Job Opportunities for Urban Foresters in the United States

We analyzed 18 months of job postings (151 jobs) across the U.S. We then interviewed a selection of those who filled the jobs at least 12 months after their hire date.

MOST COMMON WORDS IN JOB TITLES

26% included urban forest, forestry, or forester
23% included forest, forestry, or forester but WITHOUT the words urban, or community
17% included arborist, arboriculture, or arboricultural
14% OMITTED any reference at all to forestry, urban forestry, arboriculture, or trees

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

AK and HI were omitted from geospatial stats analysis

- 60% are in cities of population 100,000 or greater
- 34% are in cities of population 500,000 or greater
- 40% were in cities of population less than 100,000

BREAKING DOWN THE CAREER LADDER

Entry # 7%
Non-supervisory 53% $45,265*
Supervisory 40% $53,146*

*Entry level was defined requiring 1 year or less of experience. All positions that fell into this category required a degree.

WHO ARE THE EMPLOYERS?

6% NGO
7% University*
11% State Gov’t
13% Commercial
62% Local Gov’t
1% Federal Gov’t

* Teaching positions were intentionally excluded from all consideration

TOP PREFERRED DEGREES

These are the top degrees mentioned by name in the postings. (% of total postings)

- 57% Forestry
- 40% Horticulture
- 35% Urban Forestry
- 25% Arboriculture
- 17% Environmental Science

HOW ACCURATE ARE JOB DESCRIPTIONS?

Our interviews with new hires indicated that they spend considerable time on functions not mentioned in the job description. Most frequently omitted duties include:

- Protect existing canopy by solving conflicts with grey infrastructure through plan review, code enforcement, and other means to influence the development process.
- Assessing the effectiveness of the urban forestry program including setting goals and evaluating outcomes.
- Manage urban forest composition using modern inventory techniques.