

Grounds Maintenance Workers

SOC: 37-3000 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$38,470

Median Salary

1,296,400

Employment

+4.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: See Requirements (BLS)

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Medium Risk - 45.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

■■ Work-Life Balance

5.8/10 - Fair work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	8.6/10	Investigative	4.0/10
Artistic	3.6/10	Social	5.4/10
Enterprising	4.0/10	Conventional	7.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Ability to work at heights, Communication skills, Dexterity, Physical stamina, Physical strength, Self-motivated, Visualization

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Grounds Maintenance Workers are outdoor professionals who maintain and improve **landscapes, lawns, gardens, and outdoor facilities** to keep them safe, healthy, and visually appealing. Their work supports parks, schools, businesses, and residential areas by ensuring outdoor spaces are functional, well-kept, and welcoming. This role combines physical activity, equipment operation, and practical environmental care.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy working outdoors, hands-on tasks, and seeing immediate results from their work.

What Do Grounds Maintenance Workers Do?

Grounds maintenance workers perform routine and seasonal tasks to care for outdoor areas.

Common responsibilities include:

- Mowing lawns and trimming grass, hedges, and shrubs
- Planting, watering, and caring for trees, flowers, and plants
- Removing leaves, debris, snow, or litter from grounds
- Applying fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides when needed
- Operating and maintaining landscaping equipment
- Repairing walkways, fences, or irrigation systems
- Following safety and environmental guidelines

Types of Grounds Maintenance Work

Workers may specialize based on setting or task focus:

- Landscaping and Lawn Care Workers: Maintain residential or commercial landscapes.
- Groundskeepers: Care for parks, campuses, and public spaces.
- Athletic Field Maintenance Workers: Maintain sports fields and outdoor recreation areas.
- Tree Care and Arborist Assistants: Support pruning and tree health work.
- Seasonal Maintenance Workers: Handle snow removal or seasonal cleanup.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Grounds maintenance workers combine physical skill with basic horticultural knowledge.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Training Pathway

Most grounds maintenance workers enter the field through hands-on experience:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent: Typical minimum requirement
- On-the-Job Training: Learning equipment use and site-specific tasks
- Safety or Pesticide Certification (where required): Needed for certain applications
- Technical or Horticulture Courses (optional): Useful for advancement
- Continued Skill Development: Learning advanced landscaping or turf techniques

Where Do Grounds Maintenance Workers Work?

Grounds maintenance workers are employed across many outdoor settings:

- Parks and Recreation Departments
- Schools and University Campuses
- Commercial and Office Properties
- Residential Communities and HOAs

- Golf Courses and Athletic Facilities
- Landscaping and Lawn Care Companies

Work is primarily outdoors and may be seasonal in some regions.

How Much Do Grounds Maintenance Workers Earn?

Earnings vary by location, experience, and specialization:

- Entry-Level Workers: Typically earn hourly wages
- Experienced or Specialized Workers: Often earn higher pay
- Crew Leaders or Supervisors: May earn more with responsibility

Compensation may include overtime, seasonal bonuses, or benefits depending on employer.

Is This Career Difficult?

Grounds maintenance work is physically demanding and weather-dependent. Workers must lift equipment, perform repetitive tasks, and work in heat, cold, or rain. The challenge lies in maintaining consistency, safety, and quality across changing conditions and seasons.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Grounds Maintenance Worker?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy working outdoors and staying physically active
- Like hands-on, practical work
- Prefer visible results at the end of each day
- Are comfortable with tools and equipment
- Want a stable job with entry-level accessibility

How to Prepare Early

- Learn basic landscaping and lawn care techniques
- Practice safe equipment use and tool handling
- Build physical endurance and outdoor work habits
- Study basic plant and soil care
- Explore seasonal or entry-level landscaping jobs

Grounds maintenance workers care for the outdoor spaces people use every day, turning lawns, fields, and landscapes into safe, clean, and welcoming environments through consistent effort, skill, and hands-on dedication.

Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/building-and-grounds-cleaning/grounds-maintenance-workers.htm>