

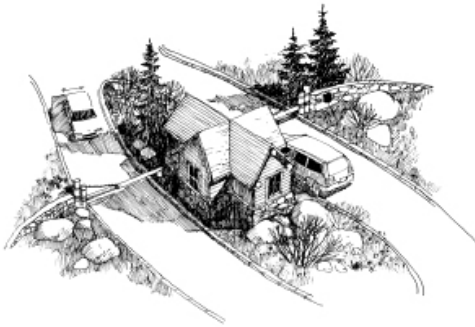


USDA Forest Service

Working for the Great Outdoors

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Do you have an interest in landscape architecture? Does your concept of landscape architecture include more than residential or commercial developments in urban environments? Would you like to be involved in public land management? If so, a career as a “nature based” landscape architect with the Forest Service may be of interest to you.



The Work Environment

From the seashores of the Pacific to the Atlantic coast, the Forest Service is responsible for some of the most scenic and picturesque places in the Nation. With responsibility for nearly 192 million acres of public land, Forest Service landscape architects play an important part in the management of National Forest lands.

Operating on the Job

Forest Service landscape architects work with foresters, engineers, outdoor recreation planners and other specialists on a wide variety of natural resource projects. For example, because scenery is one of our most cherished natural resources, landscape architects are heavily involved in managing scenic values, using state of the art processes like the Agency’s Scenery Management System. Other examples of work performed by landscape architects include:

- Planning and designing recreation areas such as campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads and trail systems
- Preparing environmentally sensitive site plans for visitor centers, office buildings, government dwellings, warehouses or other facilities
- Making recommendations on the appropriate design of structures and other facilities to insure that they complement the forest’s natural settings and landscape character
- Providing advice in the formulation and implementation of various land management projects such as: road construction, timber harvesting, recreation area development, and other projects
- Assisting in the development and review of land and resource management plans

- Insuring public accessibility and safety features are incorporated into site plans and development projects
- Reviewing applications for ski areas, power lines, communication sites, etc., on National Forest lands, to insure that scenic and other natural resource values are considered and protected
- Scenic Byway and Wild & Scenic River planning
- Interpretive master planning and design
- Involvement in landscape-scale healthy forest project efforts that may include fire and fuel reduction planning
- Developing visual simulations to demonstrate the potential effects of management activities on forest lands

Career Paths and Requirements

Forest Service landscape architects and other agency personnel work in partnership with civic, advocacy and conservation groups; City, County, State and Federal officials; planning boards/commissions; industry representatives; and members of the community in developing land use plans, resource allocations, establishing partnerships, and collaborating on projects with multiple party interests and objectives.

Landscape architects are hired at many different grade levels. Recent college graduates may be hired at the GS-5 or GS-7 grade level. Others with advanced degrees and experience may be hired at higher grade levels, and there is substantial opportunity for advancement! To begin a career as a landscape architect in the Forest Service, you must meet the following requirements:

Have a degree in landscape architecture or landscape design from an accredited college or university, OR

A combination of education and experience – for each year short of graduation, the applicant must have had 1 year of experience under professional leadership and guidance of such character and diversity as to be a satisfactory substitute for the required education. This experience must have included original landscape design.

These qualification requirements have been summarized for convenience. Full details are available at www.USAJobs.gov or the www.opm.gov subject index under "Qualifications."

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