

# Landscape Professions Defined

## Landscape Design

Landscape design is defined in Florida Statutes 481.303 (7) as consultation for and preparation of planting plans drawn for compensation, including specifications and installation details for plant materials, soil amendments, mulches, edging, gravel, and other similar materials. If additional tangible objects, such as decks or pools, are included in the landscape plan, the designer is allowed only to make recommendations for the conceptual placement of these landscape design objects. Construction documents, details, and specifications for these tangible objects and irrigations systems must be designed or approved by the appropriately licensed professional as required by Florida law.

State law and/or local ordinances may regulate such professional services. It is imperative that local authorities are consulted to determine matters applicable to the operation of a landscape design business.

## Landscape Construction

Florida does not currently have a legal definition of landscape construction, however, the practice of landscape contracting is commonly considered the implementation of a design provided by a landscape designer, landscape architect, or a landscape contracting business that exists as a design/build firm. While a landscape designer must be able to visually perceive a site's potential and graphically represent ideas, a landscape contractor must possess a wide range of tangible skills, including construction techniques, to interpret and implement the designer's ideas.

A landscape contractor is any person who, for compensation, performs activities requiring the art, ability, experience, knowledge, science and skill to plan and install plants including the preparation of property on which the vegetation is to be installed and the construction of fences, decks, arbors, driveways, walkways and retaining walls associated with the landscape project. A skilled landscape contractor can change an underdeveloped site into an attractive, functional, outdoor area.

## Landscape Management

Landscape management includes turf, shrub and tree maintenance as well as management of irrigation, fertilization and pest problems within the landscape setting. The landscape management business often maintains other landscape amenities such as outdoor lighting or water features as a part of the total maintenance package. The benefits of good landscaping are evident only when the landscape is well maintained. Landscape management is often the most visible part of the project and largely affects the reputation of the entire landscaping industry.

Professional landscape management requires the technician to possess a broad array of knowledge about plants, their cultural requirements, and their responses to the varied site conditions in which they are placed. This expertise is required to maintain the integrity of a well-planned and properly planted site. Since the landscape maintenance technician is responsible for the ultimate upkeep of the project, valuable suggestions for conceptual improvements can be offered to the designer or contractor based on experience garnered from the long term care of plants. Certain additional services performed by the landscape manager, such

as pesticide applications, may require state or local licensure to perform as a part of business operations. It is important that all three aspects of the landscape profession possess knowledge and expertise to perform necessary skills to assure the quality and success of a landscape project and to promote the professionalism of the industry as a whole.

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## The 2001 Florida Statutes

[Title XXXII](#)  
Regulation Of Professions  
And Occupations

[Chapter 481](#)  
Architecture, Interior Design, And  
Landscape Architecture

[View Entire  
Chapter](#)

**481.303 Definitions.**--As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Board" means the Board of Landscape Architecture.
- (2) "Department" means the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
- (3) "Registered landscape architect" means a person who holds a license to practice landscape architecture in this state under the authority of this act.
- (4) "Certificate of registration" means a license issued by the department to a natural person to engage in the practice of landscape architecture.
- (5) "Certificate of authorization" means a license issued by the department to a corporation or partnership to engage in the practice of landscape architecture.
- (6) "Landscape architecture" means professional services, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - (a) Consultation, investigation, research, planning, design, preparation of drawings, specifications, contract documents and reports, responsible construction supervision, or landscape management in connection with the planning and development of land and incidental water areas, including the use of Xeriscape as defined in s. [373.185](#), where, and to the extent that, the dominant purpose of such services or creative works is the preservation, conservation, enhancement, or determination of proper land uses, natural land features, ground cover and plantings, or naturalistic and aesthetic values;
  - (b) The determination of settings, grounds, and approaches for and the siting of buildings and structures, outdoor areas, or other improvements;
  - (c) The setting of grades, shaping and contouring of land and water forms, determination of drainage, and provision for storm drainage and irrigation systems where such systems are necessary to the purposes outlined herein; and
  - (d) The design of such tangible objects and features as are necessary to the purpose outlined herein.
- (7) "Landscape design" means consultation for and preparation of planting plans drawn for compensation, including specifications and installation details for plant materials, soil amendments, mulches, edging, gravel, and other similar materials. Such plans may include only recommendations for the conceptual placement of tangible objects for landscape design projects. Construction documents, details, and specifications for tangible objects and irrigation systems shall be designed or approved by licensed professionals as required by law.**