



APLD Standards of Practice

The Standards of Practice is a set of guidelines to which an organizations' members agree to adhere. All APLD members agree to accept responsibility for the standards of practice listed below as they relate to the public, to our clients or employers, to our professional colleagues, and to our association and profession.

In reading this document, it is important to recognize that some of the standards enunciate ideals or philosophical points, while others speak to day-to-day practical matters. Standards of Practice should continue to be a 'living, breathing document' that is always subject to change on an as needed basis.

Commitment to Clients

- **Protect the interest of all clients by utilizing personal knowledge and skills for the greatest good of our clients and the environment.**
 1. Members shall undertake to perform professional services only when they, together with their consultants, are qualified by education, training, or experience to perform the services required.
 2. Members shall not knowingly disregard the best interests of their clients or of the environment.

- **Be loyal to clients/ or to the employing organization employers and abide by all agreed upon expectations as outlined in the legal scope of services agreement; faithfully perform assigned tasks.**
 1. Members shall not reveal any information about a client or a client's intention(s) which they have been asked to maintain in confidence, or which they should reasonably recognize as likely, if disclosed, to affect the interests of their client adversely.
 2. Prior to accepting an assignment, members shall reasonably inform the client of the scope and nature of the project involved, the landscape design services to be performed, and the method of remuneration for those services. Members shall not materially change the scope of a project without the client's consent.

- **Be truthful in oral or and written statements concerning the capacity of services we are qualified and authorized to offer.**
 1. Members must be truthful in all oral and written communications to the client, (including meetings, phone calls, recordings, contracts, emails, letters, submittals, installation documents, etc.).
 2. Members must not represent that they are qualified to perform services that they are not qualified through training or education to perform.

- **Make full disclosure and convey any and all conflicts of interest related to other contractors and any other aspects of the project which could create a financial or ethical issue for the designer or the client.**
 1. Members shall disclose, in writing, to an employer or client, any direct or indirect financial interest that they may have that could affect their impartiality in recommending or specifying project-related goods or services, and shall not knowingly assume or accept any position in which their personal interests conflict with their professional duty. If the employer or client objects to such financial or other interest, members shall either terminate such interest or withdraw from such engagement.
 2. Members shall not accept compensation for their services on a project from more than one party unless all parties agree to the circumstances in writing.

Commitment to the Environment

- **Utilize personal knowledge and skills for the greatest good of the project site, the surrounding community and the environment as a whole.**
 1. Members shall, to the best of their ability and with reasonable expectation, provide their services in a manner that protects project sites, the surrounding community, and the environment as a whole.
 2. Members shall not knowingly recommend services or products to their clients that could damage project sites, the surrounding community, or the environment as a whole.
- **Improve the sites environmental condition through sustainable practices, i.e. water resources, soil management, vegetation, material selection and handling, maintenance and the well-being of living users of the site.**
 1. Members shall not knowingly fail to inform their clients of a site's environmental conditions that should be addressed as part of the project.
 2. Members shall recommend sustainable solutions to their clients as the optimum alternatives.
- **Protect the environment and seek to learn and implement product fabrication, material installation and site maintenance practices that will not damage local and global natural resources discourage damage to our natural resources.**
 1. Members shall satisfy, as part of the CEU's they take, the number required by the Association for sustainable practices.
 2. Members shall not knowingly recommend solutions for a project that could damage natural resources, either locally or globally.

Commitment to Other Landscape Industry Professionals (landscape designers, engineers, architects, project design team members, contractors, utility and governmental entities, etc.)

- **Advance landscape design by continuing our professional education and exchanging knowledge with colleagues.**
 1. Members shall meet the Association's requirements for CEU's.
 2. Members shall not intentionally withhold information that could adversely affect another member or another landscape industry professional.
- **Avoid making unfounded statements or criticizing colleagues for personal gain.**

1. Members shall not, in either oral or written form, make critical statements publicly about another landscape industry professional.
2. Members shall not misrepresent or knowingly permit the misrepresentation of their professional qualifications, capabilities, and experience to other landscape industry professionals.

Commitment to the General Public

- **Refrain from expressing an uninformed opinion on any issues relating to the landscape design profession.**
 1. Members shall only express opinions publicly pertaining to landscape design issues on which they are reasonably informed or educated.
 2. Members shall not make misleading, deceptive, or false statements or claims about their professional qualifications, experience, or performance.
- **Avoid making unfounded statements or criticizing colleagues for personal gain.**
 1. Members shall only take credit for work that has actually been created by the member of the member's firm under the member's immediate direction and control.
 2. Members shall not permit their name or signature to be used in conjunction with a design or project for which landscape design services are not to be, or were not, performed under their immediate direction and control.
- **Seek to participate in public service activities to educate the public about good best practices in landscape design, and sound horticulture.**
 1. Members shall represent themselves in a professional manner during public service activities.
 2. Members shall not knowingly provide unsound advice to the public that misrepresents best practices in landscape design and horticulture.
- **Conduct all matters relating to landscape design activities, business operation, and civic responsibilities in a manner that will further the status of landscape design as a respected profession.**
 1. Members shall not conduct their landscape design activities, business operations, or civic responsibilities in a manner that could denigrate the status of landscape design as a respected profession.

Commitment to the Association of Professional Landscape Designers

- **Seek and participate in professional development opportunities provided on a local, state, and national level.**
 1. Members shall complete their required Continuing Education Units in the amount of time prescribed by the Association.
 2. Continuing Education Units submitted to meet periodic requirements must be approved by the Association.
- **Strive to become certified in landscape design and maintain that certification.**
 1. Members may only use the APLD appellation in accordance with current Association policy.
 2. Members shall not represent themselves as APLD-certified if they are not.

3. Members shall not knowingly make false statements or fail to disclose any material fact request in connection with their applications for membership in the Association.
- **Avoid making critical public statements about an individual member, officer, or the organization and seek to resolve issues within the existing organizational structure and in a private manner.**
 1. Members shall not, in either oral or written form, make critical statements about a member, officer, or the organization.
 2. Members shall not publicly discuss issues that could damage the Association's reputation. Members shall resolve issues with the Association privately and shall not publicly disclose another members issues that they may be privy to.



Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

The Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) encourages all of its members to adhere to and uphold the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, as follows:

Commitment to Clients

- Protect the interest of all clients by utilizing professional knowledge and skills.
- Be loyal to clients/employers and abide by all agreed upon expectations as outlined in the legal agreement for services.
- Be truthful in oral and written statements concerning the capacity of services qualified to offer.
- Make full disclosure and convey all conflicts of interest related to any aspects of the project which could create a financial or ethical issue for the designer or the client.

Commitment to the Environment

- Utilize professional knowledge and skills for the greatest good of the project site, the surrounding community and the environment as a whole.
- Advocate for improving the environment through sustainable practices.
- Seek to learn and implement product fabrication, material installation and site maintenance practices that will not damage local and global natural resources.

Commitment to Other Professionals (landscape designers, engineers, architects, project design team members, contractors, utility and governmental entities, etc.)

- Continue pursuing professional education to exchange knowledge and best practices with colleagues.
- Avoid making unfounded statements or criticizing colleagues for personal gain.

Commitment to the General Public

- Refrain from expressing an uninformed opinion on any issues relating to the profession.
- Avoid making unfounded statements or criticizing colleagues for personal gain.
- Seek to participate in public service activities to educate the public about best practices in landscape design and horticulture.
- Conduct all matters relating to landscape design activities, business operations, and civic responsibilities in a professional manner.

Commitment to the Association of Professional Landscape Designers

- Seek and participate in professional development opportunities provided on a local, state, and national level.
- Strive to achieve and maintain APLD certification.
- Avoid making critical public statements about an individual member, officer, or the organization and seek to resolve issues within the existing organizational structure and in a private manner.
- Do not represent APLD without the organization's permission and knowledge.