

Licensed Landscape Architects **Protect the Public**



A Licensed Landscape Architect Must

- Earn an accredited degree
- Complete supervised professional experience
- Pass the national, four-part Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE)

This ensures competency in issues that affect the public's health and safety, like flood prevention, erosion control, circulation safety, accessibility, and more.

What's at Stake

When unqualified individuals make design decisions, the consequences can include:

- Flooding and water damage to homes and businesses
- Hazardous walking surfaces and preventable injuries
- Unsafe site circulation for vehicles and pedestrians
- Costly project failures and legal liability

Why Licensure Matters

Public agencies, businesses, and communities rely on licensure as a trusted standard of competence.

When a licensed landscape architect places their professional seal on construction documents, it signifies that the work has been completed by a qualified, tested, and accountable professional.

Licensure Protects

- Communities—safer public spaces and infrastructure
- Clients—reduced risk and reliable outcomes
- Taxpayers—fewer costly failures and repairs

Licensed landscape architects at AECOM utilized their technical expertise to design courtyards that protect the safety and welfare of residents of all ages and abilities.

*ASLA 2025 Professional General Design Honor Award.
Sendero Verde, New York City, New York. AECOM
LAUD NYC. Albert Vecerka/Esto.*

About ASLA

Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is the professional association for landscape architects in the United States, representing more than 16,000 members.

ASLA Mission: Empowering our members to design a sustainable and equitable world through landscape architecture.

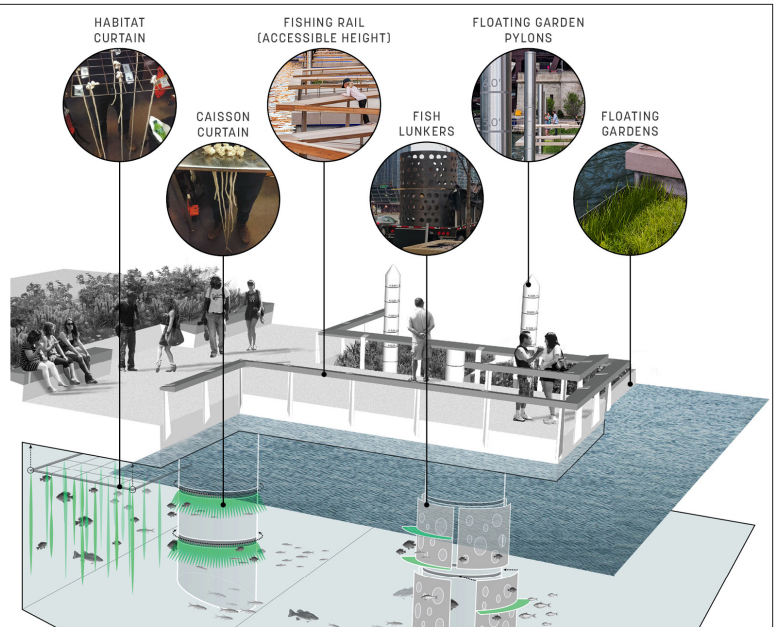
ASLA Fund Mission: Investing in global, social, and environmental change through the art and science of landscape architecture.

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**American Society of
Landscape Architects**

Fact vs. Misconception



Landscape architects transformed a disconnected Chicago Riverfront into a flood-resilient public space that protects the community from natural hazards and sustains vital underwater ecosystems.

ASLA 2018 Professional General Design Honor Award. Chicago Riverwalk, Chicago, Illinois. Sasaki. Left: Christian Phillips Photography. Right: Courtesy of Sasaki.

MYTH

Licensure limits competition, raising costs for consumers.

FACT

Licensure does not limit economic competition—it ensures that competition occurs among qualified licensed design professionals who have met established minimum standards of competency.

MYTH

Licensure makes it harder for people to enter the workforce.

FACT

The landscape architecture profession has a proven regulatory framework that provides multiple education and experience pathways for obtaining a license.

MYTH

Landscape architects cut grass and plant rosebushes.

FACT

Licensed landscape architects are STEM professionals, applying construction and engineering principles and scientific knowledge to design safe, functional environments in community public spaces. Their work includes community stormwater management solutions, parks and recreation facilities, well-designed transportation systems, and resilient nature-based infrastructure.

MYTH

Licensing landscape architects provides no benefit to the public.

FACT

Poor site design creates real public risks—walkways with unsafe slopes that become ice hazards, flooded communities and businesses due to improper drainage, and dangerous playgrounds that put children at risk. Licensure ensures that community risks are addressed by qualified professionals.

MYTH

Non-licensed occupations can provide the same services as professional landscape architects.

FACT

Landscape architects are uniquely trained to integrate natural and built systems—including hydrology, ecology, construction sciences, and human use patterns—into safe, functional designs. Eliminating licensure for landscape architecture reduces expertise and increases public risk.

Ensuring Professional Accountability

The places we use every day should enhance our lives—not endanger our safety. That's why landscape architects are licensed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to keep the public safe from harm.

Professional landscape architects design the spaces where people live, work, travel, and play. Their decisions directly affect flood risk, traffic safety, accessibility, and environmental performance.