



## **PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE: DEFINITION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE (2002, R2018, R2023)**

### **Policy Statement**

The American Society of Landscape Architects holds that the statutorily defined scope of practice for landscape architecture provides the basis for a jurisdiction's lawful range of services which a Professional Landscape Architect may perform. To help establish consistency of practice across all jurisdictions, ASLA endorses a defensible and uniform definition, which encompasses and reflects the profession's education, training, and experience.

ASLA endorses a "Practice of Landscape Architecture" definition as follows:

The "Practice of Landscape Architecture" means the application of mathematical, physical, social, and natural science principles in landscape architectural consultation, evaluation, planning, design, and construction services. Practice includes preparation, submittal, and administration of plans, drawings, specifications, permits, and other contract documents for work involving natural and built environments.

### **Justification**

A well-defined scope of practice helps to promote consistency, competence, and accountability in the regulation of landscape architecture services across different states and jurisdictions. This in turn, enhances public knowledge of and confidence in the profession and improves access to high-quality landscape architecture services. Clearly defined scopes of practice also set legal boundaries for what licensed and unlicensed individuals can and cannot do in relation to the regulated profession. Additionally, clear boundaries for different roles and responsibilities can foster collaboration among regulated professions and facilitate effective communication, leading to better outcomes.

Licensed landscape architects impact public health, safety, and welfare by providing services that are permitted within the definition of practice. These services include but are not limited to:

- 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, and subdivision plans.
- design of landforms, site elements, stormwater management systems, soil conservation, erosion control, and other methods for integrating the built and natural environments to promote site and community resilience.
- preparation, signing, and sealing/stamping of construction documents.
- determination of the location and siting of improvements, including buildings, structures, pedestrian, vehicular, and multi-modal circulation systems, recreational facilities, signage, wayfinding, and other features.
- design of site elements, including site furniture, fountains, walls, and pools.



- preparation of vegetative and planting plans designating the selection and placement of plant materials to minimize hazardous conditions, improve biodiversity and address climate resilience.

### **Issue**

The statutorily defined scope of practice for landscape architecture provides the basis for a jurisdiction's lawful range of services which a Professional Landscape Architect may perform. A state's definition of landscape architectural practice will generally serve the following purposes:

- To define the scope of services or activities licensed landscape architects are authorized to perform in order to protect public health, safety, and welfare.
- To establish a basis for examining candidates for licensing and for evaluating the application of the candidates' knowledge and skills.
- To provide a foundation for enforcement of the law on individuals, licensed or non-licensed, who perform defined services and activities.

### **Note**

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