

What Landscape Architects can do for Municipalities



Bloor-Annex BIA Parkettes - DTAH, Toronto, ON
2022 CSLA Award Winner

What is landscape architecture?

Landscape architecture is the profession that applies design and scientific principles, to create outdoor private and public spaces for people, while protecting and enhancing the environment.

Landscape architects utilize ecology-based design to create innovative places for people, while designing for the health and safety of the public.



The Fraser River Delta Collaborative: Advancing Design for Sea Level Rise in the Fraser River Delta - UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA), Hapa Collaborative, PFS Studio, PWL Partnership, space2place (2022 CSLA Award Winner)

How does landscape architecture benefit municipalities?

Landscape architects lead the design and creation of public parks, sports fields, trails, bicycle corridors, recreational areas, and streetscapes for the enjoyment of the public.

Master planning communities and the site plan development process are further municipal elements which landscape architects serve.

What is the role of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects?

The OALA's mission is: To advance the profession of landscape architecture, maintain standards of professional practice and conduct, consistent with the need to serve and protect the public interest.

The OALA currently has approximately 950 full members and is currently seeking a provincial practice act, to protect the public's safety in the design and execution of public projects.

Why should municipalities hire landscape architects?

Landscape architects can help municipalities with challenges such as climate change, resilience to weather events including flooding and urban heat island effects.

Flooding can be controlled by proper grading, storm water management ponds, use of rain gardens, using trees for erosion protection and water retention.

Trees also aid in carbon sequestering and providing a cooling shade in summer months.

Vandalism and crime can be reduced through the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). Property limits can be defined using open fencing forms which defines property boundaries yet allows visual surveillance. Maintaining clear views of one's property discourages crime, along with proper lighting for evening hours.

Landscape architects create communities supporting active living, mobility, accessibility, urban plazas for gatherings and streetscapes for people, using design solutions which protect the public's health and safety.

Adding a landscape architect to your professional team, creates balanced environmental solutions for the challenges, which your community faces.