Policy Statement
The American Society of Landscape Architects believes that 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 and social science principles are applied in 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 relative to projects principally directed at the functional and aesthetic use and preservation of land.

The ASLA further believes that the services that require a landscape architect shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- Investigation, selection and allocation of land and water resources for appropriate uses;
- Formulation of feasibility studies, and graphic and written criteria to govern the planning, design and management of land and water resources.
- Preparation, review and analysis of land use master plans, subdivision plans and preliminary plats;
- Determining the location and siting of improvements, including buildings and other features, as well as the access and environs for those improvements;
- Design of land forms, stormwater drainage, soil conservation and erosion control methods, site lighting, water features, irrigation systems, plantings, pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems and related construction details.

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. It should provide a basis for regulating the activities undertaken by licensees and non-licensees and their performance.
2. It should provide a basis for examining candidates for licensing and for evaluating the relevance of the education and experience of candidates for licensing.
3. It should define specific services or activities that must be performed by licensees in order to protect public health, safety, and welfare.
4. It should define services that landscape architects may perform but that might also be performed by others.

The definition suggested 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.