Wisconsin Forestry Career Profile

Utility Forester

Image provided by ACRT

Job Description

Utility Foresters manage vegetation, including trees and shrubs, to promote sustainable plant communities that are compatible with utility services. They control plants that can negatively affect access, safety and fire risks, security, emergency restoration, visibility, regulatory requirements and utility service reliability and promote plants that enhance early successional wildlife habitat, pollinator forage, and other environmental benefits.

Work Environment

Utility Foresters work outside, year-round, in all conditions. They may be required to travel, including during emergencies or natural disasters.

Salary Range

$53,000	$63,000	$76,000
Low end	Median	High end

High School Courses

- Forestry
- Arboriculture
- Biology/Botany
- Environmental Science

Education/Training

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Recommended associate or bachelor's degree in Forestry, Arboriculture or a related field; or equivalent experience
- Certifications: Utility Vegetation Management professional development program; International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Arborist, Arborist Utility Specialist, and Tree Risk Assessment Qualification; and Red Cross First Aid

Responsibilities

- Apply knowledge of plant and tree growth characteristics, physiology and taxonomy
- Perform tree risk assessments
- Communicate with property owners and public agencies
- Conduct tree and brush inventories
- Promote and enforce on-the-job safety practices
- Use GPS and GIS to identify tree locations and collect data
- Work with utility companies to develop sustainable vegetation management plans
- Respond to emergency situations to keep utility service informed
- Understand and follow American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Tree Care standards

Skills

- Identify trees and invasive species
- Use GIS, map navigation, and Microsoft Office tools
- Communicate effectively in both oral and written form
- Follow safety procedures
- Pat attention to detail
- Understand and support customer needs
- Manage time effectively
- Work collaboratively

Abilities/Personality

- Hardworking
- Dependable
- Self-motivated
- Efficient
- Organized

Access additional resources at leafprogram.org/utility

LEAF-Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Wisconsin Forestry Center
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point