Code of Professional Conduct

Preamble

The profession of landscape architecture, so named in 1867, was built on the foundation of several principles – dedication to the public health, safety, and welfare and recognition and protection of the land and its resources. These principles form the foundation of the Code of Professional Ethics for landscape architects in the state of North Carolina as well.

The Code applies to the professional activities of all landscape architects licensed in the state of North Carolina and contains important principles relating to the duties of the landscape architect to clients, employers, and employees and to other landscape architects.

The Code is arranged so that each Article contains Ethical Standards – essentially goals that the landscape architect should strive to meet. Some of the Ethical Standards contain objective Rules. Violation of Rules might subject a landscape architect to a complaint, while violation of the Ethical Standards will not. Therefore, the word “should” is used in the Ethical Standards and “shall” is used in the Rules.

The landscape architect should make every effort to enhance, respect and restore the life-sustaining integrity of the landscape and seek environmentally positive, financially sound, and sustainable solutions to land use, development, and management opportunities.

**Article 1.00** The landscape architect should understand and honestly obey laws governing their professional practice and conduct their professional duties within the art and science of landscape architecture with honesty, dignity and integrity.

**Article 1.01** The landscape architect shall deal with other professionals, clients, employers, employees, the public, and others involved in the business of the profession with honesty, dignity, and integrity in all actions and communications of any kind.

**Article 1.02** The landscape architect shall not violate the law in the conduct of their professional practice, including any federal, state or local laws and particularly laws and regulations in the areas of antitrust, employment, environmental and land-use planning and those governing professional practice.

**Article 1.03** The landscape architect shall not give, lend, or promise anything of value to any public official or representative of a prospective client in order to influence the judgment or actions in the letting of a contract of that official or representative of a prospective client.

**Article 1.04** The landscape architect on full-time government employment shall not accept private practice work with anyone doing business with their agency or with whom the landscape architect has any government contact on matters involving applications for grants, contracts or planning and zoning actions. In the case of private practitioners elected or appointed to government positions or others doing business or having
alliances with those doing business with their board, council or agency, they must disqualify and absent themselves during any discussion of these matters.

Article 1.05 The landscape architect shall recognize the contributions of others engaged in the planning, design and construction of the physical environment and shall give them appropriate recognition and due credit for professional work and shall not maliciously injure or attempt to injure the reputation, prospects, practice or employment position of those persons so engaged. Credit shall be given to the design firm of record for the use of all project documents, plans, photographs, sketches, reports or other work products developed while under the management of the design firm of record. Use of others’ work for any purpose shall accurately specify the role of the individual in the execution of the design firm of record’s work.

Article 1.06 The landscape architect shall not mislead through advertising or other means existing or prospective clients about the result that can be achieved through use of the landscape architect’s services or state that they can achieve results by means that violate the Code or the law.

Article 1.07 The landscape architect shall not accept compensation for their services on a project from more than one party unless all parties agree to the circumstances in writing.

Article 1.08 The landscape architect shall not misrepresent or knowingly permit the misrepresentation of their professional qualifications, capabilities, and experience to clients, employers, or the public or be a party to any exaggerated, misleading, deceptive or false statements or claims by the firms, agencies, or organizations that employ them.

Article 1.09 The landscape architect shall not reveal information obtained in the course of their professional activities that they have been asked to maintain in confidence or that could affect the interests of another adversely. Unique exceptions: to stop an act that creates harm; a significant risk to the public health, safety and welfare that cannot otherwise be prevented; or in order to comply with applicable law, regulations, or with the Code.

Article 1.10 The landscape architect shall not copy or reproduce the copyrighted works of others without prior written approval by the author of the copyrighted work.

Article 1.11 The landscape architect shall not seek to void awarded contracts for a specific scope of service held by another landscape architect.

Article 1.12 The landscape architect shall not seek to obtain contracts, awards, or other financial gain relating to projects or programs for which they may be serving in an advisory or critical capacity.

Article 2.00 The landscape architect should seek to make full disclosure of relevant information to the clients, public and other interested parties who rely on their advice and professional work product.
Article 2.01  The landscape architect making public statements on landscape architectural issues shall disclose compensation other than fee and their role and any economic interest in a project.

Article 2.02  The landscape architect shall make full disclosure during the solicitation and conduct of a project of the roles and professional status of all project team members and consultants, including professional degrees, state licenses, professional liability insurance coverage, and any other potential material limits to qualifications.

Article 2.03  The landscape architect shall make full disclosure to the client or employer of any financial or other interest that bears on the service or project.

Article 3.00  The landscape architect should endeavor to protect the interests of their clients and the public through competent performance of their work and participate in continuing education, educational research, and development and dissemination of technical information relating to planning, design, construction, and management of the physical environment.

Article 3.01  The landscape architect shall undertake to perform professional services only when education, training, or experience in the specific technical areas involved qualifies them, together with those persons whom they may engage as consultants.

Article 3.02  The landscape architect shall not sign or seal drawings, specifications, reports, or other professional work for which they do not have direct professional knowledge or direct supervisory control.

Article 3.03  The landscape architect shall continually seek to raise the standards of aesthetic, ecological, and cultural excellence through compliance with applicable state requirements for continuing professional education.

Article 3.04  Public discussion of controversial projects and issues shall be conducted on a professional level and shall be based on issue-oriented, factual analysis.