



CITY OF ITHACA
108 East Green Street Ithaca, New York 14850-5690

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES / CIVIL SERVICE
Telephone: 607 / 274-6539 Fax: 607 / 274-6574 E-mail: hrdept@cityofithaca.org

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LANDSCAPE PLANNER OPEN-COMPETITIVE EXAM NO. 61-504

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL:

August 18, 2022

EXAMINATION WILL BE HELD:

October 1, 2022

ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS: Applications must be received by the City of Ithaca Human Resources Department no later than 4:30 PM EST on the last filing date indicated above. Applications must be submitted electronically through our online application program at <https://ithaca-portal.mycivilservice.com>. We do not accept paper applications, faxed applications, e-mailed applications or photocopies of applications.

APPLICATION MATERIALS REQUIRED: A City of Ithaca application and copy of college transcripts.

VACANCIES: Currently, there is one (1) vacancy in the City of Ithaca Planning Department. The eligible list established as a result of this examination may be used to fill this vacancy and any future vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list.

RESIDENCY: There are no residency requirements for this position. Preference in certification may be given to candidates who are residents of the municipality in which appointment is to be made, provided that the candidate is a resident of such municipality at the time of examination and remains a resident of such municipality continuously thereafter, up to and including the dates of certification and appointment.

SALARY: \$58,703 - \$73,378

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a professional planning position that requires the ability to work with and serve a diverse local community. The position is responsible for evaluating the environmental impact, functional design, and aesthetic details of proposed development projects in accordance with state and local environmental quality review requirements. The work involves applying the principles of planning, landscape architecture, environmental science and land use law in the review of development plans, and developing programs and processes to implement the City's long-range goals and objectives relating to land use, sustainability, and the protection and management of the natural environment. The position provides guidance and staff support to the Planning and Development Board, Common Council and other decision-making bodies, and develops and implements environmental and sustainability programs and projects related to planning and development. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Director of Planning and Development, with considerable latitude allowed for the exercise of independent professional judgment. Supervision may be exercised over interns and other personnel engaged in environmental or landscape planning activities. Does related work as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Graduation from a regionally accredited university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture, Planning or a closely related field with similar course curriculum and two (2) years of full-time paid professional experience, or its part-time paid equivalent, in municipal, community or regional planning. Qualifying academic degrees must have included coursework in landscape architecture or site design; or
- B. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Bachelor's degree in planning, architecture, public administration, engineering, environmental studies, or a closely related field with similar course curriculum and four (4) years of full-time paid professional experience, or its part-time paid equivalent, in municipal, community or regional planning. Qualifying academic degrees must have included coursework in landscape architecture or site design; or
- C. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A) and (B) above.

If you expect to complete the educational requirement within six (6) months of the date of examination, you can be admitted to this examination. If successful on the examination, you will not be certified for appointment until you have submitted proof of completion of the requirements to the Civil Service Commission. Proof must be submitted within eight months of the date of examination. Failure to do so will result in removal of your name from the eligible list.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION:

The written examination will cover knowledges, skills and/or abilities in such areas as:

1. Preparing written material

These questions test for the ability to present information clearly and accurately, and to organize paragraphs logically and comprehensibly. For some questions, you will be given information in two or three sentences followed by four restatements of the information. You must then choose the best version. For other questions, you will be given paragraphs with their sentences out of order. You must then choose, from four suggestions, the best order for the sentences.

2. Community and regional land use planning, including zoning and subdivision regulations

These questions test for knowledge of the concepts and accepted practices involved in community and large-area development planning, the laws and regulations governing site and subdivision planning, and typical project development and zoning issues, including related legal terminology.

3. Collection, analysis and presentation of data, including basic statistics

These questions test for knowledge of the proper procedures and methods used to gather, evaluate, organize, and utilize various types of technical data and information, and the fundamental concepts, terminology, and computations involved in statistical analysis.

4. Understanding and interpreting maps, charts and graphs

These questions test for the ability to read and analyze visual and numerical information presented in maps, plans, and various types of graphic and tabular material, and to perform related basic computations. All the information needed to answer the questions will be provided in the maps, plans, charts, graphs, tables, or related written material.

5. Environmental constraints and issues affecting the physical planning process, including government regulations

These questions test for knowledge of the various environmental concepts and the federal and New York State regulations governing air, land, water quality and other environmental issues related to the physical planning process, including impact statements.

The New York State Department of Civil Service has not prepared a test guide for this examination. However, candidates may find information in the publication 'General Guide to Written Tests' helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available online at:

<https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>.

NOTE: Most Civil Service examinations do not require the use of a quiet, hand-held calculator or slide rule; however, candidates have the option of bringing a battery-operated or solar-powered calculator to the test room unless specifically notified that their use is prohibited. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. **USE OF CALCULATORS IS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS EXAM.**

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION - CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES - MILITARY MEMBERS:

_____ Applicants whose religious beliefs or military service prevent their taking examinations on the scheduled date and candidates with disabilities who require special accommodations to take the test should indicate the need for special arrangements on their application. Candidates who are called to military service after filing an application should send requests for an alternate test date to the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department before the test date.

_____ Military Service Members: If you apply for an examination during the filing period but are on active military duty on the date the examination is scheduled, you may request a military makeup examination. Contact the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department for more information. If you are on active duty or discharged after the filing period has begun, you may apply for the examination up to ten days before the test date.

SECTION 23.2 STATEMENT: This examination will be prepared and rated in accordance with Section 23(2) of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of New York State Civil Service Law, Rules and Regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of examinations will apply to this examination.

TIME AND PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION: Approved candidates will be notified by mail regarding the time and place of the examination. If notice of approval or disapproval is not received three (3) days prior to the exam date, please call the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department at (607) 274-6539.

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangements for taking all tests at one test site. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center.

VETERANS CREDIT: Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veterans credit with their application for examination or at any time between the dates of their application for examination and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. Applications for veterans credit are available from this office. Veterans credits can only be added to a passing score on the examination.

Effective January 1, 1998, the State Constitution was amended to permit a candidate currently in the armed forces to apply for and be conditionally granted veterans credit in examinations. Any candidate who applies for such credit must provide proof of military status to receive the conditional credit. No credit may be granted after the establishment of the list. It is the responsibility of the candidate to provide appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of Civil Service Law, and that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions in order to be certified at a score including veterans credits.

ADDITIONAL CREDIT FOR CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. Falsification of any part of your employment application will result in disqualification.
2. Applicants must answer every question on the application and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.
3. Candidates who wish to take more than one examination must submit an application for each examination. If you are cross-filing for another examination to be held on the same date, please

Environmental and Landscape Planner Exam No. 61-504

Page 5

indicate this on the application and specify the examination title and number, and the jurisdiction offering the other examination.

4. Appointments from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept appointment. The duration of an eligible list may be fixed for a minimum period of one (1) year and a maximum period of four (4) years.
5. It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department of any change in address. No attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved.

Issued by: City of Ithaca Civil Service Commission
July 20, 2022

The City of Ithaca is committed to Equity and Inclusion. We encourage those with similar values to apply.