

Landscape Architect

Design the outdoor half of the world: parks, campuses, waterfronts and streets. A licensed profession with its own exams.

TYPICAL PAY

\$79,870

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$55k to \$130k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

6 to 9 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Design firms, engineering companies, city parks departmen...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Art, biology and math. Learn to draw and to notice why some outdoor places feel good and others do not.
- 2 Accredited degree** 3 to 5 years
 The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board accredits the professional degrees. Either a five-year Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from high school, or a Master of Landscape Architecture after a different bachelor's degree.
- 3 Work under a licensed landscape architect** 2 to 4 years
 Most states require two to four years of documented experience. Keep a record with the national registration board as you go, because reconstructing it later is painful.
- 4 Pass the registration exam** 1 to 2 years of evenings
 The Landscape Architect Registration Examination has four sections covering project management, inventory and analysis, design, and grading, drainage and construction documentation.
- 5 Register in your state** Weeks
 Apply to your state board. Only then may you call yourself a landscape architect and seal drawings.

Pros and cons

- + You make public places that thousands of people use
- + A protected license and a real profession
- + Work spans ecology, art, engineering and politics
- Six to nine years and a four-part exam before you are licensed
- Pay is lower than building architecture or civil engineering
- Small profession, only about 21,800 people nationally

Good to know

Central Park invented the job title

Frederick Law Olmsted called himself a landscape architect while building Central Park in New York in the 1850s and 1860s. The profession that grew out of that work went on to design most of the...

It is one of the smallest licensed professions

Around 21,800 landscape architects work in the United States, with roughly 1,700 openings a year. There are more airline pilots, more dentists and many more lawyers.

Optional boosts

Stormwater and green infrastructure. Transportation and streetscape. Ecological restoration. Golf course design.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Landscape Architects (17-1012.00)
 O*NET OnLine: Landscape Architects
 Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards
 American Society of Landscape Architects

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/landscape-architect>



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