Green Infrastructure & Landscape Architecture

Landscape architects work with natural ecosystems to create sustainable environments. They do so through the design and development of green infrastructure.

Green infrastructure can be considered a conceptual framework for understanding the valuable services nature provides the human environment. Landscape architects use nature to manage water from storms, create new wildlife habitat, and make the built environment greener. At all scales, green infrastructure provides real ecological, economic, and social benefits.

Learn more at asla.org/design
**PARK SYSTEMS**

Not only are park systems opportunities for physical exercise, recreation, social interaction, psychological renewal, and environmental education, they are also valuable carbon catchers and wildlife habitats. Governments, organizations, and communities should continue to invest in networks of parks and other open spaces as a remedy to long-term urban, suburban, and regional landscape decline.

**WILDLIFE HABITAT AND CORRIDORS**

Putting landscape architects on the team ensures comprehensive land-use planning and design promoting the enhancement, protection, and management of landscapes that support wildlife. The future of wildlife and wildlife habitats in rural, suburban, and urban settings depends on an environmentally responsible strategy of land management that emphasizes a mix of spaces for people and wildlife. The use of ecological information in the design process can create a more positive union between land use and the natural environment, and increase public awareness of wildlife habitats and their value to human welfare.

**URBAN FORESTRY: A TREE CANOPY IN YOUR CITY**

At the urban level, parks and urban forestry are central to reducing energy usage costs and creating clean, temperate air. The value of residential properties with trees and vegetation is 3 to 10 percent higher than properties without. And cities spending $15-65 per tree reported that they received total net environmental benefits ranging from $30-90 per tree.

**GREEN ROOFS & GREEN WALLS**

Green roofs, walls, and other techniques within or on buildings bring a range of benefits, including reduced energy consumption and dramatically decreased stormwater runoff that costs cities billions to manage. Green infrastructure techniques absorb that water before it ever enters the storm system.

Want more? View green infrastructure solutions at asla.org/animations.

Learn more at asla.org/design