



ASLA National & GSLA Chapter
Advocacy Documents to Date (3/9/2023)

1. Letter to Chair of New Hampshire House Finance Committee
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7. Geo-Fenced Facebook Ad
8. What Is Landscape Architecture?
9. Licensure Fact Sheet



March 8, 2023

The Honorable Kenneth Weyler
Chairman
House Finance Committee
23 Scotland Road
Kingston, NH 03848

Re: HB 2, deregulation of landscape architects and elimination of the Board of Landscape Architects

Dear Chairman Weyler,

Thank you for your leadership of the Finance Committee and efforts to improve the Granite State. The New Hampshire Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects shares many of your same goals to ensure that our state is a great place to live and work. However, the provisions in HB 2 to eliminate licensure for landscape architects and the licensing board would have the opposite effect by endangering public health, safety, and statewide economic prosperity. Therefore, we request that you amend the bill by removing Section 417, which proposes to deregulate landscape architects and eliminate the Board of Landscape Architects.

Like architects and engineers, landscape architects are design professionals who are licensed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. To become licensed professionals landscape architects must meet rigorous education, experience, and examination requirements. Contrary to statements made by others, landscape architects do not plant rose bushes. However, landscape architects do address public health, safety, and welfare through designing, documenting, and supervising the construction of millions of dollars in infrastructure and site improvements in New Hampshire every year. These projects include community masterplans, parks, living shorelines, walkable neighborhoods, multimodal transportation networks, nature-based infrastructure, and much more.

Eliminating licensure will have significant economic consequences on our profession, create barriers to mobility, and decrease competition for professional design services. The following helps to further explain the negative consequences of HB 2.

Landscape Architecture Licensure Protects New Hampshire's Health, Safety, and Welfare

The practice of landscape architecture keeps the public safe from hazards, protects and maximizes natural resources, and prevents damage to public or private property from changes in the built environment. Routinely, landscape architects both generate and oversee designs that control pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic; inform green stormwater management systems; provide accessibility as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act; design remediated brownfields; and create safe places for recreation, civic events, commercial and residential spaces, and other public and private needs.

For example, in the realm of transportation, landscape architects lead projects to improve roadway alignment, reduce roadway damage to ecosystems, and serve non-vehicular users. In particular, landscape architects are responsible for engineering walkable communities, including Safe Routes to School for the state's youth. Licensed landscape architects also prioritize multi-use transportation corridors and Complete Streets that simultaneously support the safe flow of traffic and provide for non-vehicular transportation options. These designs by licensed professionals help to keep New Hampshire's national distinctions of the 8th-lowest rate for motor deaths and 13th-lowest rate for pedestrian deaths.

When addressing stormwater management, landscape architects incorporate green infrastructure to reduce flooding, pollutants, and debris. Landscape architects are educated, trained, and tested on grading, drainage, and ecology, and have the knowledge and skills to channel and manage stormwater through natural filtration systems to cleanse and stabilize water supplies following rains and extreme weather events. For example, landscape architecture designs use permeable surfaces and other techniques capable of absorbing and slowing stormwater runoff. These design interventions protect the

public's health and physical safety.

Licensure Supports Business Competition and Market Efficiency

Our New Hampshire landscape architecture firms are small businesses providing much-needed jobs and economic development to their communities. State agencies and city governments have recognized the impact landscape architects have on health, safety, and welfare of the public and turn to the profession for its expertise. There are licensed professional landscape architects currently serving in NHDOT and city planning offices around the state and many municipalities require a landscape architect to prepare and stamp design plans.

Licensure and the ability to stamp documents also allows firms to compete for prime contracts awarded by local, state, and federal governments. As a licensed profession nationwide, deregulation would disqualify New Hampshire landscape architects from bidding on government projects in our own state. Out-of-state licensed landscape architects would gain an unfair competitive advantage over those from New Hampshire, particularly on federal projects.

This problem of unearned market advantages also extends to economic competition with other design professions—architecture and engineering—which have several areas of practice overlap with landscape architecture. Deregulation of landscape architecture would be a restriction on trade. Landscape Architects would no longer be able to compete with architects and engineers on design projects for which they are qualified to lead. The result would be the opposite of a free and competitive market.

Deregulation of landscape architects is not only anti-business, but also anti-consumer. Landscape architecture is a complex, technical, interdisciplinary profession. The very nature of a technical profession makes it impractical for consumers and the public, who need these services, to accurately assess the relative competence of an individual or firm. Professional regulation is therefore needed to establish a comprehensive enforceable set of practice standards and to prevent negligence and incompetence. Licensure safeguards these transactions by removing the public's uncertainty about a practitioner's basic knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Furthermore, malpractice in the built environment is not easily, quickly, or affordably corrected. Unregulated landscape architecture practice poses a significantly greater risk of physical, environmental, and monetary harm to the public. Examples of which include creating mobility and accessibility issues through noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the introduction of invasive species to local ecosystems, and the loss of property due to flood risk exposure. To rectify any of these preventable errors would be time-consuming for the government and costly for the taxpayer.

Landscape Architecture Contributes to New Hampshire's Economy

The economic vitality of New Hampshire's communities is directly affected by landscape architecture through urban, suburban, and rural design. Landscape architects have led downtown streetscape and pedestrian upgrades, including improvements addressing public safety concerns. In many circumstances, they aid municipalities and private developers in negotiating the balance of infrastructure improvements that better serve the growing population. Projects examples include the improvements to Main Street in Downtown Concord and the revitalization of Historic State Street in Downtown Portsmouth, both of which have noticeably drawn more visitors and boosted local economic activity.

Additionally, one of the main economic drivers in New Hampshire is its tourism industry. Landscape architects oversee trail layout, hardscape elements, building placement, and roadway design to balance the needs of the built environment and preserve New Hampshire's natural resources and scenic vistas. Two of the national parks in New Hampshire receive over 36,000 visitors a year producing over \$2.6 million in economic benefits. Numerous projects in these parks are designed, managed, and overseen by landscape architects. Other tourist attractions, resorts, and destinations have benefited from landscape architecture design strategies are the Wentworth by The Sea Hotel redevelopment and the Cochecho River Waterfront Master Planning project.

As New Hampshire attracts more business to the state, it is important for allied licensed professionals to find strategic and cost-effective solutions that benefit these growing communities. The economic value of new development projects is the sum of more than just the cost of design, construction, and materials. Landscape architects facilitate public-private partnership projects impacting communal spaces and reinvigorating small business economies for decades to come.

Maintain Licensure for Landscape Architects

As stewards of the natural and built environment, and as design professionals responsible for decisions affecting the condition of vital infrastructure and civic space development, it is imperative that landscape architects remain licensed. The rigorous licensure requirements of education, examination, and experience do not function to insulate landscape architects from competition. In fact, a license enhances intra- and inter-state competition, both among landscape architects and with other design professions. Most of all, licensure requirements insulate the public from the irrevocable harms that stem from a lack of knowledge, skill, and professional standards.

Landscape architects take pride in our contributions to public health and safety and to the Granite State's unique culture and sense of place. Through the design of New Hampshire's parks and recreational trails, Complete Streets, college campuses, and downtown plazas, landscape architects have created safe spaces for people to lead free and prosperous lives. **Therefore, we request you amend the House Bill 2 by removing the provisions that deregulates landscape architecture and eliminates the Board of Landscape Architects.**

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the profession's impact on the health and safety of New Hampshire citizens and the built and natural environment, please do not hesitate to contact us at Randy Knowles, ASLA, Randy@TheDubayGroup.com, 603-860-0274 and Jennifer Martel, ASLA, PLA jmartel@gmail.com, 603-828-8051.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Martel, ASLA, PLA
President, New Hampshire Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects



Randy Knowles, ASLA, PLA
Trustee, New Hampshire Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects



The Honorable Chris Sununu
Governor of New Hampshire
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

Thank you for your leadership and efforts to improve the Granite State. The New Hampshire Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects shares many of your same goals to ensure that our state is a great place to live and work. However, your proposal to eliminate licensure for landscape architects in HB 2 endangers public health, safety, and statewide economic prosperity. We would like to clarify any misconceptions about the profession.

Like architects and engineers, landscape architecture is a design profession. To become licensed landscape architects must meet rigorous education, experience, and examination requirements. Contrary to popular belief, landscape architects do not plant rose bushes. However, landscape architects do address public health, safety, and welfare through designing, documenting, and supervising the construction of millions of dollars in infrastructure and site improvements in New Hampshire every year. These projects include community masterplans, parks, living shorelines, walkable neighborhoods, multimodal transportation networks, nature-based infrastructure, and much more.

Due to the health, safety, and welfare impact of the profession, landscape architects are licensed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Eliminating licensure will also have significant economic consequences to our profession, create barriers to mobility, and decrease competition for professional services.

Landscape Architecture Licensure Protects New Hampshire's Health, Safety, and Welfare

The practice of landscape architecture keeps the public safe from hazards, protects and maximizes natural resources, and prevents damage to public or private property from changes in the built environment. Routinely, landscape architects both generate and oversee designs that control pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic; inform green stormwater management systems; provide accessibility as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act; design remediated brownfields; and create safe places for recreation, civic events, commercial and residential spaces, and other public and private needs.

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Licensure Supports Business Competition and Market Efficiency

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Licensure and the ability to stamp documents also allows firms to compete for prime contracts awarded by local, state, and federal governments. As a licensed profession nationwide, deregulation would disqualify New Hampshire landscape architects from bidding on government projects in our own state. Out-of-state licensed landscape architects would gain an unfair competitive advantage over those from New Hampshire, particularly on federal projects.

This problem of unearned market advantages also extends to economic competition with other design professions—architecture and engineering—which have several areas of practice overlap with landscape architecture. Deregulation of landscape architecture would artificially expand the market shares of these other licensed professions. The result would be the opposite of a free and competitive market.

Deregulation of landscape architects is not only anti-business, but also anti-consumer. Landscape architecture is a complex, technical, interdisciplinary profession. The very nature of a technical profession makes it impractical for consumers and the public, who need these services, to accurately assess the relative competence of an individual or firm. Professional regulation is therefore needed to establish a comprehensive enforceable set of practice standards and to prevent negligence and incompetence. Licensure safeguards these transactions by removing the public's uncertainty about a practitioner's basic knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Furthermore, malpractice in the built environment is not easily, quickly, or affordably corrected. Unregulated landscape architecture practice poses a significantly greater risk of physical, environmental, and monetary harm to the public. Examples of which include creating mobility and accessibility issues through noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the introduction of invasive species to local ecosystems, and the loss of property due to flood risk exposure. To rectify any of these preventable errors would be time-consuming for the government and costly for the taxpayer.

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As New Hampshire attracts more business to the state, it is important for allied licensed professionals to find strategic and cost-effective solutions that benefit these growing communities. The economic value of new development projects is the sum of more than just the cost of design, construction, and materials. Landscape architects can facilitate private-public partnership projects impacting communal spaces and reinvigorating small business economies for decades to come.

Maintain Licensure for Landscape Architects

As stewards of the natural and built environment, and as design professionals responsible for decisions affecting the condition of vital infrastructure and civic site development, it is imperative that landscape architects remain licensed. The rigorous licensure requirements of education, examination, and experience do not function to insulate landscape architects from competition. In fact, a license enhances intra- and inter-state competition, both among landscape architects and with other design professions. Most of all, licensure requirements insulate the public from the irrevocable harms that stem from a lack of knowledge, skill, and professional standards.

Landscape architects take pride in our contributions to public health and safety and to the Granite State's unique culture and sense of place. Through the design of New Hampshire's parks and recreational trails, Complete Streets, college campuses, and downtown plazas, landscape architects have created safe spaces for people to lead free and prosperous lives. Therefore, we request you remove the deregulation of landscape architects from HB 2. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the profession's impact on the health and safety of New Hampshire citizens and the built and natural environment, please do not hesitate to contact us at Randy Knowles, ASLA, Randy@TheDubayGroup.com, 603-860-0274 and Jennifer Martel, ASLA, PLA jmartel@gmail.com, 603-828-8051.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Martel, ASLA, PLA
President, New Hampshire Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects



Randy Knowles, ASLA
Trustee, New Hampshire Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

Landscape Architects Don't Plant Rosebushes

New Hampshire Chapter of ASLA <governmentaffairs@asla.org>

Thu 3/9/2023 12:42 PM

To: GALLAGHER, MATTHEW <mgallagher@asla.org>

📎 1 attachments (380 KB)

What Is Landscape Architecture GSLA 2023.pdf;



Oppose the Deregulation of Landscape Architects (HB 2)!

"[F]or some reason we license the person who plants a rosebush in your front yard."

- Governor Sununu (2023 Budget Proposal Speech)

Landscape Architecture Facts

Like architects and engineers, **Landscape Architects** are **licensed in all 50 States and the District of Columbia** to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Landscape Architects **protect public health, safety, and welfare** through the purposeful design of public and private spaces (NH examples below) that provide economic, social, and environmental benefits for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

Landscape Architects must meet rigorous requirements for licensure:

- **Education**
(Bachelor's or Master's)
- **Experience**
(3 years of direct supervision)
- **National Examination**

Landscape Architecture licensure ensures knowledge, skills, and abilities in:

- Grading and Drainage
 - Stormwater Management
 - Construction Documentation
 - Site Analysis and Design
 - Project and Construction Management
-

NH Landscape Architects Design:

- Complex multimodal transportation systems
- Cutting-edge parks and outdoor recreation spaces
- Vibrant community master plans
- Innovative nature-based infrastructure
- Resilient ecosystems for a changing climate

NH Landscape Architecture Projects:

- [Concord Main Street Design](#) (Concord, NH)
 - [Historic State Street Reconstruction](#) (Portsmouth, NH)
 - [Route 101 Corridor Project](#) (Bedford, NH)
 - [US Route 202 Intersection Improvements Project](#) (Jaffrey, NH)
 - [Cochecho River Waterfront](#) (Dover, NH)
-
- [Heritage Rail Trail](#) (Nashua, NH)
 - [NH's State Parks' Master Plans](#) (took shape under the design guidance of landscape architects)
 - [Mill River Park Master Plan](#) (Franklin, NH)
 - [Berlin River Walk](#) (Berlin, NH)
 - [Sheehan-Basquil Splash Pad](#) (Manchester, NH)
-

Oppose the Deregulation of Landscape Architects ([HB 2](#))!

[New Hampshire ASLA](#)

[American Society of
Landscape Architects](#)

[Jennifer Martel](#), ASLA, PLA
President, ASLA-NH



Landscape Architecture Licenses are Important: Union Leader Op-ed Explores Why

New Hampshire Chapter of ASLA <governmentaffairs@asla.org>

Thu 3/9/2023 12:46 PM

To: GALLAGHER, MATTHEW <mgallagher@asla.org>



"[D]on't be fooled to think landscape architects plant rose bushes. Eliminating licensure for landscape architects is a drastic step that endangers public safety.

How, you might ask? [Let's pause for a moment to clarify what landscape architects do.](#)" - Union Leader Op-ed (2/28/23)

Landscape architects don't plant rose bushes

GOVERNOR CHRIS SUNUNU recently announced that his administration plans to eliminate licensing requirements for more than 30 professions, including landscape architects. Despite the governor's remark during his 2023 budget address, don't be fooled to think landscape architects plant rose bushes. Eliminating licensure for landscape architects is a drastic step that endangers public safety.

How, you might ask? Let's pause for a moment to clarify what landscape architects do.



Jennifer Martel

chitects who specialize in mixed use transportation meaning that they focus on supporting all of the ways people move through their communities whether that's by car, bike or by foot. The Route 101 extension and redevelopment in Bedford was informed by landscape architects who, in addition to improving pedestrian safety also advanced traffic calming measures like tree-lined streets and worked to minimize the impact of the project on surrounding wetlands and make them an integral part of the natural features of the

[New Hampshire ASLA](#)

[American Society of Landscape Architects](#)

[Jennifer Martel](#), ASLA, PLA
President, ASLA-NH



NH Landscape Architects Are NH Small Businesses

New Hampshire Chapter of ASLA <governmentaffairs@asla.org>

Thu 3/9/2023 12:49 PM

To: GALLAGHER, MATTHEW <mgallagher@asla.org>



"If a **small business owner needs a license to do their job or operate their business** in their current state — **New Hampshire will recognize their license here** [[unless you're a Landscape Architect](#)], incentivizing working professionals across the nation to move to New Hampshire." -- Governor Sununu (2/14/2023 Budget Proposal Address)

As proposed, HB 2 will have the following **consequences**:

1. No new New Hampshire Landscape Architecture firms
2. New Hampshire's homegrown talent studying Landscape Architecture, permanently leaving New Hampshire
3. New Hampshire Landscape Architects unable to compete for local, state, & federal design projects
4. Increased risks to public health & safety due to malpractice by unqualified individuals

To avoid these consequences:

Support & Maintain Licensure for Landscape Architects!

(Delete Section 417 from HB 2)

Landscape Architecture Small Business Truths

- NH Landscape Architects ==> NH Small Businesses
- The profession is licensed in all 50 States and the District of Columbia ==> Landscape Architects "need a license to do their jobs and [compete] in NH"
- Eliminating Landscape Architecture Licenses ==> "[Dis]incentivizes working professionals [& college graduates] across the nation to move to NH"

Deregulating Landscape Architecture is Anti-Business

- As a licensed profession nationwide, deregulation would **disqualify** New Hampshire landscape architects from bidding on government projects in our own state.
- Federal projects require design professionals to be licensed. Out-of-state licensed landscape architects would gain an **unfair** competitive advantage on federal projects located in New Hampshire.
- Deregulation of Landscape Architecture would be a **restriction on trade**. Landscape Architects would no longer be able to compete with architects and engineers on design projects.
- Deregulation of Landscape Architecture abolishes a comprehensive enforceable set of practice standards and increases the possibility of **negligence** and incompetence, putting the public's health, safety, and welfare at risk.
- Built environment malpractice by non-licensed individuals is difficult, time-consuming, and most of all **expensive** to correct.

New Hampshire ASLA

**American Society of
Landscape Architects**

Jennifer Martel, ASLA, PLA
President, ASLA-NH



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GOVERNOR CHRIS SUNUNU recently announced that his administration plans to eliminate licensing requirements for more than 30 professions, including landscape architects. Despite the governor's remark during his 2023 budget address, don't be fooled to think landscape architects plant rose bushes. Eliminating licensure for landscape architects is a drastic step that endangers public safety.



Jennifer Martel

How, you might ask? Let's pause for a moment to clarify what landscape architects do.

Landscape architects design the outdoor spaces where Americans gather, play, compete, relax, live, learn and work. The ability to see the bigger picture of a project and blend nature, science, design, sustainability and public safety is a perspective unique to landscape architects.

Due to the public health, safety, and welfare impact of the profession, landscape architects are licensed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Landscape architecture education programs include coursework in science, engineering, hydrology, horticulture, sustainability, geology, and technology. Like architects and engineers, landscape architects also must gain experience and pass a national examination to become licensed.

Deregulation will not only impact public safety, but also create barriers for New Hampshire landscape architects to practice in the state. Eliminating licensure disqualifies New Hampshire landscape architects from bidding on public contracts in our own state.

That said, how does landscape architecture impact public health, safety, and welfare?

Landscape architects are developing solutions for the infrastructure and climate challenges New Hampshire faces today like sea-level rise, transportation upgrades and Main Street revitalization — all of which contribute to public health and safety, our local economy, and New Hampshire's cultural identity.

Landscape architects informed the masterplan for the Cochecho River Waterfront in Dover. The new waterfront park addresses sea-level rise by restoring wetlands, which helps to mitigate flooding, manage stormwater and halt erosion while also serving as a recreational area.

There are many landscape ar-

chitects who specialize in mixed use transportation meaning that they focus on supporting all of

the ways people move through their communities whether that's by car, bike or by foot. The Route 101 extension and redevelopment in Bedford was informed by landscape architects who, in addition to improving pedestrian safety also advanced traffic calming measures like tree-lined streets and worked to minimize the impact of

the project on surrounding wetlands and make them an integral part of the natural features of the new landscape.

Landscape architects have played a role in the economic vitality of our historic New England towns by designing streetscapes that address accessibility and modern challenges in ways that also retain historic charm such as Concord's Main Street and Portsmouth's Historic State Street.

Nature is an important part of New Hampshire's identity and landscape architects put nature at the heart of everything we do. Our iconic state parks and their amenities took shape under the design guidance of landscape architects. Landscape architects of today continue to ensure that the legacy of the Granite State's natural assets are protected and safe for all users.

Landscape architects are also experienced in designing nature-based recreational facilities like the Mill City Park at Franklin Falls, which has sparked economic revitalization in the region.

State agencies and city governments have recognized the impact landscape architects have on health, safety, and welfare of the public and turn to the profession for its expertise. There are licensed professional landscape architects currently serving in NHDOT and city planning offices around the state and many municipalities require a landscape architect to prepare and stamp design plans.

Furthermore, New Hampshire has a state-wide shortage of licensed design professionals. Let's not exacerbate that problem by eliminating licensure for landscape architects who are fully qualified to lead complex infrastructure projects that ensure public health and safety and move the Granite State forward.

Jennifer Martel is president of the New Hampshire chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. She lives in Exeter.



As licensed professionals in all 50 states and D.C., landscape architects use their expertise to design and manage infrastructure projects where people live, work, and play.

New Hampshire's proposal to eliminate licensing for landscape architects endangers public health, safety, and welfare. Op-ed: Landscape architects don't plant rose bushes: <https://bit.ly/3ZtFE1p>

Image credit: Landscape architects are experienced in designing nature-based recreational facilities like the Mill City Park at Franklin Falls, which has spurred economic growth in the region. Image courtesy of McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group



LOWER WAVE - TRESTLE VIEW PARK - FRANKLIN FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

👍 10

👍 Like

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Landscape architects create memorable public spaces. At the Jim Mitchell Community Park in Warner, NH, landscape architects used skills in grading and drainage to transform a steep hillside into a vibrant public gathering space and amphitheater.

WHAT IS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

Combining time-tested design principles with state-of-the-art science, mathematics, and technology, landscape architects plan, design and manage the natural and built environment around us: **community masterplans, parks, living shorelines, walkable neighborhoods, multimodal transportation networks, green stormwater systems,** and much more. The fundamental practice of landscape architecture includes keeping the public safe from hazards, protecting natural resources, and sustainably managing the environments in which we live, work, and play.

In New Hampshire, landscape architects accentuate the state’s dramatic scenery, protect its natural resources, and strengthen the sense of community in cities and towns. **Some examples of landscape architecture in New Hampshire include:** Concord Main Street, the Millyard Development and Riverfront Park in Manchester, Mine Falls Park in Nashua, and Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth. Additional well-known examples of landscape architecture include the Emerald Necklace in Boston, Central Park in New York City; the grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.; and Chicago’s Millennium Park.

Licensure Protects Public HSW

All 50 states and the District of Columbia require landscape architects to be **licensed to protect the health, safety, and welfare** of the public. Landscape architects apply their skills and knowledge to plan, design, document, and supervise the development of projects that protect and conserve resources and safeguard communities from hazards.

Licensure of landscape architects includes a rigorous STEM focused Bachelor’s or Master’s education, encompassing study in the **natural and physical sciences, engineering and environmental studies, design principles, urban planning,** and more. Then, after acquiring real-world experience and passing a comprehensive national licensing exam can they be recognized as a Professional Landscape Architect.



ASLA
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Landscape Architects Manage Water and Stormwater

Landscape architects provide efficient, cost-effective, sustainable infrastructure solutions for municipal, commercial, and residential properties. Effectively managing stormwater means more than moving runoff to large underground pipes.

Landscape architects use permeable paving, vegetated retention basins, green roofs, bioswales, rain gardens, and other design techniques to **reduce runoff, improve water quality, and recharge groundwater supplies.**

Landscape Architects Design Alternative Transportation Solutions

Landscape architects help communities by designing multimodal transportation corridors that accommodate all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, people with disabilities, and people who rely on public transportation. These systems reduce reliance on single-use automotive transport, which in turn **reduces traffic, improves air quality, and promotes a more active way of life.**

Landscape Architects Support Healthy Lifestyles

Landscape architects design outdoor spaces that promote physical activity, such as parks, trails, and bike paths. Additionally, they incorporate natural features, water elements, and green spaces, which have been demonstrated to have a beneficial impact on mental health and wellbeing.



Landscape architects design recreation facilities that keep children and families active and healthy, such as the Sheehan Basquil Park playground and splash pad in Manchester.



Landscape architects design green infrastructure like this rain garden at the Exeter Public Library that filters stormwater from the adjacent roadway and parking lot.



Landscape architects design Complete Streets like Sagamore Avenue in Portsmouth. Street trees, curb bump-outs, bike lanes, and pocket parks all help to calm traffic and create a more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly road.



American Society of
Landscape Architects

Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is the national professional association representing landscape architects. Beginning with 11 members, ASLA has grown to more than 15,000 members and 49 chapters, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

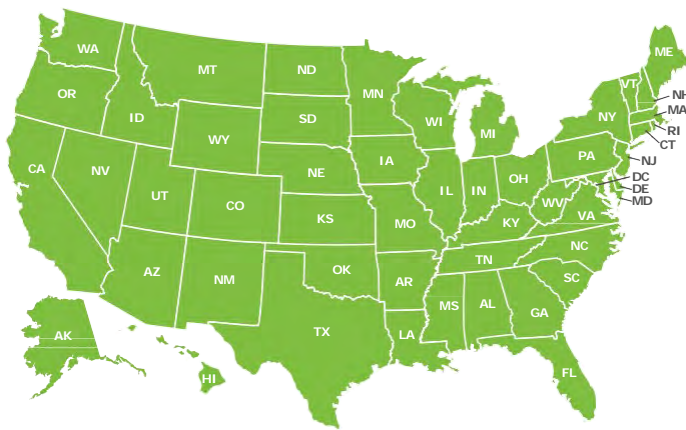
ASLA promotes the profession of landscape architecture and advances the practice through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship. The majority of ASLA members, nearly 80 percent, work in private practice. More than one-third of them are employed by small landscape architecture firms with fewer than 10 employees. Nearly 16 percent of ASLA's members work in the public sector, including in federal, state, regional, and municipal agencies.

www.asla.org

LICENSURE

Facts and Figures

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have recognized that regulation of landscape architecture is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.



Landscape architecture licensure is important because of the real danger to clients and the users of these public and private spaces: [physical injury](#); [property damage](#); and [financial ruin](#).

States typically follow the three-step process to earn licensure common among the design professions: education, experience, and examination.

Education

Most landscape architects have an accredited degree in landscape architecture. The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) accredits 100 bachelor- and master-level programs at 74 institutions across the United States.

Experience

Most states require that landscape architects have 2–4 years experience under a licensed landscape architect in that state. Many states provide some flexibility for educational background, allowing candidates with more years of experience to qualify without an accredited degree, reducing barriers to entry into the profession.

Examination

All states require every candidate to pass the four-part Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE). While education and experience standards ensure each candidate has been prepared to enter the profession, the LARE provides a definitive measure of competence to ensure each landscape architect will protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Skills tested include: project development; site suitability; stormwater management; erosion control; hydrology; and irrigation. Candidates also must demonstrate competence in such areas as: layout of playground equipment; vehicular and pedestrian circulation; roadway alignment design; site lighting layouts; manipulation of contours and spot elevations; calculations of slopes, grades, and volumes of material; design of surface and subsurface storm drainage, including hydraulic characteristics and storm drain connections; and site planning for buildings.

Support Licensure

We urge your support of legislation that provides effective regulation of the practice of landscape architecture. Licensure ensures that only capable, trained professionals are performing landscape architecture work that impacts the public health, safety, and welfare.



What Landscape Architects Do

Landscape architects plan livable communities that foster active lifestyles, design green streets that manage stormwater runoff, plan cutting-edge transportation corridors that are safe for all users, and help communities prepare for and recover from natural disasters. Landscape architecture encompasses the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of the natural and built environment through science and design. Well-known examples include Central Park in New York City, the grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., the Oklahoma City National Memorial, and Chicago's Millennium Park. Landscape architecture includes both iconic and neighborhood places, including commercial developments, downtown streetscapes, green roofs, local parks, and residential communities.

Licensure Protects Your Community

Fundamentally, the practice of landscape architecture should keep the public safe from hazards, protect and maximize natural resources, and prevent damage to public or private property from changes in the built environment. Landscape architects provide stormwater solutions that effectively manage water to minimize runoff, improve water quality, control erosion, and eliminate safety hazards from standing water and ice. Landscape architects design construction projects—whether a playground, streetscape, campus, or park—that safely coordinates all uses of a site to avoid injuries and reduces the threat of crime. Landscape architecture ensures roads, parking lots, medians and other transportation elements safeguard driver and pedestrian safety, are ADA accessible, and also provides environmental and community benefits.

The only way to make sure that landscape architects protect the public in these ways is to license landscape architects. The education, experience, and examination required to earn licensure provides a guarantee that the individual has demonstrated competency in all of the areas that impact the public health, safety, and welfare.

Licensure Protects Clients and Fosters Competition

States and localities recognize the dangers to the public from the built environment. This is evident not only through licensing, but through building codes and ordinances related to water, landscape, and other aspects that can pose a threat to the health and safety of our communities. These codes typically demonstrate the public trust of these communities in licensed professionals, requiring a licensee to oversee and stamp public and private projects that require public approval.

Excluding landscape architects from this system only serves to limit expertise and stifle competition for professional design services. In the end, less competition means higher fees for these services. Errors and omissions insurance typically requires a license to qualify for coverage, making sure licensees are adequately able to take responsibility for any legal liability.

Image Credits

Page 1: 2017 General Design Honor Award. Chicago Botanic Garden: The Regenstein Learning Campus. Mikyoung Kim Design and Jacobs/Ryan Associates. (Image credit: Brian Fritz Photography) Page 2: 2012 Analysis and Planning Honor Award. Red Mountain / Green Ribbon — The Master Plan for Red Mountain Park. WRT, Philadelphia. (Image credit: Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC)

