

Position Description

Operations Department Horticulture Technician



Hudson River Park Trust

Reports to: Director of Horticulture & Field Operations Manager

Uniformed: Yes **Hours/Week:** 40 **OT Required:** Yes **FLSA:** Non-Exempt

Hudson River Park Trust (the “Trust”) seeks a full time permanent Horticulture Technician who is knowledgeable about plant maintenance and has at least 1-3 years’ experience. This position provides the daily “hands-on” physical labor (lifting, squatting, bending, etc.) required to keep all Park landscaped areas (both formal and informal) in a safe and operable condition. The Horticultural Technician may also supervise temporary/seasonal workers assigned to a geographically assigned zone of the park. Overtime, shift/weekend and/or holiday work will be required. This is a uniformed position, with uniforms provided by HRPT.

A successful candidate for this job should have knowledge of general horticultural practices and methods, irrigation system maintenance/operation, plant/weed identification, and plant health assessment/remediation.

Background:

The Trust is a public benefit corporation created by act of the New York State Legislature and a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The mission of the Trust is to design, construct and maintain a prominent, and very heavily used, 4 mile long waterfront park on the west side of Manhattan. The Park includes landscaped public piers and display gardens, lawn areas, ecological planting zones, athletic fields, esplanades, docks, public sculptures and other special features. The Trust covers its \$20 million annual operating budget through parking revenue, rents from commercial facilities, permits, fees, grants, donations generated by a “Friends” organization and other private sources. Approximately 75% of the Park has been constructed with a mix of State, City and Federal capital funding. Total investment in all facilities within the Park currently stands at approximately \$540 million.

Responsibilities/Duties:

The Horticultural Technician will undertake a variety of daily horticultural maintenance tasks. S/he will be responsible for executing assignments relating to the care of geographically designated zones and as well as team based projects.

The responsibilities/duties of this position include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Complete work orders and daily tasks as assigned, track time, resources and materials used on a daily basis, complete reports and make notifications in line with policies and procedures. The position will require learning HRPT’s Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS).

- Install (and/or remove when necessary) horticultural soils, mulch, turf and plant materials (i.e. canopy trees, understory plants, groundcovers, perennial/annual displays, turf, etc.).
- Maintain turf areas including but not limited to, mowing, trimming, edging, maintaining bed lines, aerating, dethatching, topdressing, overseeding, adjustment of grades and drainage, etc.
- Maintain horticultural assets and planting beds (canopy trees, plants, groundcovers and annuals/perennials) including but not limited to damage/corrective/structural pruning, cabling and staking, transplanting, weeding, deadheading, thinning, hand watering, etc.
- Scout for and identify pest and disease infestations in turf and plant materials and follow up with the Director of Horticulture by requesting direction for proper testing/treatment.
- Obtain/maintain a pesticide applicator's license (as required by law), apply organic and inorganic fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, etc. to turf and plant materials as directed by the Director of Horticulture in compliance with the Trust's IPM Policy. All training and license expenses will be paid by HRPT.
- Clean all lawn/hardscape areas and plant beds of leaves, trash, and other forms of debris, etc. resulting from daily operations, specific tasks, or special events.
- Inspect, monitor, operate, maintain, repair, and program irrigation systems and all components thereof.
- Perform snow and ice removal activities as directed, including the operation of specialized equipment, manual labor, and application of deicing products.
- Safely operate tools and equipment in compliance with all federal, state, and local safety requirements including but not limited to: trucks, off road vehicles (standard and automatic transmissions), specialized equipment (aerator/overseeder, wheel loader, ride on mower, skid steer loader, etc.) small power equipment (string trimmers, chainsaws, leaf blowers, dethatcher, etc.) and hand tools (hand saws, felco pruners, rakes, brooms, shovels, etc.).
- Supervise temporary/seasonal staff and volunteer groups as necessary.
- Perform basic duties of other Department staff on a "fill-in" basis as directed or required commensurate with need and incumbent's level of skill; be available for "stand-by" work on a predetermined basis or emergency response.

Education & Experience:

- Requires a high school diploma or equivalent required. Associate or Bachelor's degree in horticulture or other related field preferred.
- Specialized training in horticulture, arboriculture, plant science, or other related field is preferred.
- One to three years' experience working in a park setting, gardening, landscaping or grounds keeping is required.

Essential Traits:

- Exhibits leadership qualities by serving as a good example in terms of quality of work, punctual and regular attendance
- Proactive Work Ethic
- Professional Conduct
- Highly motivated, able to work independently and in a team setting
- Communicates effectively verbally and in writing with immediate supervisor and other staff. Must be able to communicate with the HRPT's Operations Desk in line with policy and procedure concerning incidents or issues within the park which require attention.

Special Requirements:

Requires a valid driver's license. Candidates who possess ISA certification, a valid NY State pesticide applicators and/or supervisory license, and who are Certified Landscape Technicians are preferred. Candidates must be able to lift objects weighing at least 50 pounds consistently and work outside in all weather.

Compensation / Benefits:

Competitive salary commensurate with level of experience and training. Excellent benefits package including: paid holidays, vacation time, sick and personal time, medical, dental and vision insurance, and participation in the New York State Pension System. This position is covered under a collective bargaining agreement between HRPT and Local 30 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO.

Application Process:

Interested applicants are to submit a resume and cover letter to Matthew Post, Director of Horticulture. Email a cover letter (**Indicate Job Code: HRPT-2017HORT in the subject line of the email**) and resume to: resumes@hrpt.ny.gov

No phone calls please.

More information on the Hudson River Park is available at:

www.hudsonriverpark.org

The Hudson River Park Trust is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Pursuant to Executive Order 161, no State entity, as defined by the Executive Order, is permitted to ask, or mandate, in any form, that an applicant for employment provide his or her current compensation, or any prior compensation history, until such time as the applicant is extended a conditional offer of employment with compensation. If such information has been requested from you before such time, please contact the Governor's Office of Employee Relations at (518) 474-6988 or via email at info@goer.ny.gov.