
* NJ Certified Pesticide Applicator
* valid NJ Driver’s License
* Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) A

**Desired Education, Certification, License:**

* Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture
* Tree Care Industry Association Electrical Hazard Awareness Program Certification

**Physical Requirements:**

* Have physical condition that meets the demands of the position; ability to lift up to 50 lbs
* Operate power saws, hand tools and spraying equipment
* Tie knots
* Primarily work outdoors with potential exposure to allergenic plants, hazardous chemicals when working with pesticides, extreme weather conditions

A valid NJ Driver’s License and NJ residency are required. If you would like to be considered, please submit your letter of interest and resume to Tamarah Novak, Personnel Coordinator, at tnovak@twp.montgomery.nj.us or in person to the Township Administration office, 2261 Route 206, Belle Mead, NJ, 08502. Salary information furnished upon request. EOE.

Updated January 28, 2020