**General Questions**

Q: What is landscape architecture?

*A: The profession of landscape architecture is broad in scope and scale. The profession encompasses the design, analysis, management, planning, and stewardship of the natural and built environment. Activities of a landscape architect include creating public parks, site design and planning for commercial and residential properties, designing green infrastructure for water and stormwater management, reclaiming blighted areas, designing towns, and preservation of historic and cultural resources. Landscape architects have advanced education, professional training, specialized skills, and licensure by examination in 50 states.*

Q: Please provide examples of landscape architect projects.

*A: 1. CITE LOCAL EXAMPLES IN THE LEGISLATOR’S DISTRICT including commercial*

*developments, residential communities, local parks, and downtown streetscapes.*

*2. In addition to the local examples, well-known landscape architecture projects include Central Park in New York City; the multimodal transportation corridor of the Portland Mall in Portland, OR; the grounds of the U.S. Capitol and the resilient green roof of the U.S. Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C., and Chicago’s Millennium Park.*

***TIP: PERSONALIZE THE ASLA “WHAT IS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE” FACT SHEET WITH EXAMPLE PROJECTS FROM THE LEGISLATOR’S DISTRICT AND INCLUDE IN A PACKET FOR THE OFFICE***

Q: How is landscape architecture different from other professionals and design professions?

*A: Landscape architecture, architecture, civil engineering, and urban planning are all professions that work with the "built" environment. Despite some overlap between these professions, there are important distinctions.*

* ***Landscape architects*** *design, analyze, manage, plan, and steward projects on public and private* ***outdoor spaces****. The basis of landscape architectural design is born from acute sensitivity to the ecological environment. The broad scope of the profession includes commercial and residential design, site drawings, water and stormwater management, and park and recreation design.*
* ***Architects*** *primarily design* ***buildings and structures*** *with specific uses, such as homes, offices, schools, and factories, and are normally not trained in aspects of land and site development.*
* ***Civil engineers*** *apply scientific principles to the design and construction of* ***public infrastructure*** *such as roads, bridges, and utilities. The relationship of civil engineers to landscape architects is similar to the relationship of structural engineers to architects.*
* ***Urban planners*** *develop a broad,* ***comprehensive overview of development for entire cities and regions****. Urban planning has developed into a distinct profession with its own courses and degree programs. Today many landscape architects are still heavily involved in the field of urban planning. Planners do not require examination or licensure in most states.*

Q: How are landscape architects different from gardeners, landscapers, horticulturists, and landscape contractors?

*A:* ***Landscape architects*** *are licensed design professionals who design, analyze, manage, and plan projects such as transportation corridors, water and stormwater management systems, public parks and trails, and neighborhood master plans, all of which significantly affect public health, safety, and welfare.*

***Gardeners and landscape designers*** *focus primarily on fundamental garden design and maintenance.* *Landscape designers usually do not have an advanced degree and are not a licensed professional in most states, although they may be trade certified by the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.*

***Horticulturist****s are trained in the science of growing and producing plants. Many horticulturists become nurserymen or work in garden centers. Some horticulturists become trade certified by their state nursery and landscape associations.*

***Landscape contractors*** *install planting elements of design conceived by landscape architects. Landscape contractors may be gardeners or landscapers. Most landscape contractors are registered contractors in their respective states or local jurisdictions.*

**HSW Questions**

Q: How does landscape architect licensure help protect and promote public health, safety, and welfare?

*Licensure serves as the first line of protection for consumers and communities. In most instances, achieving licensure in landscape architecture means the individual has an accredited landscape architecture degree, completed a specified length of experience, and passed the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE). Education and experience standards ensure each candidate has been prepared to enter the profession, and the LARE provides a definitive measure of competence to ensure each landscape architect has the knowledge, skills, and ability to protect the public health, safety, and welfare when designing projects such as:*

* *sidewalks, public pathways, plazas, and terraces that promote safe passage for pedestrians*
* *transportation corridors and streets that assure safe utilization by automobiles, pedestrians, and other modes of transportation*
* *erosion and sediment control systems that protect and improve water quality*
* *commercial and residential site lighting systems that promote safe private and public streets and spaces*
* *irrigation design that allows for the efficient use of water resources*
* *design for sea-level rise and resiliency, which protects coastal communities*

[*Click Here*](https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government_Affairs/State_Goverment_Affairs_and_Licensure/Licensure_Advocacy_Resources/Eligibility.pdf) *for a list of state licensure requirements.*

***TIP: BRING DESIGN DRAWINGS AND PHOTOS OF LOCAL PROJECTS AS VISUALS TO SHARE WITH THE LEGISLATOR AND EXPLAIN THE PUBLIC HSW IMPACT OF THE DESIGN***

Q: What do landscape architects do that is so important to public safety?

*A: Landscape architects are trained to use their technical and artistic talents to design and plan the natural and built environment. We take what is often a unique approach to site design and land planning in order to provide an end product that performs effectively on both a functional and an aesthetic level. This is done by formulating the graphic and written criteria (including drawings, construction documents, and specifications) to govern the allocation, arrangement, and construction of land and water resources.*

*This work includes the preparation of master, site, subdivision, and land development design plans. Typical landscape architecture design plans might include a site analysis, the location of buildings and structures, design of transportation systems, and design of the site environmental systems. A detailed site design prepared by a landscape architect could also include grading and drainage details, stormwater management systems, irrigation systems, erosion and sediment controls, roadways, and pedestrian circulation systems. All of these affect public health, safety, and welfare.*

***TIP: BRING A COPY OF THE ASLA PUBLIC HSW FACT SHEET FOR THE LEGISLATOR***

**Licensure Questions**

Q: What is required to become a licensed landscape architect? How does this compare to architects and engineers?

A: *Requirements for licensure vary from state to state, but they all require a certain combination of education and experience before taking the Landscape Architecture Registration Examination (LARE). The LARE is recognized by all 50 states that require licensure. This approach is similar to architects and engineers and can also vary from state to state.*

*EDUCATION—Most landscape architects have an accredited degree in landscape architecture. The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) accredits bachelor- and master-level programs at 69 institutions across the United States.*

*EXPERIENCE—Most states require that landscape architects have 2 to 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.*

*To view the licensure requirements for your state,* [*click here.*](https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government_Affairs/State_Goverment_Affairs_and_Licensure/Licensure_Advocacy_Resources/Eligibility.pdf)

Q: When landscape architects market themselves for new work/projects, do they present their educational and work history, or simply say they are a licensed landscape architect?

*A: It is a combination of education and experience. These two lead to licensure through examination. Once an individual becomes licensed, they can present themselves as a landscape architect, which implies all the above and a minimum level of competency. Without licensure, the ability to compete against out-of-state licensees and obtain insurance to work is at a severe disadvantage.*

Q: Do federal contracts require licensure for design professionals?

*A: Yes. Without licensure, landscape architects in (INSERT STATE) would be unable to compete to work on or be the lead on federal projects. However, licensed out-of-state landscape architects would be eligible to compete for and to lead projects. Federal agencies whose projects may require licensed landscape architects include the Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency.*

Q: Do state contracts require licensure for design professionals?

*A: Most state contracts require licensed design professionals to lead or work on projects. Without licensure, landscape architects would be unable to compete for or lead state projects. Eliminating licensure will also result in decreased competition and give a competitive advantage to out-of-state licensed landscape architects and other in-state licensed professionals.*

Q: Do local jurisdictions require licensure for design professionals?

*A: Most local municipal agencies require licensure for design professionals selected to work on or lead projects. Eliminating licensure for landscape architects results in decreased competition for local projects and gives a competitive advantage to out-of-state professionals. Occasionally, projects may not require a licensed professional and instead only require landscape designers or horticulturists on planting design projects. (USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO THE LAWMAKER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FIELDS)*

Q: Are there national organizations representing private industry and/or the public interest that want to see the qualification of licensure for landscape architects?

*A: Numerous organizations representing the public and private industry support licensing design professions such as landscape architecture, which significantly affect public health, safety, and welfare. Examples include the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, American Society of State Highway Transportation Officials, Building Owners and Managers Association International, American Hiking Society, League of American Bicyclists, and the Trust for Public Land.*

Q: How many states require licensure of landscape architects?

*A: All 50 states require landscape architecture licensing.*

***TIP: Share with the legislator a copy of the U.S. Landscape Architecture licensing laws map*** [***found here***](https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government_Affairs/2013_Licensure_Onesheet.pdf)***.***

Q: How would eliminating licensure affect your ability to practice in the state?

*A: Eliminating public health, safety, and welfare would endanger public health, safety, and welfare and would severely limit the ability to practice landscape architecture for many reasons, including:*

* *The general public would have no way of knowing the credentials of the landscape professional they are retaining. Individuals with no education, experience, or examination would be able to call themselves a landscape architect and practice landscape architecture.*
* *Inability to compete with other design professionals for projects*
* *Inability to be the lead on design projects*
* *Out-of-state licensed landscape architecture professionals would be hired over in-state non-licensed landscape architects for projects requiring licensed professionals.*

Q: Assuming you are licensed in one state and want to practice in another, are you required to attain licensure in the other state in order to practice in that state?

*A: Many states, within the discretion of their licensing board, may issue licenses without examination and licenses by reciprocity or comity to persons holding a license or certificate in landscape architecture in another state or country whose registration requirements are deemed to be equal or equivalent.*

*Additionally, some states accept for reciprocity the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards (CLARB) certification of record. The CLARB Record helps reduce barriers to mobility by streamlining the initial and reciprocal licensure process. The CLARB record is not a substitute for licensure.*

***TIP:*** [***Check here***](https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government_Affairs/State_Goverment_Affairs_and_Licensure/Licensure_Advocacy_Resources/Eligibility.pdf) ***to see if your state accepts the CLARB Record for reciprocity.***

Q: Does landscape architecture licensing affect the ability of landscape designers or contractors to practice?

*A: Landscape architecture licensing does not impede the ability of landscape designers or contractors to practice their vocation. Landscape architects manage projects concerning the design and use of outdoor space and the land. The scope of the profession includes multimodal and streetscape design, commercial and residential site design,* *site planning, storm and wastewater management, park and recreation design—all areas where the public’s health, safety, and welfare is of the utmost concern.*

*Landscape designers focus primarily on residential garden design and maintenance. Landscape contractors primarily install hardscape and planting elements of design conceived by landscape architects. Landscape contractors may be registered contractors, gardeners, or landscapers.* [*Click here*](https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government_Affairs/State_Goverment_Affairs_and_Licensure/Licensure_Advocacy_Resources/Exemptions.pdf) *to see if your state practice act specifically exempts landscape designers or contractors.*

Q: Does the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) or the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards (CLARB) provide landscape architecture certification?

*A: No. Due to the health, safety, and welfare impact of the profession licensure, and not certification, is required in all 50 states. ASLA is the national professional association for landscape architects, and CLARB is the national association of landscape architecture licensing boards. CLARB also manages a professional information system called the CLARB Council Record, through which landscape architects document and verify their education, experience, examination, and licensure history. The CLARB Council Record helps reduce barriers to mobility by streamlining the initial and reciprocal licensure processes.*

**TIP: SHARE WITH THE LEGISLATOR A COPY OF THE ASLA LICENSURE FACTSHEET**

**Licensing Board Questions**

Q: What type of disciplinary action is imposed on individuals who practice landscape architecture without a license? Give an example.

*A: These types of grievances are typically brought to the attention of the state licensing board by other licensed individuals, other agencies, or the general public. Disciplinary actions may include settlement agreement, fine, reprimand, probation, suspension, and license revocation.*

*A typical example includes someone marketing or advertising themselves as a landscape architect when in fact they are not licensed.*

*Note:* ***Check with your*** [***state licensing board***](https://www.asla.org/AdvocacyTools.aspx?id=11664) *- as most only have jurisdiction over regulants not non-regulants.*

Q: Why does your licensing board impose so few disciplinary actions?

*When compared against other design professionals, engineers and/or architects significantly outnumber those who are licensed landscape architects. Therefore, this measure must be looked at proportionally to the size of the profession.*

***TIP: Ask your state licensing board if the percentage of disciplinary actions is consistent with other licensed design professionals in the state.***

Q: Are licensing board actions transparent? How often do they meet?

*A: Check your* [***state licensing board’s website***](https://www.asla.org/AdvocacyTools.aspx?id=11664)*—for meeting schedules, minutes, and announcements.*

Q: Is the licensing board for landscape architects subsidized by the taxpayers of this state? [This may not apply to all states]

*A: First check with your*[***state licensing board***](https://www.asla.org/AdvocacyTools.aspx?id=11664)*. In most, but not all cases, taxpayer money is not used to subsidize the operations of the licensing board. The board is supported entirely through licensing fees paid by licensees.*

Q: Are there requirements for licensure and the standards to maintain a license in this state similar to surrounding states? [Answer will vary by state. Reason for this question is some legislators do not want to create a competitive disadvantage if they make changes in their licensing laws.]

*A:* [Click here](https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government_Affairs/State_Goverment_Affairs_and_Licensure/Licensure_Advocacy_Resources/Eligibility.pdf) to compare state requirements for licensure.

**Other Questions**

Q: Does landscape architecture licensure affect young professionals and students?

*A: Yes, to both. Emerging professionals in landscape architecture seek to settle and begin their careers and families in places where opportunities exist to build, lead, and grow a business and fairly compete for projects against other licensed design professionals. Additionally, landscape architecture education programs require internships under licensed design professionals. Therefore, students attend universities where there are local opportunities to intern under licensed landscape architects.*

Q: Are there any landscape architecture university education programs in the state?

*A:* [*Click here*](https://www.asla.org/schools.aspx) *for the complete list of undergraduate and graduate landscape architecture education programs in your state.*

Q: Are there continuing education requirements associated with landscape architecture licensing?

*A: (The answer will vary by state). Continuing education is currently required by 35 states as a condition of license renewal.* [*Click here*](https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Education/CE%202015.pdf) *for a summary and analysis of requirements.*

Q: Do landscape architects need to obtain liability insurance for the work they perform?

*A: Landscape architects, like architects and engineers, assume professional liability for their design work, and as a matter of practice, generally carry professional liability insurance. Without it, the professional becomes liable for any design defects resulting in injury or otherwise. Most landscape architects carry liability insurance against errors and omissions.*