

Landscape Architect

Landscape architects are in charge of designing the layout of public areas such as parks, playgrounds, golf courses, shopping centers, and college campuses. These architects are also hired to design residential areas such as apartment complexes or housing developments. While they're not in charge of designing or building the structures themselves, landscape architects plan the outside development such as sidewalks, plants and trees, and other required landscape design.

Work Environment

Landscape architects spend their time in offices, planning. However, once the project starts, landscape architects spend time on site, observing the people who are carrying out their plans.

Education

A landscape architect must have a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) or a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA). Either will take four to five years of classes in design, construction techniques, art, history, and natural and social sciences. Instead of, or in addition to these degrees, you can earn a Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA). This will take two or three years depending on whether or not your bachelor's degree is in landscape architecture. Landscape architects are also required to be licensed. In addition, an internship or residency is typically needed, once employed, to attain competency in the skills needed in this occupation.

Advancement Opportunities

With a few years of experience a landscape architect may become a project manager. Two out of every 10 landscape architects become self-employed.

Wages (Average, State of Oregon, 2013)

- **Hourly:** \$29.85
- **Annual:** \$63,888