

Landscape Architect

Parks, streets, campuses and the land around buildings. A design degree, two years of practice and a four-part exam.

TYPICAL PAY

\$85,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$47k to \$171k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

6 to 9 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Design firms, municipalities, parks agencies, developers

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Biology, geography, visual arts and math. Get a summer job with a landscaping crew or a parks department.
- 2 Degree** 4 to 7 years
 Either a 4-year BLA (bachelor of landscape architecture) at Guelph, or any bachelor's followed by a 2 to 3 year MLA (master of landscape architecture) at Guelph, Toronto, UBC (University of British Columbia), Manitoba or Université de Montréal.
- 3 Intern or associate** About 2 years
 Join your provincial association as an intern and work under a full member. Log your experience.
- 4 LARE (Landscape Architect Registration Examination)** 1 to 2 years
 Four sections on project management, grading and drainage, construction and design. Offered three times a year on a computer.
- 5 Full membership** After the exam
 Apply to your provincial association, such as the OALA (Ontario Association of Landscape Architects). Some provinces add a short exam on local law.

Pros and cons

- + You make public places people use every day
- + A mix of design, science and time outdoors
- + One degree is enough, unlike architecture
- A small profession, so few jobs outside big cities
- Starting pay is low for the schooling
- Budgets get cut and the landscape is cut first

Optional boosts

Stormwater and green infrastructure. GIS (geographic information systems). LEED (a green building rating system) accreditation. Certified arborist.

Good to know

Canada's first landscape architect trained with Olmsted

Frederick Todd worked in Frederick Law Olmsted's office, then set up in Montreal in 1900 as the first landscape architect living in Canada. He designed Assiniboine Park in Winnipeg.

Stanley Park is bigger than Central Park

Vancouver's Stanley Park covers about 400 hectares. New York's Central Park is about 340.

Where these numbers come from

Canadian Society of Landscape Architects
 Job Bank: Landscape architects, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/landscape-architect>



Scan for the full clicker