Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

Parks Grounds Maintenance Operative T2

Salary: Band: 3, £25,948 - £26,033 p.a. (£20,758 - £20,826 for a 29.6 hour week)

29.6 hours per week, Monday - Friday but will be required to work some weekends

The Service

The In-House Grounds Maintenance Operations Service covers parks and open space areas of the city and is responsible for the 760 hectares of publicly accessible green space in Portsmouth.

Portsmouth's green and public spaces are at the heart of the local community and enjoy great support and affection from residents. The services main priority is to maintain a consistent standard across all grounds maintenance areas and develop its service centred around community engagement and interaction of Portsmouth's Parks and Open Spaces.

The In-House Grounds Maintenance Operations Service is responsible for the maintenance of parks and open spaces, allotments, cemeteries, golf course and semi-natural open space, with assorted sports and play facilities within. The service also provides grounds maintenance services to Traded Services incorporating schools and social service locations.

Portsmouth’s parks and open spaces are of a high standard, fit for purpose, and they need to be maintained to meet the needs of Portsmouth’s residents and visitors. The services main priority is to maintain a high standard across all parks and open spaces and service areas.

What is the role?

As part of the Grounds Maintenance operations team, you will carry out the necessary works to ensure that the parks, gardens, and open spaces are well maintained and kept tidy to a level of continuity for the residents, communities and visitors.

You will be responsible for carrying out a range of grounds maintenance duties which will include:

- Grass cutting - using both specialised pedestrian and ride on grass cutting machinery, including golf course maintenance machinery.
- Strimming - follow up mowing process and cutting down of longer grass areas and allotment plots.
- Sweeping of paths and hard surfaces.
- Daily playground inspections - ensuring they are in a safe condition.
- Daily Inspection and litter picking to high profile parks and open space areas - inspection of parks to ensure it is safe and clean.
- Regular general cleansing including fly tip removals to open spaces.
- Emptying of litter bins.
- Maintenance of shrubs and hedges - weeding and pruning.
- Maintenance of rose beds - pruning, mulching and dead heading.

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- Maintenance of seasonal flower beds - planting of seasonal annuals/bulbs, hand weeding, dead heading and watering.
- Maintenance of perennial borders - weeding, dead heading, watering and seasonal reduction.
- Maintaining (watering/dead heading) and dismantling lamp post basked units.
- Grass edging and clearing to borders and paths.
- Fine Turf Maintenance - golf, bowling greens and cricket.
- Grass Sports Maintenance - over marking of football, rugby, softball, rounder's.
- Cleaning of sports pavilions.
- Spraying - herbicide and pesticide (PA1 PA6 or equivalent certificated holders only).
- Driving a range of commercial vehicles up to 3.5 tons.

The ideal candidates must be able to demonstrate a Horticultural and practical knowledge in a range of areas as detailed above. You will be able to carry out plant and machinery inspections completing a pro forma, prior to use and report any defects and correctly use all machinery and personal protective equipment (PPE) issued. You will understand when equipment is failing, understanding combinations of fuel appropriate to equipment and be responsible for the reporting of machine hours clocked to identify service and maintenance intervals.

As well as an ability to report areas of concern or issues within the workplace you will advise non-skilled and inexperienced team members of good horticultural practices and machine use. You will need to be enthusiastic as you will be working with local community volunteer groups whilst working in an effective and efficient way, suggesting and implementing improved ways of working wherever possible. You will be able to attend and work in any of the maintenance areas within the city whilst observing all Health and Safety rules, taking reasonable care to promote the health and safety of themselves and others. You will act in a way that supports and promotes Portsmouth City Council's Equal Opportunities policy, which aims to ensure everyone has equal treatment and equal access to employment and services.

Full training and uniform will be provided.

Who is the person?

You need to:

1. Be self-motivated and flexible to work on your own and as part of a team to carry out your tasks.
2. Experienced in general grounds maintenance.
3. Advantage to hold certification PA1 PA6 in herbicide and pesticide application or equivalent.
4. Be able to work under supervisory instruction and follow set processes and procedures together with the ability to work automatously when required.
5. Be able to plan and manage your time effectively, deciding which tools and equipment are required for individual tasks to make certain your tasks are completed efficiently, to meet the purpose of keeping the local parks well maintained.
6. To be a pro active member of a team, positive and professional with the ability to work well under pressure.

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7. Be able to perform duties according to the Council's Policies and codes of behaviour
8. Be able to use tools and machinery required for the role
9. Have experience of using garden machinery including riding on mowers
10. Be aware of Health and Safety requirements, hazardous materials etc.
11. Be flexible to provide cover at weekends and out of normal working hours when required.
12. Hold a full driving licence, and the ability to tow would be an advantage. You will be required to drive council vehicles and transport equipment, machinery and materials between sites across the City.
13. Have basic literacy skills as the role will involve the filling out of forms
14. Have good communication skills.
15. Be reliable & punctual
16. Be able to attend and work in any of the maintenance areas within the city.

You will need to demonstrate that you have the Right to Work in the UK. No post will be offered without it.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Portsmouth City Council is the Data Controller of any personal information you provide when applying for a job. It will only be used in connection with the recruitment process and will not be kept for longer than necessary. For more detailed information you can access the Data Protection Privacy Notice on our careers portal.