

Establishing Green Infrastructure Law

After nearly a decade of advocacy, ASLA won a major victory passing legislation promoting the use of green infrastructure. ASLA worked with Senator Deb Fischer (NE) and Representative Bob Gibbs (OH) to help pass bipartisan legislation, the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (H.R. 7279), which promotes the use of green infrastructure projects in addressing stormwater, wastewater, and other water quality issues. This bill was signed into law on January 14, 2019.



Mill River Park and Greenway, Stamford, CT.
Firm: OLIN, ASLA 2015 Honor Award in General Design.



Confluence Park, Denver, CO.
Firm: Architerra Group, LWCF funded project.

Stopping Threats Against LWCF and National Parks

This year, ASLA successfully defeated amendments aimed at gutting the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). These amendments not only zeroed out all LWCF funding, but tried to divide conservationists. ASLA activated our grassroots network and joined with coalition members in successfully stopping these amendments in both the House and Senate. ASLA also supported bipartisan legislation that would address the National Park Service's \$12 billion maintenance backlog without compromising LWCF.

Funding Critical Programs

ASLA successfully advocated for increased funding for several infrastructure programs important to landscape architects. In March 2018, Congress passed a final fiscal year 2018 spending bill that increased funding for the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER [now known as BUILD]) grant program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, and the National Park Service.



Mercer Corridor East, Seattle, WA.
Firm: HBB Landscape Architecture, TIGER funded project.

Making Coastal Communities Resilient

ASLA worked to move H.R. 4525, the Living Shorelines Act, through Congress and successfully worked with Senators Kamala Harris (CA) and Chris Murphy (CT) to introduce the Senate companion (S. 3087) to the bill. The measure would establish a pilot program to help communities use green infrastructure to protect coastal shorelines. The introduction of S. 3087 was a direct response to ASLA's 2018 Advocacy Day request to sponsor this measure in the Senate.



Charleston Waterfront Park, Charleston, SC.
Firm: Sasaki Associates.



Advocating at Record Numbers

This year saw record engagement through our iAdvocate Network, as ASLA broke all previous yearly and quarterly records. ASLA members successfully lobbied Congress and state governments for green infrastructure, licensure, and climate change. Our advocates continue to remain engaged through iAdvocate at record levels.

ASLA Advocacy Summit

In June, ASLA chapters and the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Board members gathered in Columbus, Ohio, for the first-ever joint Licensure Summit. The agenda included sessions on enhancing chapter/board relationships and licensure education and defense. Participants were also joined by a Columbus City Councilwoman and two legislative staff members for an advocacy site tour of the award-winning Scioto River Greenways project.



2018 ASLA Licensure Summit in Columbus, OH.



"Protecting the Public: Licensure Is at Risk and How to Respond" -2018 ASLA Annual Meeting.

Defending Licensure Across the Country

In 2018, threats to occupational licensure drastically increased as governors and state policy makers renewed efforts to advance licensing reform initiatives. ASLA helped to push back against 65+ licensing reform bills and multiple state executive actions. Despite the many attacks, through the successful advocacy work of ASLA and its chapters, landscape architecture licensure continues in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

ASLA Government Affairs

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