

LICENSURE



Stanford University
Photo: Cheryl Barton

What Landscape Architects Do

Landscape architects plan livable communities that foster active lifestyles, design green streets that manage stormwater runoff, design low water-use planting and irrigation plans, plan cutting-edge transportation corridors that are safe for all users, design fire-safe landscapes to reduce property damage in wildfires, 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 National examples include Central Park in New York City, the grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., and Chicago's Millennium Park. In California, the work of landscape architects can be seen in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and Embarcadero, San Diego's Balboa Park, The Great Park in Orange County and in our treasured natural spaces, such as Yosemite and Lake Tahoe. Landscape architecture includes both iconic and neighborhood places, including commercial developments, downtown streetscapes, green roofs, local parks, bikeways, trails and residential communities.

Licensure Protects Your Community

Fundamentally, the practice of landscape architecture helps keep the public safe from hazards, protects and maximizes natural resources, and helps prevent damage to public or private property from changes in the built environment. Landscape architects help provide stormwater solutions that effectively manage water to minimize runoff, improve water quality, control erosion, and eliminate safety hazards from standing water/ice. Landscape architects are equally qualified in site design—whether a playground, streetscape, campus, or park—that safely coordinates all uses of a site to avoid injuries and reduce the threat of crime.

Landscape architecture helps ensure roads, parking lots, medians and other transportation elements to safeguard driver and pedestrian safety, are ADA compliant, and provide environmental and community benefits.



LA Waterfront Gateway
Photo: AECOM

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 **provide 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 use, fire, flood, landscape design, 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 this industry. In the end, less competition means higher fees for these services.



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