

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE: DEFINITION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE (2002, R2018)



Policy Statement

The American Society of Landscape Architects holds that the definition of the scope of practice provides the basis for the regulatory system and is used to identify work for which a license is necessary to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

ASLA believes the practice of landscape architecture, for purposes of the licensing statute, should be defined as any service where landscape architectural education, training, experience and the application of mathematical, physical, social, and natural science principles are applied. Practice includes consultation, evaluation, planning, design (including, but not limited to, the preparation and filing of plans, drawings, specifications and other contract documents) and administration of contracts pertaining to projects principally directed at the safe functional and aesthetic use; conservation and integration of natural and built environments.

ASLA further believes the services included in the licensed scope of landscape architecture includes, but are not limited to, the following:

- consultation, planning, design, and responsible supervision in connection with the conservation, development, and/or enhancement of land areas;
- investigation, selection and allocation of land and water resources for appropriate uses;
- preparation, review, and analysis of feasibility studies, land use master plans, site plans, plans of development, subdivision plans, and preliminary plats;
- design of landforms, site elements, stormwater management, and vegetative systems for soil conservation, erosion control, and other strategies for integrating the built and natural environments to promote site and community resilience and support ecosystem services;
- preparation and sealing/signing of plans, drawings, details, specifications, permits, and other contract documents and the administration of contracts;
- determining the location and siting of improvements, including buildings, structures, pedestrian and multi-modal circulation systems, signage, wayfinding, and other features;
- design of fountains, walls, pools, and other structures for outdoor living spaces for functional and aesthetic purposes, for public and private uses;
- preparation of vegetative and planting plans designating the selection and placement of plant materials as a means to minimize hazardous conditions and address public health and safety concerns in proximity to human activities.

Rationale

A definition of landscape architectural practice that delineates the scope of activities over which the state has regulatory control is fundamental to the licensing system. Licensing laws should regulate the practice of landscape architecture in a broad sense and not simply regulate landscape architects. A definition of landscape architectural practice should serve four purposes:

1. To provide a basis for regulating the activities undertaken by licensees and nonlicensees and their performance.
2. To reflect the basis for examining candidates for licensing and for evaluating the relevance of the education, training, and experience of candidates for licensing.



3. To define specific services or activities that must be performed by licensed landscape architects in order to protect public health, safety, and welfare.
4. To define services that landscape architects may perform but might also be performed by other regulated professionals.

The definition of licensed professional practice above is the minimum essential to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. It is important to note that there exists a distinction between the above definition, which is necessary for licensing, and a definition of the full range of services, which a landscape architect may perform.

Note

This policy is one of an integrated group of policies on licensing issues.