



**RENSSELAER COUNTY
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Opportunities in the Public Service
OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION**

EXAM NUMBER: 67-673
EXAM TITLE: CONSERVATION DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

EXAM DATE: MARCH 16, 2019
LAST FILING DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2019

NON-REFUNDABLE \$20.00 FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY EACH APPLICATION. CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS ONLY. CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED WITH APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ONLINE ONLY.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT TECHNICIAN, Rensselaer County. The resulting eligible list will be used to fill vacancies as they occur.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: Candidates must have been legal residents of Rensselaer, Washington, Saratoga, Albany or Columbia County for at least four (4) months immediately preceding the date of examination. Preference in appointment may be given to successful candidates who have been legal residents of the appointing jurisdiction for at least four (4) months immediately preceding the date of examination.

SALARY: \$30,000 - \$40,000

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either:

- A. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with an Associate's Degree in Civil Engineering or Construction Technology, Forestry, Physical Science, Environmental Science, Agricultural Business or related field; or
- B. Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma and two (2) years of experience in soil and water conservation work, forestry or engineering.

NOTE: The successful applicant will be expected to become a Certified Crop Advisor within three (3) years of appointment.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS: Possession of a valid New York State Driver's license (or a license valid in another state with the expectation of acquiring a New York license within 2 months of accepting the position) and must maintain the license throughout the term of employment.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Assists the District Manager in planning, surveying and designing soil and water conservation projects, such as diversion ditches, grassed waterways, barnyard water management systems, subsurface drainage, etc.;

Evaluates grazing practices and develops grazing management plans in accordance with NRCS standards;

Responsible for the District tree and shrub seedling program;

Orders sufficient quality and quantities for resale, prepares the annual order form, and ensures the vegetation is properly packaged and delivered to landowners;

Orders sufficient quality and quantities for resale, arranges delivery and placement in farm ponds;

Responsible for the District conservation supply and equipment rental program;

Scheduling and delivery of mulch, no-till drill, hydro-seeder, and tree planters to renter's property;

Prepares maps, charts and specification as directed by the District Manager;

Develops displays and booths on conservation themes for various public relation activities;

Collects data for conservation practice design and cost estimates;

Performs technical data collection on conservation programs such as road side erosion and culvert inventory;

Prepares estimates of time and materials required to do seeding jobs;

Coordinates use of the District hydro-seeder and no-till drill;

Supervises activities of seeding crew and volunteers on conservation projects;

Prepares a variety of reports and records pertaining to conservation programs and accomplishments;

Various duties as assigned by the District Manager.

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SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION: Written test will cover knowledge, 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. **Principles and practices of soil and water conservation;** These questions test for knowledge of the proper methods and techniques used to facilitate land and water conservation, and may include such areas as: proper drainage and erosion control, soil types, and watershed, stream, and stream bank protection.
3. **Construction and maintenance of soil and water conservation projects;** These questions test for knowledge of the methods, procedures and equipment used for building and maintaining conservation projects and may include such areas as: runoff diversions; farm ponds; stream protection; and drainage and erosion control.
4. **Reading and interpreting maps, plans, charts and graphs;** These questions test for the ability to understand and evaluate topographic maps, site and construction plans, and various types of graphic presentations. All the information needed to answer the questions will be contained in the maps, plans, graphs, and charts or within related written descriptions.
5. **Basic surveying, including computations;** These questions test for knowledge of the elementary concepts, procedures, and computations involved in performing surveys of various projects and land areas.
6. **Understanding and interpreting written material;** These questions test for the ability to understand and interpret written material. You will be presented with brief reading passages and will be asked questions about the passages. You should base your answers to the questions only on what is presented in the passages and not on what you may happen to know about the topic.

USE OF CALCULATORS IS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS EXAMINATION.

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 "How to take a written test" helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available on line at:

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

If you are filing to take exams with Rensselaer County Civil Service and any other Civil Service Agency on the same day, please complete a Cross-Filer form at time of filing. The Cross-Filer form is available at the Rensselaer County website: "<http://www.rensco.com/employment-forms/>".

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GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Each candidate must complete an application form and file it with the Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission, County Office Building, 1600 – 7th Avenue, Troy, New York 12180. Applications should be filed as soon as possible after the announcement of the examination. When writing for applications, forms or information, **SPECIFY BY ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER AND TITLE** of the position for which you wish to apply. You may also obtain an application and examination announcement from the Rensselaer County website at www.rensco.com. **BE SURE EVERY QUESTION IS ANSWERED. SUBMISSION OF A RESUME INSTEAD OF A COMPLETED APPLICATION IS UNACCEPTABLE. AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION MAY BE DISAPPROVED.**
2. Accepted candidates will be notified when and where to appear for examination. No one will be admitted to the examination without the official admission notice. If an application is rejected, you will be notified in writing. The Civil Service Commission does not make formal acknowledgment of receipt of an application. **Call the Civil Service Office if you have not received your notice three (3) days prior to the date of examination.**
3. Unless otherwise stated, all candidates are required to be legal residents of Rensselaer County for four (4) months immediately preceding the date of examination. Appointing authorities may give preference to legal residents of their jurisdiction. (Candidates who are not residents of Rensselaer County but live within the geographical boundaries of a governmental agency under the jurisdiction of the Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission will be considered residents for examinations held to fill positions in that governmental agency.)
4. For purposes of claiming veterans credits on a Civil Service examination, an applicant must have received an honorable discharge and have served in the armed forces of the United States at any time during the following periods:

December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946	June 1, 1983 to December 1, 1987*
June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955	October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983
December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975	December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990*
August 2, 1990 to end of such hostilities	

*Credit for Lebanon, Grenada and Panama will be limited to those who receive the armed forces expeditionary medal, the navy expeditionary medal or the Marine Corps expeditionary medal.

Veterans wishing to claim additional credit on the examination must make claim when filing application. All veterans making application for additional credit must file a Photostat copy of their discharge papers with applications. A candidate who fails to establish, by appropriate documentary proof, his eligibility to receive additional credit by the time an eligible list is established, shall **not**, thereafter be granted additional credit on such eligible list.

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 veteran's credit in examination. 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 prove appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of the 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 veteran's credits.
5. 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 (10) points in a competitive examination for original appointments 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 (2) months from 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.
6. This written examination is prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating and review of examinations will apply. **VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS** may be investigated and candidates may be called for an interview to determine whether they are qualified for appointment. You may be required to take a medical examination to determine if you are medically and physically capable of performing the duties of the position.
7. Eligible lists will be established in order of final rating for successful candidates and will be established for a period of four (4) years or until the establishment of an appropriate new list.
8. **NOTICE TO CANDIDATES:** Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held solar or battery powered calculators. Cell phone calculators are not permitted. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell-check, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited.
9. **APPLICATION FEE:** A **non-refundable** fee of \$20.00 is required for each separately numbered examination for which you apply. Certain examinations will require a \$30.00 filing fee. **The required examination fee listed on pg.1 must accompany your application(s) in the form of a Check or Money Order** made payable to the **Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission**. Write the examination number(s) on your check or money order. **NO CASH ACCEPTED.** **Applications submitted online must pay by credit card.** As no refund will be made, you are urged to compare your qualifications carefully with the requirements for admission and file only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified.
10. **APPLICATION FEE WAIVER:** A waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household. In addition, a waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid, or receiving Supplemental Security Income payments or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance) or are certified Job Training partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency. **ALL CLAIMS FOR APPLICATION FEE WAIVER ARE SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION.** If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, you must complete a "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" form and required documents with your application by the close of business on the application deadline as listed on the Examination announcement. You may obtain an Examination Fee Waiver Request and Certification Form online at www.rensco.com or from the Rensselaer County Civil Service Office. An application for examination and/or a Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification **WILL NOT** be accepted after the last filing date of an examination or without the required documentation.
11. **Religious Accommodations:** Most written tests are held on Saturdays. If you cannot take the test on the announced test date due to a conflict with a religious observance or practice, check the appropriate box under "Religious Accommodations" on your application. We will make arrangements for you to take the test on a different date.

RENSSELAER COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.