



# Parks Operations and Maintenance Superintendent

## Job Description

The Parks Maintenance Superintendent, **directs, leads, and supervises** all work in the operation and maintenance of streets, parks, and other municipal infrastructure. They are responsible for assisting with planning, organizing, and directing the activities of **parks, trails, and open spaces**.

## Salary

Entry — \$81,000  
Middle — \$96,750  
Top — \$112,500

## Core Tasks

- Responsible for day-to-day field supervision of assigned employees to make the most effective and efficient use of skills, facilities, and equipment available.
- Direct ongoing maintenance and capital improvement activities including specifications, and cost estimates for maintenance programs and projects.
- Prepare work plans, division goals, and develop and review staff performance throughout the division.

## Workplace / Environment

- Work hours**  
**Approx. 40 hours/week**  
(On-call emergency response, weekdays/weekends/holidays.)
- Environment**  
Typical **office setting**, some **field work required** for site inspections.
- Travel**  
Travel within the employer's jurisdiction to various **outdoor spaces** and **sites**.

## Education / Prerequisites

### Education Level

Typically Bachelor's required, or equivalent level of education and experience.

### Licensing

CDL Licence, WSDA Pesticide Certification, Forklift Certification

### Pre-Job Preparation

8+ years working in maintenance (street, stormwater, parks, etc.)

## Experience

### Soft Skills

- Excellent Communication
- Problem Solving
- Writing Skills

### Technical Skills

- Maintenance Experience
- Basic Math
- Computer/IT Skills



## Career Path: Matthew Austin

### About Me

Parks Maintenance and Operations  
Superintendent at Tukwila Parks

### High School Life

"At my high school, we had a **technology science class**, we got to work with hydraulics and stuff like that. What we would do is create the design, build it, then at the end of the class they had a hydraulic press and they would figure out whose construction actually survived the longest. That's what **sparked my interest for engineering** in general.

Post high school, I was confronted with the fact that my family didn't have the resources to have me go to college. I ended up getting a retail job, here in Tukwila. The biggest **pivotal moment**, though, was **changing my mindset** and going into business for myself. I created all kinds of different businesses, I had a photography business, six rental units that I managed. That kind of lifestyle, being in business for yourself, really is **a motivator** when your financial future depends on your shoulders."



### Lessons in Learning

"I ended up going to Clover Park Technical College for one quarter, I learned that I have this **unending curiosity for how things work**. I didn't go in with the intent of getting a technical degree, I was in business for myself. I ended up acquiring all of the textbooks and everything for the entire length of the program for that quarter, I actually still use them to this day. They include everything from landscape design, pest management, hardscapes, and design construction. So I took that **curiosity** and that **excitement of learning** new things, to **grow my skill set**."

### Pursuing Passions

"I realized I had this really **great joy of creating** these **private spaces** for people, after doing landscaping for a while. But working in the Parks, I realized that I had a much, **much bigger impact**. At most I think in the 10 years that I had my landscape company, I only had a couple hundred customers, that's a pretty small number when you think about how many people visit even one of our parks. I choose to have a bigger impact and I'm **very happy with the path that I've worked on**."

# About My Job

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"Had I not learned to overcome the fear of taking on a new thing, I wouldn't be where I'm at now."

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## Pros

- "I would say the biggest pro is that you're **creating** something for **people to use**."
- "I'm in the city of Tukwila and we're getting more and more urbanized. A lot of times, people don't necessarily have a backyard or a playground locally, that's where they go. We're **creating viable green spaces**, which are important for people's **health and well being**."

## Cons

- "So my work environment can be pretty **chaotic**. With anything that is used by the public, **things break**. Not only that but we're also encountering, vandalism, things getting broken, graffiti, all these other **not so fun** things about public service."
- "A disadvantage is you **don't have a lot of resources** working in city government. It forces you to **think on your feet** to come up with solutions to problems. So a lot of times, we ended up getting **pretty creative**, and upcycling and recycling and repurposing things."

## Fieldwork

- "There's a lot of **pivoting** throughout the day. So we might have people scheduled to do certain things, but we end up having to call them away for other things."

## Office Work

- "There's **a lot of interacting** with people. So that's a lot of fun. The cool thing about working in the Parks department specifically, is a lot of our interactions, especially since we have a stationary location that we're doing maintenance at, we ended up **building solid relationships** with a lot of that community, which isn't something that you actually see a lot of in a public works type environment."

## Skills

- "Quite a wide breadth of skills you need, but start out just **swinging the bat** at any job that comes your way. Take it on. And **that's how you learn.**"
- "The biggest thing in general is being **adaptable, learning on the job**, and being **resilient.**"
- "You're going to want to know how to **lead a crew** and how to do **journeyman level work.**"
- "Employers are looking for somebody that's going to **solve the problem** for the role."

## Education/Experience

- "The **biggest learning experiences** that I've had, are when I totally botched something, it feels bad when you do it, but you got to take something positive about those negatives."
- "There's a lot of **variability and flexibility** about what knowledge you can have."

# The Future of **Parks Maintenance and Operations**

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"There's definitely a lot of rumblings with AI. "

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"As far as the maintenance field in general, I think there's going to be more pushes to go the **electric route** for a lot of the smaller equipment. As that technology gets refined, the equipment is going to get larger. Right now, smaller equipment is starting to get pretty robust as far as **electrification**, but we're starting to see larger mowers. I wouldn't be surprised if in a couple years that our bigger trucks start being electric."

"AI is definitely something I think about, I've actually **used AI** to help me wrap my head around a good structure for things that I draft. I use Microsoft Power Apps and some other programs, so I think that there's going to be more **integration with technology**, you're going to see a lot more integrations with asset management, as as technology becomes more prevalent."

# About Sustainability Ambassadors

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We support a year-round training program for over 60 highly motivated middle and high school youth, a Teacher Fellows Program, City-County CAP internships, and college-level interns, and work with hundreds of educators to design new models of problem-based, place-based learning around **a shared vision of educating for sustainability**.

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**See** Seattle's [Clean Energy Resources Map](#) to examine what the city is planning for a greener energy future.

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## Funder Acknowledgement



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
**Wastewater Treatment Division**

