

INSIGHT

22

SUMMER

HOUSTON
ENGINEERING,
INC.

LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE
AT SOUTH
DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY

UNIFORM
LICENSING
STANDARD

THE INFLATION REDUCTION
ACT PRIORITIZES LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE SOLUTIONS
TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...



DESIGN IN THE HILLS — IN JULY 2021 / RAPID CITY, SD
DESIGN IN THE HILLS IS A UNIQUE GATHERING OF ARCHITECTS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, INTERIOR DESIGNERS, ENGINEERS AND ARTISTS FROM ACROSS THE STATE, ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO ALL CONNECT TO CELEBRATE AND ELEVATE THE STANDARD OF DESIGN.

**THANK YOU TO OUR
ALL OUR 2022 PARTNERS FOR
HOSTING LUNCH & LEARNS,
THROWING SOCIAL EVENTS,
AND SPONSORING OUR FALL CONFERENCE!**



**2ND ANNUAL TACO RIDE
THURS. AUG 18TH / OMAHA, NE**



TABLE OF CONTENTS



8

FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WATER: LEARN. PRESERVE. PROTECT

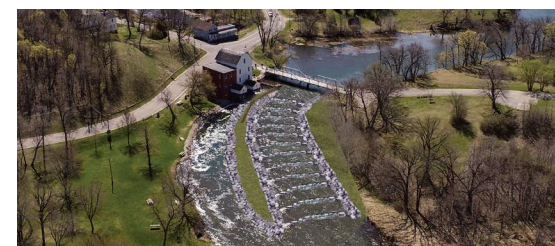
This year's Nebraska/Dakotas Chapter of ASLA Fall Conference will be held in Fargo, ND. We hope to see you in September!



10

FEATURE STORY

THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT PRIORITIZES LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

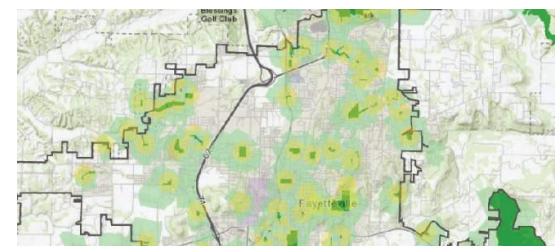


16

FIRM FOCUS | HEI

BLENDING ENGINEERING WITH LANDSCAPE

Houston Engineering (HEI) shares insight to their firm's experience as a multidisciplinary firm providing engineering, surveying, landscape architecture and environmental consulting services.



24

UNIVERSITY FOCUS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AT SDSU

Don Burger, Jr. provides a summary of SDSU's Landscape Architecture student projects from Spring of 2022.



30

ADVOCACY FOCUS

CLARB UNIFORM LICENSURE STANDARD FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Dennis E. Bryers, FASLA, PLA shares and update on CLARB's efforts to develop a Uniform Licensure Standard for Landscape Architecture.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ZACK FERGUS

SILVER

For Denver, smart waste receptacles mean smart savings.



Woo, what a start! Taking the reins from North Dakota's finest, Bryan Leininger, was sure to be a task unto itself, but the Chapter is humming along thanks to a great group of volunteer leaders. Year after year, I find myself continually amazed at the skills and generosity of those within our Chapter who selflessly offer their time to promote our profession and create unique experiences and opportunities for us to interact as a community of designers.

Over the last few years, many of these Chapter leaders have been setting us up for the future by exploring the potential of adding an association manager to assist with various tasks and responsibilities, thus freeing up our members to further engage with the public and promote the profession. I am excited to share that at the beginning of 2022, we added Nancy Hoines, PLA, as the Association Manager for the Nebraska/Dakotas Chapter ASLA.

Nancy has a background in serving organizations with similar missions and needs as ours, providing management services to the South Dakota Engineering Society, the American Council of Engineering Companies of South Dakota, and the Design Professionals Coalition of South Dakota. I look forward to working with Nancy and am excited to add extra capacity to our Chapter through this strategic hire. Nancy is attending our monthly Executive Committee meetings and will be around our annual conference, so if you haven't had a chance to meet Nancy yet, I encourage you to attend one of these events.

In addition to this exciting change, 2022 brings with it the hope that we can all return to what I enjoy most about this Chapter - the sharing of stories, ideas, and even just a friendly 'hello' with all of you.

As we slowly plan more face-to-face events, I see increased participation throughout the Chapter. Thanks to the leadership of Sam Howland, NDC ASLA Partnership Program Chair, as well as our wonderful section chairs, Tanya Olson (SD), Brad Garcia (ND), and Caitlin Bolte (NE), we have a regular, monthly gathering scheduled for the year. In case you haven't heard, NDC ASLA members are gathering in Fargo, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, and Omaha on the first Thursday of each month. Watch your email for more information, and if we are missing your location, please reach out to me personally so we can extend this opportunity to interact with all.

I close by thanking Bryan Leininger for his service as Chapter President. Bryan led the Chapter through an...interesting time. Overseeing the Chapter's first fully virtual Central States conference and then guiding us to return to an in-person conference in Rapid City required foresight and a steady hand. Luckily for us, Bryan took the challenges in stride, and both of these events were successful because of it. I would also be remiss if I didn't thank Steve Rodie for serving as the Chapter's Fellow Nomination Chair for many years as he steps away and learns what the true definition of 'retire' is. Lastly, I thank you all for continuing to participate and contribute to an extraordinary ASLA Chapter.

Sincerely,

Zack Fergus, PLA, ASLA, ENV SP
Nebraska/Dakotas Chapter President
Lamp Rynearson

“Over the last few years, many of these Chapter leaders have been setting us up for the future.”



COMMERCIAL RECREATION SPECIALISTS

G
O
L
D



Your Complete Resource for Recreation

Consultation • Design • Municipal Grade Recreation Equipment • Installation • Service
CRS provides recreation area design files for easy integration into full plans.

Serious About Fun | 877-896-8442 | crs4rec.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



ASLA
NEBRASKA
DAKOTAS

2022



NEBRASKA/DAKOTAS CHAPTER MEETING

AUGUST 25, 2022, 11:00 AM CST / ZOOM

The Nebraska/Dakotas Chapter of ASLA's Executive Committee meets monthly to discuss ongoing business, upcoming events, and current chapter affairs. All members are welcome to join, listen in, or voice any ideas, concerns, or announcements in our open forum. Contact ndcasla.info@gmail.com or Zack Fergus at Zack.Fergus@LampRyneerson.com for our Zoom Link Information.



GOLD PARTNER SPONSORED HAPPY HOUR

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 / MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Our Gold Partner, Crouch Recreation, will be sponsoring this month's NDC ASLA Happy Hour. Visit www.ndcasla.org for more info on our Monthly Happy Hours.



WATER: LEARN. PRESERVE. PROTECT.

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2022 / FARGO, ND

The community of Fargo is no stranger to water. For generations, water has drawn people to Fargo. It has strengthened livelihoods, provided nourishment and beauty, and crushed hopes and dreams. Join us in September as we learn from this resilient community the importance of preserving, protecting, and embracing this artful and everchanging resource.

STAY UP TO DATE!

VISIT OUR CHAPTER [WEBSITE](http://www.ndcasla.org)

NEBRASKA / DAKOTAS CHAPTER ASLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

water.

LEARN • PRESERVE • PROTECT

SEPTEMBER 15 & 16 2022
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

The community of Fargo is no stranger to water. For generations, water has drawn people to Fargo. It has strengthened livelihoods, provided nourishment and beauty, and crushed hopes and dreams. Join us in September as we learn from this resilient community the importance of preserving, protecting, and embracing this artful and everchanging resource.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14TH, 2022

12:00 pm
Executive Committee Retreat
North Dakota State University,
Renaissance Hall, 5th Floor

5:30 pm
Welcome Mixer
Loretta Building, Elevate, 4th Floor

THURSDAY, SEPT. 15TH, 2022

North Dakota State University,
Renaissance Hall, 5th Floor

7:00 am Exhibitor Setup

7:30am Registration and Breakfast

8:30am Welcome:
NDSU Director of the School for
Design, Architecture and Art,
Michael Strand; and
NDC ASLA President, Zack Fergus

8:45 am Session I: Watershed
Education and Research Center
Matt Torgerson (1 CEU)

9:45 am Break: Exhibitor Visits

10:00 am Session II:
Stormwater, Placemaking and Art
City of Fargo Engineering and
Planning (1 CEU)

11:15 am Break: Exhibitor Visits

12:00 pm Lunch

12:15 pm Session III:
Keynote Presentation - 6 Seasons
Bob Somers (1 CEU)

1:15 pm Travel to Diversion Tour Site

1:45pm Session IV:
Fargo/Moorhead Diversion Site Tour
FM Diversion Authority (1 CEU)

3:00 pm Travel to Microsoft Campus

3:30pm Session V:
Microsoft Campus Landscape
Stormwater Strategies
Matt Torgerson (1.5 CEU)

5:30 pm Travel to Loretta Building
Loretta Building, Elevate, 4th Floor

6:15 pm Awards Ceremony Mixer

6:45 pm Emerging Professionals
Award / Fellowship Presentation

7:30 pm
Awards Ceremony Presentation

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16TH, 2022

North Dakota State University,
Renaissance Hall, 5th Floor

7:00 am Exhibits Open

7:30 am Registration and Breakfast

8:30 am Welcome to Day Two
Zack Fergus

8:45 am Session I:
State of the Chapter

9:30 am Session II: National ASLA
Strategic Plan and CLARB Update

10:30 am Session III:
Downtown Fargo Walking Tour
TBD (1 CEU)

12:00 pm Conference Closing:
NDC ASLA President Zack Fergus,
Chris Brandriet, and Bryan Leininger



SILVER



WAUSAU TILE
WausauTile.com

PAVING THE WAY

WITH STRENGTH, DURABILITY AND DESIGN

Bret Stegeman

C: 636.385.0077

O: 913.489.7161

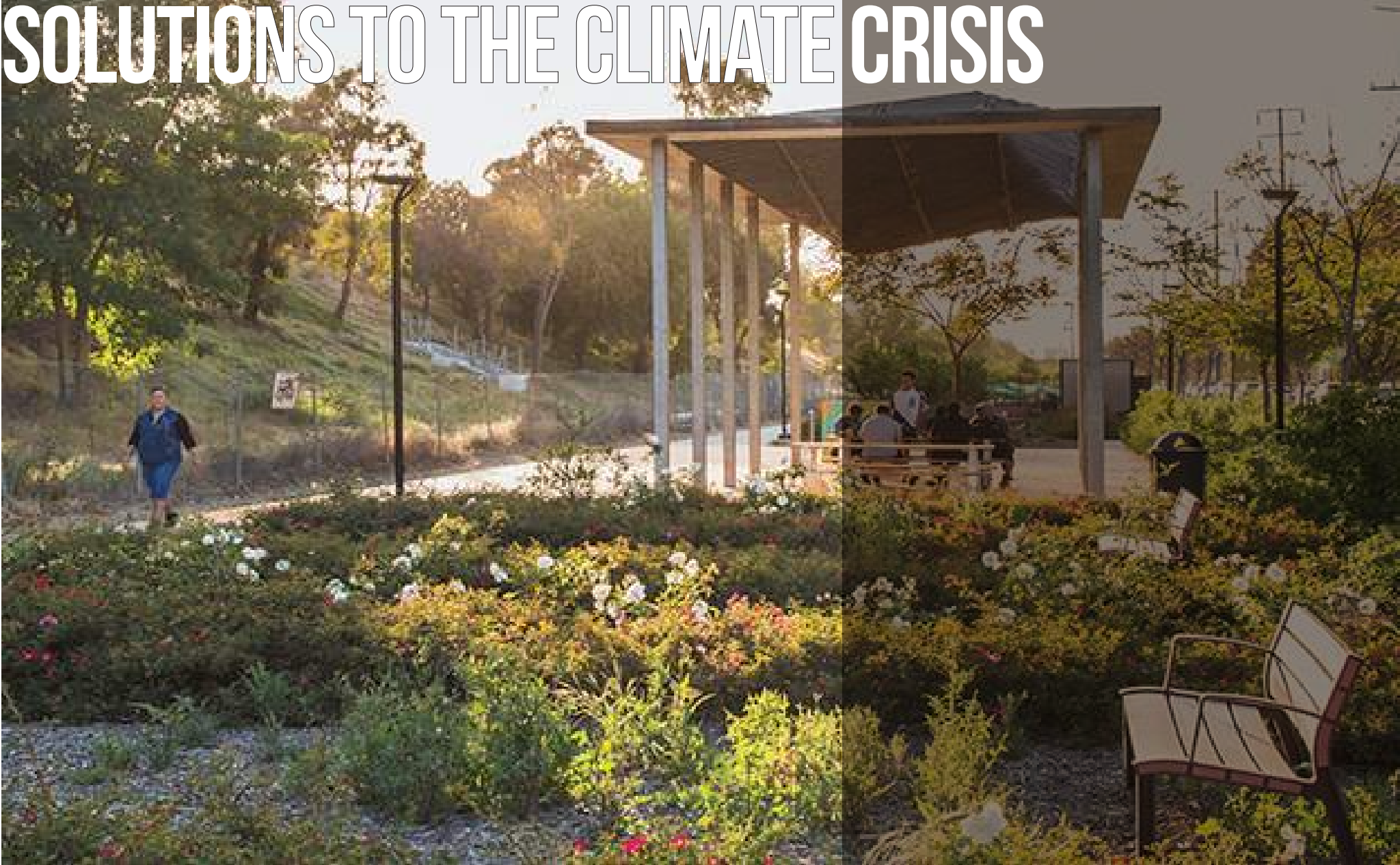
E: bret@wtrep.com

Architectural Pavers | Custom Precast Concrete | Site Furnishings

below: ASLA 2021 Professional Urban Design Award of Excellence
Repairing the Rift: Ricardo Lara Linear Park. Lynwood, CA
SWA Group

THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT PRIORITIZES LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

By Roxanne Blackwell, Hon. ASLA
and Caleb Raspler
This article was originally posted
August 15th, 2022 on 'The Dirt.'



below: LA Riverfront Greenway Phase II
Los Angeles, CA
Studio-MLA



ROXANNE BLACKWELL, HON. ASLA, ESQ., IS DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, AND CALEB RASPLER, ESQ., IS MANAGER OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (ASLA).

Congress has passed and President Joseph Biden is expected to sign into law the U.S.'s most comprehensive response to the climate crisis to date – [The Inflation Reduction Act](#). The legislation makes an historic investment of \$369 billion to improve energy security, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and help communities adapt to climate impacts. Importantly, the Act recognizes and funds landscape architecture approaches to address climate change – from active transportation projects like Complete Streets and recreational trails, to nature-based water infrastructure,

community tree planting, ecosystem restoration, and more. Additionally, the legislation makes significant strides in addressing environmental and climate justice and ensuring underserved communities receive resources to adapt to a changing climate. Landscape architects are uniquely qualified to lead these projects. With their community engagement skills, they are particularly suited to partner with underserved communities. The Act provides tremendous opportunities for landscape architects to work with all communities to plan and design a more resilient and low-carbon future.

Significant funding for programs and projects traditionally led by landscape architects include:

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE

Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program: \$3 billion to improve walkability, safety, and affordable transportation access through projects that are context-sensitive.

- The program provides funding to:
- Build or improve complete streets, multi-use trails, regional greenways, active transportation networks and spines or provide affordable access to essential destinations, public spaces, transportation links and hubs.
 - Remove high-speed and other transportation projects and facilities that are barriers to connectivity within communities.
 - Remove transportation projects and facilities that are a source of air pollution, noise pollution, stormwater, or other burdens in underserved communities. These projects may include noise barriers to reduce impacts resulting from a facility, along with technologies, infrastructure, and activities to reduce surface transportation-

related greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollution. Solutions can include natural infrastructure, permeable, or porous pavement, or protective features to reduce or manage stormwater run-off; heat island mitigation projects in rights of way; safety improvements for vulnerable road users; and planning and capacity building activities in disadvantaged or underserved communities.

Low Carbon Transportation Materials Grants: \$2 billion to incentivize the use of construction materials that have substantially lower levels of embodied greenhouse gas emissions in landscape architecture projects, including reimbursements.

NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC
LANDS

- \$250 million for conservation, protection, and resilience projects on National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.
- \$250 million for conservation, ecosystem, and habitat restoration projects on NPS and BLM lands.
- \$200 million for NPS deferred maintenance projects.



ASLA 2021 Professional General
Design Honor Award:
Inspiring Journeys For All
Grand Teton National Park, WY
HDLA



- \$500 million to hire NPS personnel.
- \$250 million to the Fish and Wildlife Service for wildlife recovery and to rebuild and restore units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY
FORESTRY

- \$200 million for vegetation management projects in the National Forest System.
- \$1.5 billion for competitive grants through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance program for tree planting and related activities.

WATER

- \$550 million for planning, designing, or constructing water projects with the primary purpose of providing domestic water supplies to underserved communities or households that do not have reliable

access to domestic water supplies in a state or territory.

- \$4 billion for grants, contracts, or financial assistance to states impacted by drought, with priority given to the Colorado River Basin and other basins experiencing comparable levels of long-term drought.
- \$15 million to provide technical assistance for climate change planning, mitigation, adaptation, and resilience to Insular Areas – U.S. territories.

COASTAL COMMUNITIES

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): \$2.6 billion for grants, technical assistance, and cooperative agreements that enable coastal communities to prepare for extreme storms and other changing climate conditions. This includes projects to support natural resources that sustain coastal

Sapwi Trails Community Park. Thousand Oaks, California | Conejo Recreation & Park District and RRM Design Group (consulting landscape architects)
Conejo Recreation & Parks District

and marine resource dependent communities and assessments of marine fishery and marine mammal stocks.

- \$50 million for competitive grants to fund climate research related to weather, ocean, coastal, and atmospheric processes and conditions and impacts to marine species and coastal habitat.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

- \$3 billion in competitive grants to address clean air and climate pollution in underserved communities.
- \$33 million to collect data and track disproportionate burdens of pollution and climate change on environmental justice communities.

FEDERAL BUILDINGS

- \$250 million for the General Services Administration to convert facilities to high performing buildings.
- \$2.1 billion to purchase low carbon materials.
- \$975 million for emerging and sustainable technologies and related sustainability programs.
- \$20 million for hiring new personnel to conduct more efficient, accurate, and timely reviews for planning, permitting and approval processes.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Department of Agriculture: \$19.4 billion to invest in climate-smart agriculture practices and land interests that promote soil carbon improvements and carbon sequestration.

Department of Energy: \$115 million for the hiring and training



of personnel, the development of programmatic environmental documents, the procurement of technical or scientific services for environmental reviews, the development of environmental data or information systems, stakeholder and community engagement, and the purchase of new equipment for environmental analysis to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations.

Department of Housing and Urban Development: \$837.5 million to improve energy or water efficiency or the climate resilience of affordable housing.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF): The fund will help efficiently finance projects, including landscape architecture projects, to reduce emissions through active transportation, ecosystem restoration, energy and water efficiency, and climate-smart agriculture. The fund will receive \$27 billion total, with \$8 billion earmarked for low-income or otherwise underserved communities. Funds will flow through regional, state, local, and tribal green banks. And the GGRF will provide the institutional foundation for a [National Climate Bank Act](#).

Pete V. Domenici U.S. Courthouse Sustainable Landscape Renovation, Albuquerque, NM
Rios Clementi Hale Studios / Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES), Robert Reck

PROJECT Norweta Row Condominiums, Chicago, IL
 DESIGN site design group, Ltd.
 PRODUCT Arcana™



Ask us about our adjustable Unilock Pedestal System.

GOLD

REIMAGINE The ROOF

Trusted for over 50 years to provide technical expertise and project support in the exploration of unit paving product options.

Our full line of architectural roof deck pavers and slabs, offering the same great finishes as on-grade applications, will deliver high impact and maximum function for your roof deck and amenity space designs.

Contact us for samples, product information and Lunch & Learns.

[UNILOCK.COM](#) | 1-800-UNILOCK

UNILOCK 50 YEARS
 PAVING IT FORWARD

FIRM FOCUS



S
I
L
V
E
R

“Beautiful site furnishings that are durable and functional should be a standard, not a premium”



by *Graber Manufacturing, Inc.*

1.800.448.7931 | www.madrax.com



BLENDING ENGINEERING WITH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Minot Downtown Reconstruction
Minot, ND
Houston Engineering, Inc.

When hearing our firm’s name, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI), landscape architecture likely doesn’t come to mind immediately. However, landscape architecture complements many of our clients’ projects by allowing us to see projects from concept to completion. Having in-house landscape architecture services enables our team to incorporate these services into the early planning stages of projects, allowing us to take a more comprehensive approach and avoid costly challenges down the road—saving time and money. This integration of landscape architecture with engineering gives our clients and their constituents the ability to understand and visualize how these projects will blend into the existing environment and benefit their communities.

As a multidisciplinary firm providing engineering, surveying, landscape architecture, and environmental consulting services, HEI helps communities create comprehensive plans that account for demographics, transportation, natural resources, and the vast array of other factors that play key roles in a community’s success, longevity, and quality of life. We strive to serve all our clients’ needs under one company umbrella and challenge ourselves to find unique ways to blend our services together, solving infrastructure challenges and creating positive outcomes for our clients.

Enjoy a few of our clients’ success stories demonstrating how we blend engineering with landscape architecture.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

MINOT DOWNTOWN RECONSTRUCTION, NORTH DAKOTA

In order to keep up with population growth, planned commercial development, and recent flood recovery efforts, the City of Minot in North Dakota enlisted the joint team of HEI and our partner to overhaul the City's downtown infrastructure. The massive redevelopment of Minot's downtown area involved replacing 26 square-city-blocks of sanitary sewer, water main, storm sewer, concrete paved streets, street lighting, and concrete walks as well as streetscape improvements.

One example of the landscape architecture elements used for this project was the use of Structural Soil

(a mixture of crushed stone, clay loam and Glescape® Hydrogel Tackifier) for the sidewalk tree planter beds. The Structural Soil allowed the planter beds to be large enough for full root growth of the trees while also giving the sidewalks a structural base to be constructed on.

The project design aligned with the Complete Streets philosophy, ensuring safe and convenient travel for pedestrians and motorists alike. Construction spanned three years, wrapping up in the fall of 2017, with the ultimate vision of making the City's downtown a go-to destination.

[Learn more about this project on HEI's website.](#)

Minot Downtown Reconstruction
Minot, ND
Houston Engineering, Inc.

right: Pedestrian walkways with bump outs featuring seasonal foliage and benches promoting a walkable downtown atmosphere.



Minot Downtown Reconstruction
Minot, ND
Houston Engineering, Inc.

right: Sidewalk tree planter beds feature Structural Soil that enables the beds to be large enough for the full root growth of trees while giving the sidewalks a structural base.





Phelps Mill Fish Passage
Minnesota
Houston Engineering, Inc.

above: Alternative showing
rock arch rapids.

below: Alternative showing a bypass
channel with rock arch rapids.

PHELPS MILL FISH PASSAGE, MINNESOTA

HEI encourages our leaders and team members in exploring unique ways to integrate our current technology, engineering, science, and other capabilities. This creates an autonomous work environment for our team that can spark unique ideas and service collaborations. One way HEI is blending landscape architecture with other services is by creating visualizations of water resources projects to enhance public engagement. An example of this is the Phelps Mill Fish Passage project located north of Underwood, MN.

The focus of the project is to

right: Pennington County CSAH 8 New
South Side Corridor and Bridge
Minnesota
Houston Engineering, Inc.

*The bridge features decorative landscape
architecture elements while giving travelers
a picturesque view as they cross the Red
Lake River.*



PENNINGTON COUNTY CSAH 8 NEW SOUTH SIDE CORRIDOR AND BRIDGE, MINNESOTA

The growth of Thief River Falls in Minnesota is expected to increase along the City's southern boundaries in the coming years with the expansion of businesses and entities that are critical to the city's economy.

However, east-to-west connectivity within this area was limited, restricting efficient access to this southerly growth. New and updated corridors for increased traffic types and volumes needed to be evaluated to allow the city to continue to thrive for years to come. The Pennington County Highway Department hired HEI to solve this

connectivity challenge.

HEI and its partners developed a project that included the construction of a new 1-mile street corridor, a new bridge, and two new roundabouts, each at major intersections. The bridge is one of the key elements of this project to integrate landscape architecture.

One of the unique features of this project is created by the subtle curves of the new approach alignment of CSAH 8, eastbound traffic gets a picturesque view of the architectural features of the new bridge on the west side of the Red

Lake River. These features include decorative pilaster monuments at the piers, separate pile-founded pilasters and retaining walls to tie into the wingwalls at the bridge ends, pre-cast concrete caps on all pilasters to accommodate the bridge lighting, and a unique arched ornamental railing. The landscape architecture team was brought in to assist with these architectural elements and create 3D renderings for use in determining the scale, color, and overall aesthetic of the bridge.



G
O
L
D



CROUCH RECREATION

More Than Playgrounds!



MORE ABOUT HEI

HEI is conveniently located across the Upper Midwest with eight offices throughout North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota with more than 225 employees. We offer a full range of services that cover transportation, water resources, environmental issues, water supply, municipal, surveying, land and site development, waste management, landscape architecture and geospatial technology. We utilize the latest technology to provide innovative solutions that produce results now and continue to provide value well into the future.

Connect with us online and through social media to learn more.

www.houstoneng.com

[Houston Engineering, Inc.](https://www.facebook.com/HoustonEngineeringInc)

[@houstonengineeringinc](https://www.instagram.com/houstonengineeringinc)

[@houstoneng](https://www.twitter.com/houstoneng)

B
R
O
N
Z
E

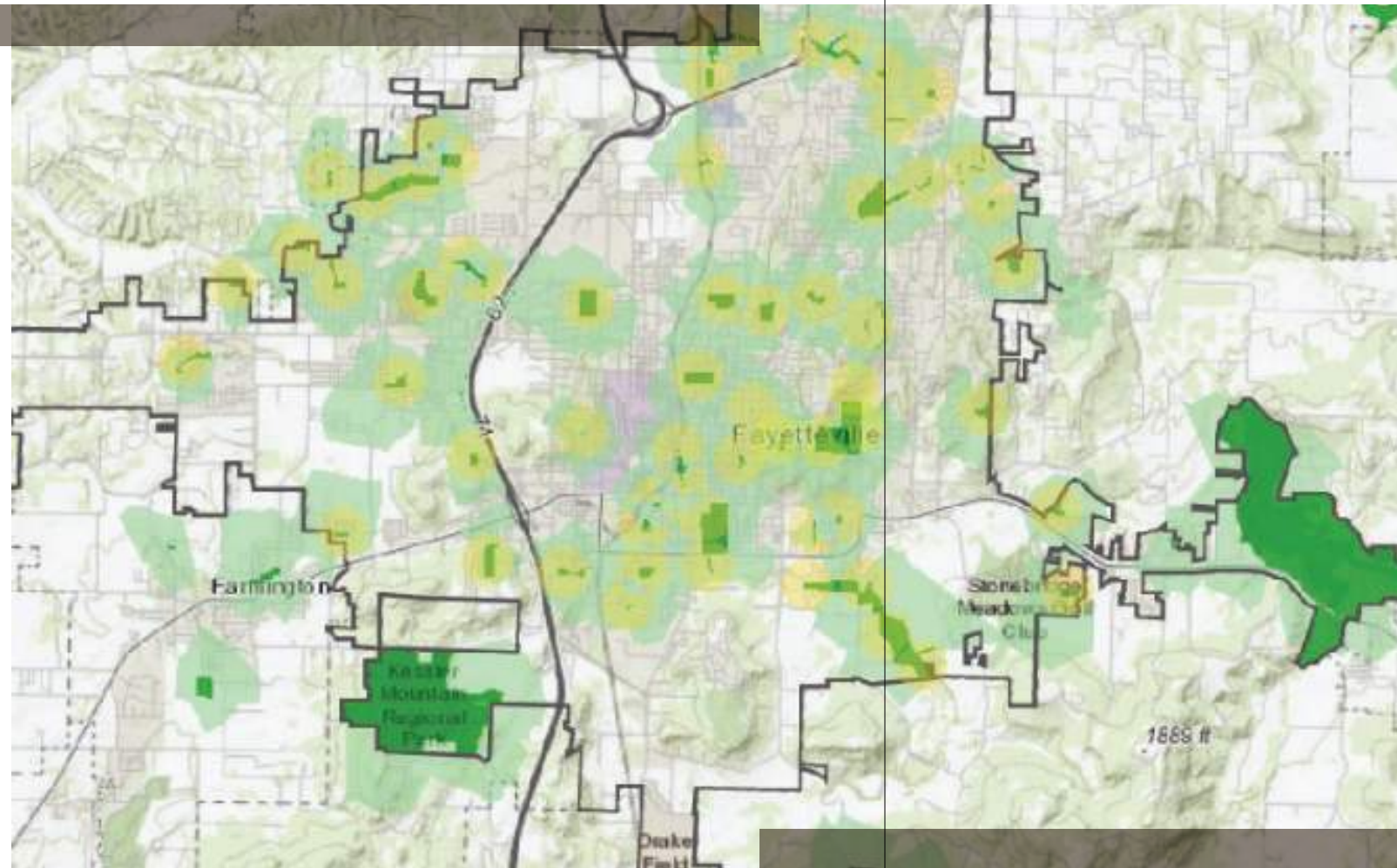
FORMS+SURFACES® RADIA BOLLARDS & PATHWAY BOLLARDS

Three Sizes • Solar & Hardwired Designs



Jackie Kolpek-Dietz | 630.207.9908 | jackie.dietz@forms-surfaces.com
Emily Neuenschwander | 952.465.7719 | emily.neuen@forms-surfaces.com

Fayetteville, AR Gap Analysis Map
Created by Matt Clark
South Dakota State University



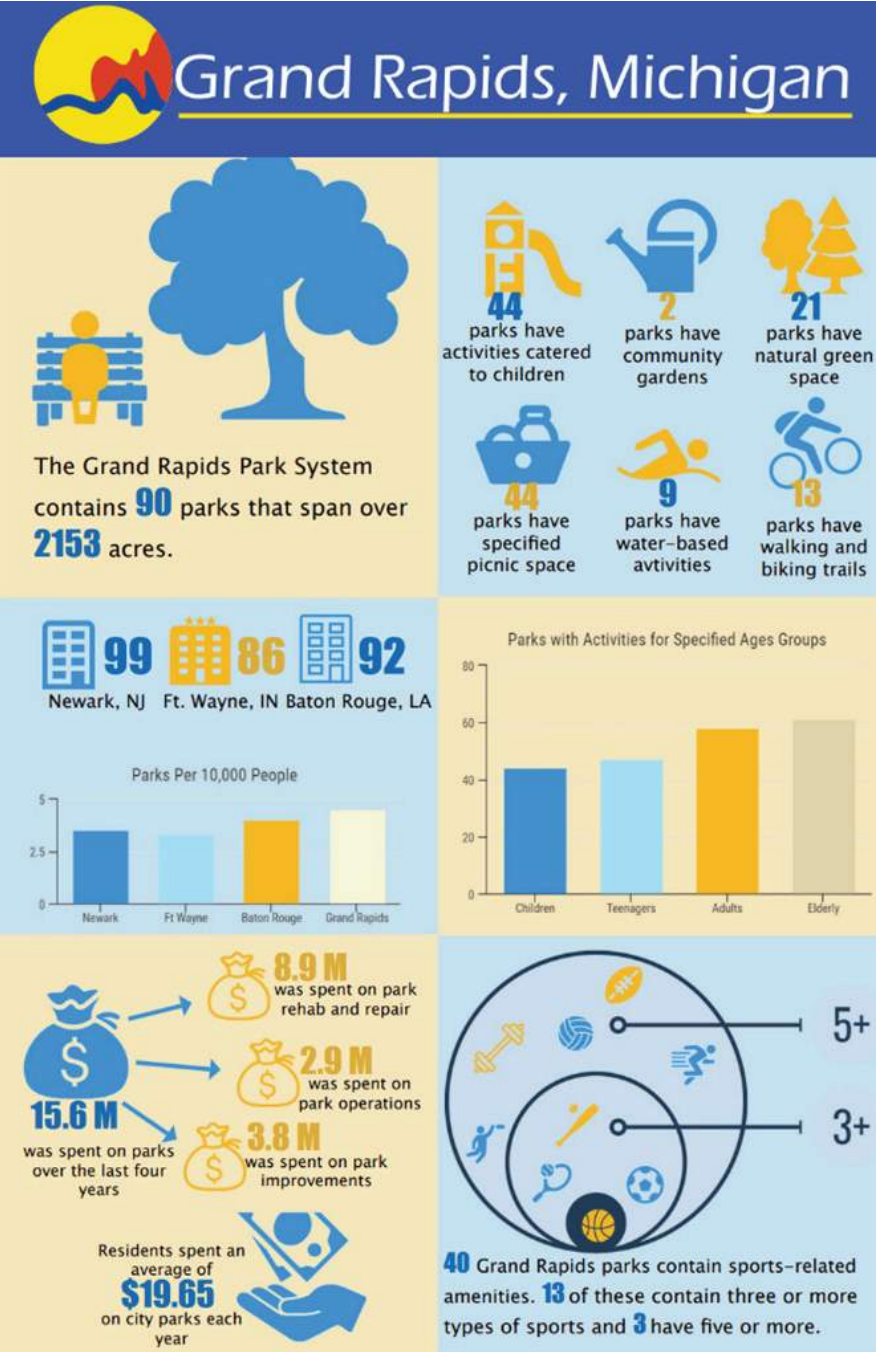
University Focus contributed by
Don Burger Jr., Associate Professor /
University Faculty Representative

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

The South Dakota State University landscape architecture students have been working on various projects that focus on communities' needs and public space revitalization. In these communities, the projects address health and wellness, quality public spaces, and improving the sense of community among residents. The seniors worked individually on a park design within a city of their choosing, the juniors worked together on an active transportation project in Wanblee, SD, and the sophomores worked on a community park master plan in Balaton, MN.

The senior class conducted city-wide park system assessments in Grand Rapids, MI, Dayton, OH, Lafayette, IN, Bend, OR, Fayetteville, AR, Savannah, GA, Naperville, IL, Olathe, KA, and Norman, OK. While gathering information about their

cities, the seniors created infographics that describe their park systems and city demographics, along with gap-analysis maps that demonstrate where parks are needed based on a ten-minute walking distance. Each city has a diverse history that shaped its urban fabric, meaning that some have larger or more frequent gaps in their park systems. The seniors found that these gaps consistently fit in low-income areas, heat island areas, and underdeveloped or abandoned urban spaces. Kiana Metzger, one of the students, explained that "it's crazy that some cities have such large gaps between parks." Based on existing gaps in these park systems, the seniors were tasked with selecting a site and designing a new park in a location they deem necessary. The students made decisions on what type of park will best fit their cities' gaps, whether they be small neighborhood



Grand Rapids, MI
Park System Infographic
Created by Jed Vissia
South Dakota State University

parks, mid-sized community parks, or large urban parks. These are meant to be each student’s vision of the next iteration of parks. Additionally, these parks were designed to meet the needs of residents around them. This project helped the senior students understand the importance of park systems and how parks, or lack thereof, affect the residents surrounding them and the city as a whole.

The junior class worked on an active transportation project for the town of Wanblee, SD. This project had the junior class working together to build a package of recommendations meant to improve the quality of life for residents of Wanblee. This project is developed each year for a new city or town in South Dakota. Cities are selected from a need-based application process. The project is funded through the South Dakota Department of Health. The junior class began this project by visiting Wanblee and interacting with the community. Through field research and community interaction, the juniors built a list of things that needed improvements and features they wanted to embrace. This list included problems with wild dogs, food issues, fixing infrastructure, a need for recreation, improving pedestrian safety, rethinking circulation patterns, and embracing the Lakota culture. The juniors, broken into teams, worked on recommendations for Wanblee. Each team focused on its own set of recommendations based on outdoor recreation, pedestrian safety, culture, infrastructure, and food sovereignty. Through these recommendations, the juniors began specific plans for community gardens, passive and active outdoor community spaces, walkability improvements including lighting and buffers, and infrastructure improvements including new sidewalks and wayfinding elements. Throughout this project, the juniors have expressed their excitement in helping to instill cultural heritage as



above: Active Transportation
Recommendation Booklets from
Past Years
South Dakota State University

“this project is an ‘eye-opening cultural experience.’”

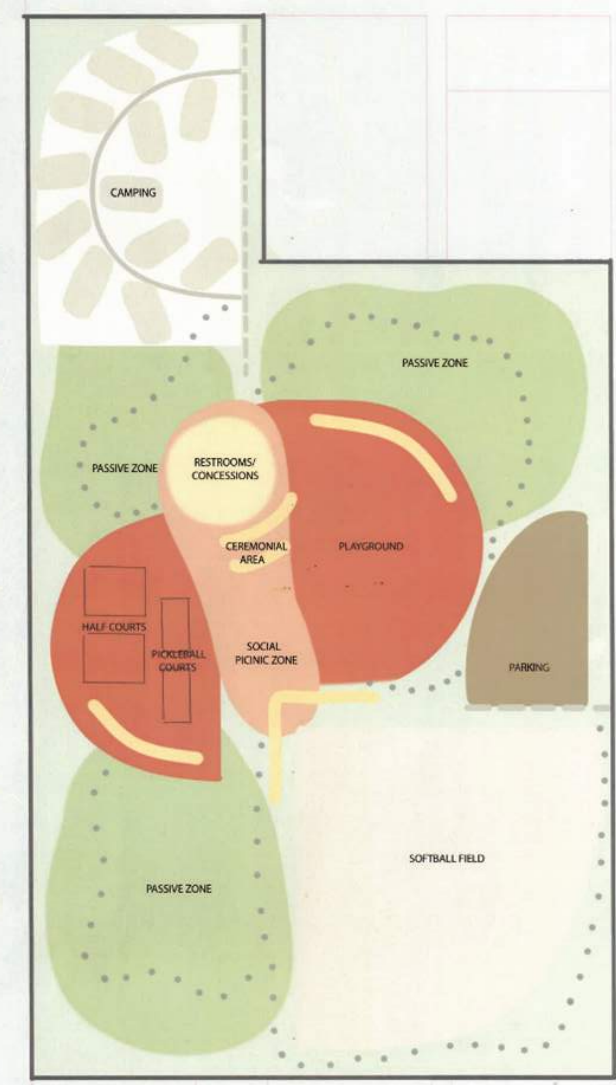
well as maintaining and embracing Lakota Art. Christina Pedersen explained that this project is an “eye-opening cultural experience.” The final package included recommendations to revitalize the community as a whole by embracing history and culture and improving food issues, health and wellness, infrastructure, and pedestrian safety. The juniors presented their recommendations to the town of Wanblee on April 29th.

The sophomore class has been developing conceptual designs for a park located in Balaton, MN. Balaton Community Park has become an aging, under-utilized space with high potential for revitalization. The community residents have expressed their desire to revitalize the park with new recreational opportunities, safe and modern facilities, and a variety of other program elements. The community has asked the South Dakota State University landscape architecture program to provide conceptual designs that help them visualize the potential of the park. The sophomores received a program that includes a multipurpose turf athletic field, upgrades to the existing softball field, bathrooms, concessions, a storm shelter, a walking path with seating and shade, a small memorial,



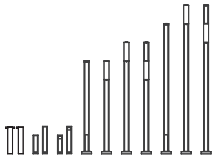
playground areas, multiple sports courts, and camping spaces for RVs and tents. They have developed multiple concepts that positively express program elements and the wants of the community. This project also gives the sophomore students an opportunity to interact with a real client. Alex Hauffe explained, “this is a great opportunity to collaborate with a small community to reimagine a community space.”

Balaton Community Park Early Concepts
above: Created by Alex Hauffe
left: Created by Elle Wertish
South Dakota State University



G
O
L
D

Profile



landscapeforms®

Light broadly, light discretely, light softly.
From a building's front entrance to public plazas and everywhere in between, the Profile lights introduce a cohesive form with aesthetic and functional versatility to outdoor spaces. Designed in collaboration with award-winning lighting designer Linnaea Tillett and Tillett Lighting Design Associates.

Stacy Ernst, Site Source
Nebraska
816-678-2004
stacye@landscapeforms.com

816-444-4376
sitesource@landscapeforms.com

Mike Konieczny
North & South Dakota
269-337-1311
mikek@landscapeforms.com

ADVOCACY FOCUS

Contributed by Dennis E. Bryers, FASLA, PLA

For almost two years, the Council of Landscape Architectural Boards (CLARB) has been working on a Uniform Licensure Standard for Landscape Architecture. Developing a Uniform Standard would strengthen the regulation of the profession by achieving consistent licensure requirements across jurisdictions, improve mobility of landscape architects between jurisdictions, provide for increased equity to promote diversity through alternative paths, increase the defensibility of licensure requirements and ensure the health, safety, and welfare (wellbeing) of the public and the environment.

Currently, of the three requirements to become licensed; education, experience, and examination (L.A.R.E.), only the exam has the background of data to support it and make it defensible. Education and experience have not had the data to support them. While the majority of candidates taking the L.A.R.E have a degree from an accredited landscape architecture program, there are other paths that are currently acceptable in some jurisdictions. CLARB has studied the alternate paths and the result is a proposed uniform standard for education. Experience is the same. Just look at how experience requirements for

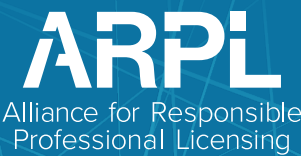
different jurisdictions vary across the country. Some require two years, some three, and some even four. No rhyme or reason, just each jurisdiction deciding what they think. Again, CLARB has studied the experience requirements and with supporting data has come up with a uniform standard for experience as well. Adopting the Uniform Licensing Standard for Landscape Architecture will make our professional licensing stronger and more defensible. The “DRAFT” Uniform Standard being proposed by CLARB Board of Directors to the CLARB Membership is as follows:

PATHWAY	EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE	EXAM
Preferred	LAAB/LAAC-accredited LA degree	2 Years	Pass the LARE
Alternative	Education through Practical experience only**	8 years	Pass the LARE
Reciprocity	In lieu of education, experience and examination requirements, applicant is licensed and in good standing to practice landscape architecture under the laws of another jurisdiction.		

**In lieu of a degree in landscape architecture accredited by LAAB, LAAC or their international equivalent, an applicant may earn credit toward the years of experience in regulated practice through one of the following alternative education options:

1. Non-accredited degree or certificate in landscape architecture; credited with one year of experience for each year of schooling up to a maximum of four years of credited experience, OR
2. Any post-secondary degree or certificate; credited with six months of experience for each year of schooling up to a maximum of two years of credited experience.

FACT CHECK: The Myths of Anti-licensing



Time and again, calls for anti-licensing return to a handful of myths and purported problems that can only be solved by drastically weakening or outright eliminating licensing. Let’s take a closer look at those myths and set the record straight.

MYTH #1: Education requirements to obtain licenses are too onerous and arbitrary.

FACT: Some occupations are rightly calling for a careful review and recalibration of the education requirements to become licensed. This is what should be done. It is not, however, what anti-licensors are calling for. What anti-licensing seeks to do is broadly and arbitrarily lower education standards for all professions. Some proposals go so far as to disallow minimum education requirements for highly complex, technical professions that impact public safety and welfare.

MYTH #2: Licensing creates an undue burden for spouses of military personnel who have to contend with red tape and new costs every time they move.

FACT: Well-designed professional licensing systems already include interstate practice and mobility and provisions for military spouses. The real threat comes from “universal licensing” proposals that would dilute existing mobility systems that have been working well for military personnel and the public for decades. What’s more, some of these proposals impose arbitrary residency requirements that create new barriers to practicing that would otherwise not exist. Most importantly, “universal licensing” will create a race to the bottom, hurt the public’s welfare, and create business insurance and liability implications.

MYTH #3: Licensing creates barriers to employment for women, minorities, and the socio-economically disadvantaged.

FACT: Licensing helps level the playing field for women and minorities. A 2021 study by Oxford Economics finds that licensing narrows the gender-driven wage gap by about a third and the race-driven wage gap by about half. In any industry, responsible licensing systems create well-defined career paths for workers—regardless of gender or ethnicity—and opportunities to achieve higher earnings.

MYTH #4: Licensing is anti-competitive.

FACT: Licensing is pro-consumer and pro-competition because it enables consumers to choose from a pool of qualified licensed professionals. These qualifications are verified upfront by independent licensing boards composed of experts in a given professional field. Licensing also helps level the playing field for women and minorities, increasing fairness, competition, and merit-based career opportunities.

MYTH #5: Licensing infringes on Americans’ fundamental right to earn a living.

FACT: Licensing is a proven path that helps people compete, succeed, and earn more for themselves and their families. It is a false argument to say we must eliminate pathways to success and recognition of hard work in order for others to succeed.

MYTH #6: Reform is only necessary to address professions that are over-regulated.

FACT: Anti-licensing is not interested in finding targeted solutions to specific problems. What anti-licensing seeks to do is eliminate licensing at large with no concern for public safety ramifications. Anti-licensors make no distinction between occupations with important licensing-related challenges and professions that already have responsible licensing systems that serve professionals and the public well.

MYTH #7: Licensing requirements should be scaled back or eliminated unless it can be proven that removing them would endanger the public.

FACT: Anti-licensors care more about free-market ideology than about the health, safety, and welfare of the public. They are willing to allow people to be harmed before acting to ensure basic, minimum qualifications – even for professionals with high public impact. The stakes are simply too high to broadly and arbitrarily weaken licensing standards and oversight and hope that nothing bad will happen. Professional licensing is rigorous for a reason and recent opinion research shows the overwhelming majority of consumers want it kept that way.

MYTH #8: Eliminating licensing is good for employers and American businesses.

FACT: Businesses need employees. They also need those employees to be qualified. Licensing is an effective way for businesses to know if their employees meet a minimum standard of qualification. Eliminating licensing would create greater risk and liability for employers that suddenly have no way to assess and verify if their employees are qualified. Without the assurance provided by licensing, businesses would be left on their own to determine minimum qualifications for competent practice and would be at greater risk of litigation and a host of other problems stemming from the work of unqualified employees.

LEARN MORE
For more information, follow us on social or visit responsiblelicensing.org.

ARPL Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing

Facebook: @TheARPL | Twitter: @TheARPL | LinkedIn: The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing

“Adopting the Uniform Licensing Standard for Landscape Architecture will make our professional licensing stronger and more defensible.”

The CLARB Membership will be reviewing, debating, and voting on the Uniform Standard within the next month. However, if the Uniform Standard is adopted by the CLARB Membership, it doesn't mean that jurisdictions across North America will have to revise their own laws. In the end, regulating the professional is a state/province responsibility, not CLARB's. The Uniform Standard is just that, a “standard” for states/provinces to use if and when they decide to revise and strengthen their own law. Approving the Uniform Standard by the CLARB Membership in no way requires any jurisdiction to revise their own law.

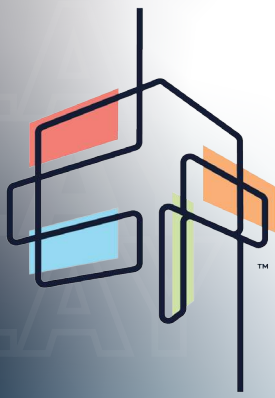
ADVANCED IRRIGATION AND LIGHTING SOLUTIONS



WHETHER YOU USE HUNTER IRRIGATION OR FX LUMINAIRE LIGHTING PRODUCTS, or both, you can count on us to deliver innovative products that feature the latest technologies. Our mission is to help you create vibrant, healthy landscapes that add beauty both day and night and to provide you with world-class service and support that is unmatched in the industry.

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL IRRIGATION |
Learn more. Visit hunterindustries.com

Hunter®
FXLuminaire



CR

STUDIO DESIGN

BRINGING YOUR OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL SPACE TO LIFE

CR Studio Design acts as a resource for landscape architects with master planning communities and green spaces. Our mission is to assist landscape architects and urban planners with innovative design concepts and products to create unique parks and outdoor recreational spaces.

Let us help bring YOUR vision to life!

crstudiodesign.com | 312-270-6227



CADdetails
MICROSITE

PLAY. SPORT. WATER. SITE.



NEW

Aluminum
Planters



ANOVA

CONTACT US!

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Sam Howland, PLA, ASLA
Sam.Howland@LampRynearson.com
402.496.2498

COMMENTS OR FUTURE STORIES?

INSIGHT Editor
Anne Machian, PLA, ASLA
amachian@rdgusa.com
402.449.0858

To feature your firm in Firm Focus, promote upcoming events, or share an award winning project in Feature Story, please contact Anne Machian.

B
R
O
N
Z
E

S
I
L
V
E
R