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Water Efficiency Specialist

Division/Department: Environmental Services/Water Efficiency

Reports to: Frank Kinder

Location: Berthoud, CO

Type of Position: Full-time

Status: Non-exempt

Salary Range: \$29.15 – \$33.83 per hour

GENERAL STATEMENT

This position is responsible for Northern Water's efficiency program services which include education, training, outreach, grants, audits, consultations and demonstrating sustainable landscape management.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Serves on Water Efficiency Program workgroups and supports Water Efficiency Department.
- Demonstrates sustainable landscaping at Northern Water's Berthoud campus and Conservation Gardens by performing seasonal maintenance including mowing, trimming, edging, weeding, planting, pruning, watering, digging, sweeping, cleaning, assisting with signage, irrigation, renovation, construction and other duties as assigned.
- Performs irrigation system maintenance to include controller, head, nozzle and pipe repair.
- Provides tours and interacts with visitors of Conservation Garden and Berthoud Campus.
- Provides, conducts and allocates water efficiency audits, auditor training, communicating with allottees, contractors and associated entities.
- Supports education and outreach including conservation fairs, garden events, staffing booths, committee representation and attending conferences and meetings.
- Supports training and certification including attending and facilitating workshops, seminars, open houses, meetings, classes, testing, presenting to audiences, etc.
- Supports grant program by reviewing grant applications, participating in site visits, project tracking, invoicing, documentation, close out and case studies as instructed.
- Creates and distributes water efficiency program materials.
- Researches, provides recommendations and supports programs as directed.

OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supports Water Efficiency Department by participating in services including consultations, audits, grants, collateral, training, outreach, education, events and others as instructed.
- Participates in Conservation Campus meetings and supports new buildings, landscapes, demonstrations and changes at Berthoud Campus and other locations as instructed.

- Participates in Campus Development meetings, landscape discussions and assists with implementing green building certifications and compliance at Northern Water campuses.
- Works collaboratively with other departments and divisions as instructed.
- Pursues continuing education current to the water efficiency industry through attending conferences, taking classes and completing certifications.
- Other duties as assigned.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Education

- Bachelors' degree in Horticulture, Landscape Design or Landscape Architecture required. Similar degrees such as Natural Resource Management, Conservation, Geography and Environmental Studies or Sustainability may be considered as applicable with appropriate industry experience, demonstrated understanding of concepts and industry certifications.
- Master's degree is a plus.

Experience

- At least 5 years managing, maintaining, planning, renovating and building large-scale public or private gardens, commercial scale landscapes, grounds or campus environments. Prefer settings where landscapes provided an interpretive aspect or were functional beyond aesthetics.
- At least 5 years' experience in water conservation and efficiency, utility efficiency services, horticulture management or green industry operations is a preferred.
- Irrigating landscapes based on hydrozone using different irrigation technology, management, and weather-based and site-based applications.

LICENSE, CERTIFICATE AND CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Driver's License required.
- At least one green industry certification is required from one of the following organizations: Irrigation Association for Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor, Certified Landscape Water Manager, etc. Other suitable certifications are Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) or Watershed Wise Landscape Professional (WWLP) or NALP's manager certifications.
- Other certifications from ALCC's Sustainable Landscape Management (SLM), Certified Irrigation Technician, NALP, PLANET, Certified Arborist etc. are a plus.
- USGBC's Green Building accreditation such as LEED GA, AP, SITES AP or other are a plus.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge

- Trees, plants and their names, moisture, sun and maintenance requirements.
- Moisture management via soil and soil types, mulches and plant factors via Evapotranspiration.
- Landscape management, horticultural and design practices in Colorado.
- Programming and operational use of irrigation systems, controllers and sensors.
- Detailed familiarity of plant names, plant behavior and management.
- Principles of Xeriscape.
- The following are helpful but not required: demand side management, understanding conservation and environmental incentives, water use in residential, commercial and industrial sectors, low impact development, integrated pest management.

Skills

- Read and understand landscape plans, plant lists and project documentation.
- Landscape maintenance and plant care practices.

- Implementing customer service concepts.
- Proficient Microsoft Office Suite software.
- Proper use of hand and power tools.
- Professional written, interpersonal and oral communication.
- Read and comprehend complex documentation, including construction documents.
- Presenting to groups in an educational setting such as conferences, webinars, etc.

Abilities

- Work independently and within team settings.
- Collaborate and take initiative to partner to complete projects.
- Record, review and communicate complex information to diverse audiences.
- Continue education through coursework, study, test and completion.
- Be positive and proactive in a dynamic, teamwork-based environment.
- Prepare for and participate in meetings and completing follow-up tasks.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Works in heat, rain, cold, wind, dust and other adverse conditions.
- Walks, sits, stoops, kneels, bends, lifts, hauls, digs, climbs, crawls, etc.
- Lifting up to 50 pounds.
- Balancing on uneven surfaces.
- Requires sustained periods of sitting in an office setting utilizing a keyboard and mouse.
- Occasionally works more than 40 hours during peak periods.
- Works flexible hours to accommodate events, which may include early morning, late evenings and some weekends.
- Performs work safely and protects Northern Water property and personnel.
- Must be able to meet the physical requirements of a post job offer physical examination.

Reasonable accommodations will be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of the job.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Maintains a personal appearance appropriate for job position and image of Northern Water.

This job description in no way states or implies that these are the only duties to be performed by this employee.

Northern Water provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, genetics, veteran status, or other legally protected characteristics. Northern Water complies with applicable state and local laws governing nondiscrimination in employment in every location in which the company has facilities. Northern Water also prohibits any form of workplace harassment in accordance with these laws. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and training.