

Careers Behind City Hall

Follow one town project from idea to ribbon cutting.



Your town wants to build a new community park. Local government careers help make it happen. Read each step, then write the career that fits from the word bank.

Word Bank: City Council Member Clerk Grant Coordinator Natural Resource Program Manager Fire Marshal Ombuds
Senior Director of Emergency Management Public Defender

- 1 Votes on the park budget and speaks for the neighbors who live nearby. Career: _____
- 2 Keeps official records, like meeting minutes and permits. Career: _____
- 3 Finds grants and other money to help pay for the park. Career: _____
- 4 Manages the public land, trees and water around the park. Career: _____
- 5 Checks that new buildings follow fire safety rules. Career: _____
- 6 Hears a neighbor's complaint about noise and helps solve it fairly. Career: _____
- 7 Plans how the park will respond to a flood or storm. Career: _____
- 8 Defends a resident who cannot afford a lawyer in a dispute over park rules. Career: _____

Step 2

Which job would you trust most to keep the park safe? Why?

Step 3

Pick one career and read its Career Profile. What training would it take?

Time

30 to 35 minutes

Grades

9 to 12

Best For

Election week, or a civics or Government and Public Administration lesson

What Students Will Do

Students follow one town project, building a new community park, through eight local government careers. They match each task to the career that does it, reflect, and research one career in Pathful.

Before You Start

- Print one page per student. The educator page is for you only.
- Read the word bank so you can pronounce each title. Job duties vary by town, so tell students the descriptions are simplified.
- Make sure students can log in to Pathful for Step 3.

How to Run It

1. (3 to 5 min) Read the scenario. Ask: who has to say yes before a town can build a park?
2. (10 to 15 min) Students match each of the eight tasks to a career in the word bank and write it on the line. Each career is used once.
3. (5 to 7 min) Partner check. Students explain any answer that differs.
4. (8 to 12 min) Steps 2 and 3: students write which job they would trust most to keep the park safe and why. Then they read one [Career Profile](#) and write what training it would take.

Answer Key

1. [City Council Member](#)
2. [Clerk](#)
3. [Grant Coordinator](#)
4. [Natural Resource Program Manager](#)
5. [Fire Marshal](#)
6. [Ombuds](#)
7. [Senior Director of Emergency Management](#)
8. [Public Defender](#)

Accept reasonable alternatives when a student can explain the choice.

Discussion Prompts

- Which of these careers did you not know existed?
- Which would you only notice if something went wrong?
- Which job needs the most listening skills?

Support and Extend

- Short on time? Do the matching in class and assign Steps 2 and 3 as homework.
- Support: read the clues aloud and let students point to the career in the word bank first.
- Extend: students pick a problem in their own town and name which of these careers would help solve it. Invite a local official to speak if one is available.