

LANDSCAPING



Various members of the 2010 Apollo Career Center Tech Prep Landscape/Turf Management program listen to Darrian Daily, Head Groundskeeper for Paul Brown Stadium, describe the different types of turf used at the practice facilities located adjacent to Paul Brown Stadium. The students received a special tour of the playing field, practice facilities, maintenance room, and the extensive landscaping areas that surround the stadium.

Everyone loves to be in attractive surroundings — parks, gardens, golf courses, and even well-landscaped backyards. Those in the landscape business work to make those areas attractive and pleasant to be in.

However, landscapers are not limited to working with green areas. Landscape architects are responsible for planning and designing highways, large institutional complexes, industrial parks, commercial developments, and apartment complexes.

Both landscape workers and groundskeeping workers duties may be similar in nature. The primary goal for landscape workers is to physically install landscaped areas in addition to maintaining them.

Groundskeepers may maintain a variety of facilities, including golf courses, parks, recreational facilities, and athletic fields.

Landscapers and grounds managers maintain not only residential property, but also industrial property

and public areas such as business parks, college campuses, hotels, state and national parks, and shopping malls.

The original ideas for the landscaping may come from a landscape architect. They draw up plans for a property that map out how the land will be used — how and where buildings will be located, roads and sidewalks laid out, storm drainage systems placed, and vegetation planted. Their main concern is to get the maximum usage of the land while having a minimal impact on the natural surroundings.

Landscape contractors read the blueprint designs developed by the landscape architects and carry out those plans and grounds managers oversee the everyday maintenance of public and commercial areas, such as sports parks, recreational facilities, and housing developments.

Q&A

Q: I want to go to college but I'm not sure what to major in. How do I choose a major?

A: A college major is an area of concentration in a certain subject or discipline, such as English, science, history, or mathematics.

Take a variety of classes in your freshman year to expose yourself to many areas of study. You can't put off choosing your major indefinitely, but you usually have at least until the end of your sophomore year to decide.

To help choose a major, ask yourself these five questions recommended by the Advising Center at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota:

1. What are my interests and what intrigues me?
 What are the activities and hobbies you enjoy most? Think about the things you don't like. It's

just as important to know what you don't want to do with your life as it is to know exactly what you want.

- 2. What are my values?** Think about what you want out of life: financial security, a life of service to others, a family?
- 3. What are my motivations?** Are you choosing your major or are friends and family influencing you?
- 4. What are my abilities and capabilities?** Have you ever won awards for art, music, sports, or other activities? Can you learn what is necessary to be successful in a particular field?
- 5. What are the realities?** Do you want to head right out into the work field after college, or do you want to spend three or more years in school, which is required in some majors?

JOBS IN THIS FIELD

| Job titles | Place of work | Kind of work | Salary range* |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Groundskeeper, nursery or lawn employees | Plant nurseries, public, residential, and commercial sites. | Follows the instructions of landscape contractors and architects; plants shrubs, trees, and flowers and maintains the vegetation; builds and maintains walkways, decks, stairs, and other structural elements. | \$11.00–\$14.00 (hourly) |
| Landscape contractor | On building sites, in public, commercial, and residential areas. | Creates and maintains landscaping, plants, shrubs, trees, and structural elements, such as walkways, stairs, and buildings. Often oversees a landscaping or groundskeeping crew. | \$18.00–\$23.00 (hourly) |
| Landscape architect | Design offices, on site | Analyzes building site, designs plans for the use of a property, creates blueprints of that plan, works with building architects and landscaping contractors to implement the landscaping plan. | \$32,990–\$59,490 |

*Salaries may vary depending on region, experience, and size of company.
 Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Grounds Maintenance Magazine (Intertec Publishing Corp.)

SKILLS REQUIRED

Those working in the landscaping industry should be creative and enjoy working outdoors.

WHERE/HOW TO GET TRAINING

Schooling

While there are no formal educational requirements to become a landscape contractor or groundskeeper, a high school diploma is preferred by most employers.

In high school, students interested in this field should take classes in agriculture, horticulture, mathematics, chemistry, science, and geometry.

Students can benefit from career technical agricultural programs and be involved in Future Farmers of America. They should also try part-time or summer work at public grounds, such as a golf course or park, or at a plant nursery.

Those interested in advancing in the landscaping business should have at least an associate's degree, preferable with studies in landscape design, agronomy, grounds and nursery management, and plant pathology.

To become a licensed or registered landscape architect, a student must graduate from a landscape architecture college

program. A degree in landscape architecture typically takes four or five years to complete. Many students go on to get a master's degree in landscape architecture.

College courses for a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture include site design, urban planning, and landscape ecology. Students also participate in design studio work and may be assigned actual projects to work on.

Financial Aid

Grants, scholarships, loans, and work/study programs are available for college students. For most of this aid, high school seniors must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which is available from high school guidance offices and higher education financial aid offices.

For more information on federal financial aid programs, or to apply electronically, visit the U.S. Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.ed.gov>.



For information on federal student aid, call: (800) 4FEDAID.

FUTURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The employment outlook for landscaping workers and groundskeeping is expected to grow faster than the average through the year 2010.

Furthermore, employment for landscape architects is also expected to increase faster than average through 2010 due to continued growth.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Most landscaping employees work outside and wear casual work clothes and work boots.

Many landscape workers and groundskeepers may be pres-

sured to meet deadlines due to a specific event happening or the changing of the seasons.

RESOURCES - HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

BOOK:

Basic Elements of Landscape Architectural Design by Norman K. Booth

GENERAL:

Professional Lawn Care Association of America Suite C-135 1000 Johnson Ferry Road NE Marietta, GA 30068-2112 www.plcaa.org

ONLINE:

www.asla.org (American Society of Landscape Architects)

www.onla.org (Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association)

www.BuckeyeGardening.com

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