

Position Classification Standard for Landscape Architecture Series, GS-0807

Table of Contents

SERIES DEFINITION.....	2
OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION.....	2
EXCLUSIONS.....	3
THE PHYSICAL LAND PLANNING PROCESS	4
QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED.....	5
TITLES.....	6
CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA	7
NOTES TO USERS OF THIS STANDARD.....	8
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-05.....	9
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-07.....	9
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-09.....	10
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-11.....	11
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-12.....	12
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-13.....	14
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-14.....	15

SERIES DEFINITION

This series includes positions the duties of which are to perform or supervise professional work in the planning and design of land areas and concurrent landscape construction and maintenance for integrated developments to meet specific human needs. It involves the analysis of land characteristics, operational requirements, land-use intensities, and commensurate land values and includes the efficient correlation of ground and water forms, plant forms, structures, roads, and walks to serve esthetic, functional, economic, and other interrelated purposes. Positions in this series require professional landscape architectural planning and design ability and require knowledge of the allied physical planning fields of architecture and civil engineering, and the biological sciences of agronomy, plant ecology, horticulture, and botany as they affect land development.

This standard supersedes the standard for the Landscape Architecture Series issued in July 1947 under the code P-1040-0, subsequently recoded to GS-1041. The Landscape Architecture Series, GS-1041, is hereby abolished. A new Landscape Architecture Series, GS-0807, is hereby established within the Engineering and Architecture Group, GS-0800.

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

Landscape architects in the Federal Government are employed in agencies requiring professional work in the planning, design, and preservation phases of landscape architectural development for such projects as parks and parkways, highway developments, recreational areas, airports, waterfront facilities, public buildings and institutions, housing developments and subdivisions, communities, and military installations.

The landscape architect seeks to obtain the most functional, economical, and esthetic results in physical land planning. To do so, he makes application of his esthetic appreciation, creative design talent, knowledge of natural and manmade elements comprising the total landscape, and technical ability to portray design ideas. In the light of program and project objectives, he considers existing topography and natural features, building and area arrangements, orientation, vehicular and pedestrian circulation, grading and molding of land forms, surface and subsurface drainage, and construction and plant materials. In the design of specific projects he applies not only the technical principles of use, structure, and growth, but also the esthetic principles of balance, scale, proportion, and harmony of line, shape, color, texture, and form. To the maximum practicable extent consistent with the requirements of the individual project, he conserves and enhances the natural environment by the selection of construction methods and plant materials which are compatible with it.

Landscape architects may perform work in one or more of the following capacities:

- (a) originating and developing plans;
- (b) reviewing plans prepared by others to see that they are in conformance with good principles of landscape design and with agency standards and policies and, if needed, making recommendations for improvement of the plan;
- (c) developing and maintaining standards for landscape architectural procedures, methods, and techniques;
- (d) supervising landscape construction; (This supervision is in the nature of inspection of construction to see that it conforms to landscape architectural plans.)
- (e) planning, supervising, inspecting, and advising on maintenance work including restoration of land areas as necessitated by deterioration from age or heavy use and rehabilitation of sites requiring additional landscape design for the expansion of existing facilities; and assisting management in the operation of projects where landscape architectural qualities are involved.

EXCLUSIONS

Excluded from this series are the following classes of positions:

1. Positions involving professional city and community planning work for the broad social and economic growth of population centers, which involves the organization of correlative residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural land uses, and the provision of public services such as transportation, utilities, education, recreation, and various Government services and facilities are classified in the [Community Planning Series, GS-0020](#).
2. Positions involving professional work in the design of buildings and related structures to fulfill esthetic and functional needs, including the preparation of working or contract drawings of such designs, are classified in the [Architecture Series, GS-0808](#).
3. Positions requiring the application of professional engineering knowledge and skills to functional and economic design, construction, operation, or maintenance of structures, equipment, and facilities are classified in the appropriate engineering series in the Engineering and Architecture Group, GS-0800, and are best distinguished from, positions in the Landscape Architecture Series by application of the principles outlined in the [Introduction to the Engineering and Architecture Group](#).
4. Positions involving professional and scientific work in the biological sciences are classified in the appropriate series of the Biological Sciences Group, GS-0400, such as the [Botany Series, GS-0430](#); [Plant Physiology Series, GS-0435](#); [Horticulture Series, GS-0437](#); [Agronomy Series, GS-0471](#).
5. Positions involving technical work that requires only limited knowledge of some principles and techniques used in professional landscape architectural work are classified in such series as the [Engineering Technician Series, GS-0802](#); and [Horticulture Series, GS-0437](#).

6. Positions involved in the performance of craft, trade, or manual labor duties, even though associated with landscape architectural duties, are excluded from the Classification Act by Section 202(7) and are in the Federal Wage System pay category.

THE PHYSICAL LAND PLANNING PROCESS

The physical land planning process involves the application of specialized principles and procedures in the design, construction, and maintenance of land areas, including:

- (a) analysis of economic, social, physical, and operational factors;
- (b) investigation, selection, and allocation of land and water areas for appropriate use;
- (c) preparation of graphic and written criteria governing land planning and construction programs;
- (d) preparation, revision, and analysis of master planning documents;
- (e) production of area plans, site plans, grading plans, planting plans, construction details, specifications, cost estimates, and reports;
- (f) collaboration with other design professions in the design of roads, bridges, and structures with respect to functional and esthetic requirements;
- (g) negotiation and arrangement for execution of projects; and
- (h) supervision and inspection of construction, rehabilitation, restoration, and maintenance.

A breakdown of landscape design according to phases is given below to show the scope of the field of landscape architecture in the Federal Government. Landscape architectural services in a given agency may not necessarily encompass all of these:

1. The broadest phase is planning for the allocation of land uses and the physical development of large land expanses. This is embodied in plans and descriptive material showing those sites or areas, within a large tract of land, that have been selected for certain uses and have been developed or are scheduled or proposed for future development. The drawings for this plan show the general location and extent of each land-use area, and its relation to the other areas and to the tract as a whole. Tract, as used in this context, corresponds to a national park or parkway, national forest, reservoir area, military installation, community, or other land expanse of similar scope, and encompasses a number of areas. Landscape architects give advice and recommendations on the selection of these areas and are frequently responsible for coordination of this planning.

Land planning and design for extensive areas and large-scale developments are initially embodied in an overall master plan containing drawings and written analyses of existing and required facilities, plans for future management and development, and construction priorities and program information. Such a master plan is usually composed of land-use and other basic information maps, area or general site plans for future development, and narrative reports.

2. The second or intermediate phase is area or general site planning. This is embodied in a plan showing the relation of all major landscape elements in an area to each other and to the site.

Major elements correspond to such things as the location of structures, sections of land within the area to be maintained for specific use, planting masses, and the circulation patterns (roads and walks). The scale of this plan is such that the landscape architect must consider detailed topographic and natural features of the area and the manner in which they can be used to best advantage, the functional aspects of each element, and soil and climatic conditions. Examples of areas in this general category are listed below. They are given for purposes of illustration and are not all-inclusive.

- a. resort areas, including such features as a hotel, shops, drives, and utility buildings;
 - b. recreation areas, such as an area in a national park, parkway, forest, or reservoir area which might include such features as campgrounds, picnic grounds, shelters, small bridges, roads, trails, scenic views, beaches, marinas, docks, recreational sites for group use, and recreation residences;
 - c. housing developments, including arrangement of dwelling structures and such community features as shopping centers, schools, churches, and recreation facilities;
 - d. administrative areas, including offices, garages, and maintenance buildings;
 - e. airports, including runways and adjacent buildings; and
 - f. industrial areas.
3. The third phase is detailed site planning. In this phase, the landscape architect prepares the following for specific land area projects:
- a. site plan giving the location, surface grades, and dimensions of each element;
 - b. grading and drainage plans showing existing and proposed contours and collection facility locations;
 - c. drawings of alignments, profiles, and cross-sections of roads, walks, and other facilities;
 - d. planting plans, which may include selective cutting of existing vegetation;
 - e. construction drawings for incidental structural features; and
 - f. specifications covering all of the above and cost estimates for proposed construction.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

The college or university is the normal source of basic technical training for the landscape architects of today. In the past, many landscape architects acquired their training by working in a landscape architect's office. Although this is still possible, an academic course leading to a degree in landscape architecture or landscape design is the most likely source of basic training for this profession in view of the tempo of our times and the increased range of knowledge required.

Landscape design must be compatible with architectural and engineering principles, and landscape architects collaborate closely with professionals in these fields. The landscape architect must have some knowledge of the allied physical planning fields of architecture and civil engineering, and the biological sciences of agronomy, ecology, horticulture, and botany as they affect land development. He must also have the ability to correlate various functional

elements into a cohesive and efficiently operating whole properly related to the characteristics of the terrain and the environment.

In addition to the technical knowledge required, the landscape architect must have imagination, esthetic taste and appreciation, and the ability to envision designs of projects as they will exist on the ground. He must keep abreast of contemporary culture, artistic and professional trends. His creative ability must be supported by methodical and orderly habits, perseverance, and the ability to organize work. In his role as a member of the design team, he must have communicating ability to a marked degree. He must be able to express his ideas through sketches or renderings, through written reports, and by the spoken word. He should be able to persuade, to motivate, and to deal diplomatically with the problems of others.

Landscape architects in the Federal Government must recognize factors which may place limitations on a project. For example, planning and design must be in accord with the philosophy, policy, and standards of agency. Frequently, public pressures for certain features must be taken into account, and both short-term and long-term costs must be analyzed. Landscape architects have to place these factors in their proper perspective and adapt their design solutions accordingly. They are also responsible for negotiation with representatives of various Federal, State, and local organizations on matters of mutual interest, and are responsible for the coordination of engineering, architectural and landscape architectural activities on projects where landscape architectural work predominates.

The knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes mentioned above are not possessed to the same degree by all landscape architects, nor are they required to the same degree in all positions. The abilities of communication and persuasion are increasingly important at the higher grade levels.

TITLES

The basic title for positions in this series is *Landscape Architect*.

Although all positions require a basic knowledge of landscape design, some positions require specialized supplemental knowledge of various functional requirements for such facilities as recreation and park areas, roads, airports, hospitals, housing developments, communities, and military installations. However, this supplemental knowledge does not substantially alter the ability to design or the basic knowledge required, which is readily transferable from one assignment to another. Therefore, no specializations are established in this series.

Supervisory positions are not described in this standard although they are included in the series. When supervisory duties and responsibilities constitute a substantial, regular part of a landscape architect's work and are of such significance as to require specific supervisory qualifications, the position should be designated as "*Supervisory Landscape Architect*" and should be evaluated by the criteria in the [General Schedule Supervisory Guide](#).

CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

The grade level of the landscape architect's position is measured by application of the following two basic classification criteria taken together:

1. *Difficulty of assignments* -- This refers to those factors that are inherent in an assignment and make it more or less difficult to work on. The difficulty of assignments, therefore, is influenced by the following factors considered as *they each affect the others*:
 - a. the amount of land being dealt with, whether it is a large tract composed of a number of areas, an area composed of a number of sites, or an individual site;
 - b. the natural, climatic, and topographic features of the terrain, whether they are so unique or varied as to post unusual or unprecedented design problems;
 - c. the variety of functional purposes or uses of the land, whether there are various types of functions to be accommodated by landscape design;
 - d. the degree of originality required, the extent to which solutions to design problems can be worked out wholly or partially on the basis of design for similar projects, or require varying degrees of originality in the adaptation of existing designs or the creation of entirely new designs.

In using the above factors to measure the level of difficulty, it is important to realize that the amount of land being dealt with does not lend difficulty in itself. For example, an individual site with unusual and unprecedented design problems could be an assignment of greater difficulty than an area composed of a number of sites for which design can be readily worked out on the basis of plans for similar projects. The above factors are closely tied to the following factor:

- e. knowledge and abilities required: This refers to knowledge of the principles of landscape architecture and ability to apply them, knowledge of agency philosophy and procedures, ability to coordinate activities and negotiate, and the extent to which the landscape architect is an authority in his field.
2. *Responsibility of the position*.--This can be measured by the following:
 - a. degree of supervision received and authority to act: This refers to the manner in which work is assigned and reviewed; whether supervision is close and continuous, general and in the nature of a review, or administrative only, i.e., all work is accepted as technically correct; and to the nature of recommendations, decisions, and conclusions made.

- b. type of personal contact work performed: This refers to the purpose of the contacts, whether they are for the purpose of receiving or exchanging information and instructions, making commitments, coordinating activities, or negotiating.

NOTES TO USERS OF THIS STANDARD

1. The scope and depth of the knowledge and experience of an individual landscape architect may influence the dimensions of his position. This will be reflected in the complexity of the assignments he receives and the responsibility and authority with which he performs them. It is intended that the classification criteria measure this relationship. Evaluation of a landscape architect's position should be based on a sufficient span of time to reflect the norm of current assignments and to avoid basing evaluation on a single assignment.
2. Grade-level criteria for positions above the GS-14 level are not included in this standard because these positions are few in number and are highly individualized. The absence of these criteria does not preclude the classification of nonsupervisory landscape architectural positions to a higher level by extension of the criteria discussed in this standard according to general classification principles.
3. In regard to supervisory positions, neither the technical direction of small professional staffs nor program responsibility which does not include line supervision is considered indicative of a supervisory landscape architect position unless such responsibilities require specific supervisory qualifications.
4. Typical duties performed are not given for all types of positions at every grade level. (For example, positions responsible for reviewing plans are not mentioned at each grade level. This does not, however, preclude the existence of such positions at any grade level.
5. Responsibility for the review of landscape architectural plans generally is not of a higher level than responsibility for origination of design, unless the landscape architect engaged in review has the final technical authority for the agency to accept or reject plans. Therefore, in the grade-level criteria under *Difficulty of Assignments*, review of plans is considered to be equivalent in level of difficulty to that level of difficulty at which the plans reviewed are originated. This principle applies to review of plans originated by landscape architect, architect-engineer, and other firms, as well as those originated by agency personnel.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-05

Difficulty of assignments

This is the basic trainee level. Work assignments are given to acquaint the trainee with the types of phases of landscape architectural work done in the agency, its policy and philosophy, and to relieve higher-grade landscape architects of simple and routine work. These assignments typically consist of such work as making field site surveys to gather elementary landscape data; reviewing landscape construction and writing factual reports; doing routine and simple detailed design work that does not call for substantial original design ideas; routinely checking landscape architectural plans to see that they meet standard agency requirements for format and simple procedure; and performing drafting and rendering work for higher-grade landscape architects. Work at this level requires a knowledge of all basic principles of landscape architecture. These assignments give the landscape architect an opportunity to acquire skill in adapting his knowledge to practical problems.

Responsibility of the position

Supervisors give specific instructions and close guidance and review before, during, and after performance of assignments at this level. Personal work contacts are restricted and are for the purpose of getting information, instructions, guidance.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-07

Difficulty of assignments

This is usually an advanced trainee level. However, there may be some limited performance jobs at this level that are not trainee positions. In most cases, assignments are selected to prepare the trainee for work at higher levels. Typically, assignments require the design of a single aspect or element of a broader project which is the responsibility of a higher-grade landscape architect who gives specific instructions for, or provides a preliminary sketch of, the design idea to be developed by the GS-7 landscape architect. Other assignments at this level may require the design of a site for which the functional layout of other similar sites can be readily adapted. Sites designed at this level are usually naturally well suited for the purpose for which they are designed and require relatively few changes in grading. Some judgment is required in developing the design as initiated by a higher-grade landscape architect or in selecting and adapting the most appropriate layout of a similar site. The following are examples of design work typically performed at this level: camp and picnic sites, minor roadside developments, road turnouts, parking lots, entrances, sites for small structures, and planting plans for sites basically designed at higher levels.

Some assignments require reviewing and reporting on construction of projects comparable in complexity to those mentioned above, to assure the proper understanding of and compliance with landscape architectural plans.

Landscape architects at this level who are engaged in the preparation of master plans prepare drawings and narratives based on detailed instructions for sites such as those given as examples above and revise outdated plans requiring minor changes.

These assignments require the ability to apply basic principles of landscape architecture to the practical problems that occur at this level. They also require a knowledge of, and the ability to select and apply, agency standards pertinent to the work performed.

Responsibility of the position

Supervision of new assignments is the same as at the preceding level, but before and during performance of repetitive assignments only general instructions are given. However, all assignments are thoroughly reviewed upon completion.

Personal contacts are the same as at the preceding level, with the exception of positions engaged in the supervision or review of construction. These positions may require contact with contractors, construction foremen, or their representatives, and with agency administrative and maintenance personnel, in order to gather information and explain site plans.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-09

Difficulty of assignments

Assignments at this level are similar to those typically performed at the preceding level, but at this level they are accompanied by general instructions only; preliminary sketches of a design are not provided; and topographic and natural features are varied, so that layouts of similar sites are not readily adaptable. Assignments at the GS-9 level, therefore, make greater demands of originality on the landscape architect. Other assignments typically found at this level involve the design of grading and planting plans and trail plans for large areas and the preparation of specifications to govern the construction of landscape features such as benches, fences, guard rails, stairs, and signs to be used throughout an area or tract on a large scale as an integral part of the design.

Some assignments require supervision or review of construction for projects such as those mentioned above, and maintenance of such projects, with recommendations for corrective or preventive action; also, analyzing, reporting on, and recommending solutions for such management problems as requests for special use permits, easements, land trades, acquisition, and similar matters where landscape architectural values are involved. Other typical assignments at this level involve the investigation of areas that have been proposed for development, for example, a proposal for an area to be composed of a number of interrelated sites, such as an office building and adjacent shops and maintenance buildings. In these cases, the landscape architect makes technical reports and design layout plans containing his recommendations for meeting the esthetic and functional requirements of the project and showing their relationship to adjacent developments. In addition, cost estimates and specifications which govern the

construction work are prepared. Some GS-9 assignments are designs for areas composed of a number of sites and may superficially resemble assignments performed at the GS-11 level. However, areas of this type designed by GS-9 landscape architects have well-established precedents which can be followed in area and site planning; the design problems for these areas are few, and their solutions are relatively straightforward. This is not true of areas designed at the GS-11 level.

Landscape Architects GS-9 may be engaged in the preparation of master plans for areas composed of sites such as those typically designed at this level, or they may be engaged in the review of plans for such sites, or portions thereof, to insure completeness of plans and adherence to standards.

Assignments at this level, in addition to knowledge required at the lower levels, require a sound working knowledge of agency procedures and policy and of sources of information for gathering data necessary for landscape development.

Responsibility of the position

Supervisors give assignments in terms of specific objectives with instructions as to possible problems and the means for solving them. Work is reviewed upon completion for conformance to instructions and for general soundness of landscape design; supervision may be received during the progress of assignments.

Personal contacts may be with State and municipal landscape architects and engineers, horticulturists, contractors, property owners, agency administrative and maintenance personnel, and others for the purpose of exchanging factual information and explaining plans.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-11

Difficulty of assignments

At this level incumbents are recognized as fully equipped by training and experience to be given professional assignments requiring proven professional ability. This is the first level of work involving the full range of professional activity on conventional projects. Assignments are diversified and difficult due to design problems caused by a combination of factors, such as an area composed of a number of sites with a variety of uses and functions, and are typically broad in scope. A typical project is the design of a large recreational area including a network of sites for picnicking, camping, boating, swimming, and play fields. Another project typical of this level is the origination or review of plans for small housing developments or subdivisions. These projects involve area designs which locate the sites and necessary walks, roads, and parking areas, so all functions of the area will be properly integrated. They require the preparation of long-range estimates for labor requirements and costs of construction and maintenance.

Also typical at this level are assignments requiring plans for small sites that have unusual design problems, for example, a small building site or road turnout with difficult aspects such as rugged terrain with heavy rock outcroppings and accessibility problems, or a barren, sandy site with unusually complex erosion and drainage problems.

Some positions require planning for and supervision or review of construction and maintenance operations for projects comparable in difficulty to those mentioned above, and recommendations for acceptance or rejection of the work.

Landscape architects at this level may be engaged in the preparation or review of master plan drawings and narratives for large tracts composed of areas similar in scope to those mentioned above.

This level requires the ability to apply new design and construction methods; to prepare technical reports; to modify, adapt, and make compromises with standard guidelines; and to develop effective coordination with other organizations and individuals.

Responsibility of the position

Supervision received at this level is general. Work is reviewed in the early stages of development when controlling design decisions are being formulated; however, it is not subject to a detailed technical review. Controversial design problems and policy questions may be worked out with guidance from the supervisor. Work is normally accepted as technically sound.

Personal work contacts include dealing with the public and outside agencies for the purpose of exchanging professional advice, promoting the acceptance and cooperation of others with the agency's policies and objectives, and making commitments on routine matters. This contact work includes dealing with such people as contractors, concessionaires, State and municipal officials, and agency administrative and maintenance personnel.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-12

Difficulty of assignments

Landscape architects at this level are recognized as mature professional workers equipped to deal with advanced aspects of their profession. Assignments are extensive in scope and importance, contain many difficult features, and are largely involved in planning and coordination. A typical assignment at GS-12 includes responsibility for coordination of master planning and preparation of master plan drawings and narratives for a large tract of land including a number of areas, requiring the cooperation of people from one or more design fields in addition to landscape architecture. Another assignment typical of GS-12 includes responsibility for the landscape design for major roads and adjacent sites on large tracts of land involving the connection of one area with another and requiring extensive coordination with those responsible for the engineering design of the road. At this level, landscape architects may be required to supervise

or review any type of landscape construction, including that designed at a higher level, and to recommend acceptance or rejection of it.

GS-12 landscape architects may be responsible for the preparation of landscape architectural standards or criteria to be applied to landscape architectural work in the agency typically performed at this level. This requires extensive factfinding and data gathering, some of which may be done by lower-grade landscape architects, and extensive coordination with architectural and engineering criteria or standards.

Some incumbents are engaged in the review of complex area plans, such as plans for arrangements of dwelling structures and community facilities, to see that they meet agency criteria and that each plan is the best obtainable under its particular set of circumstances; this may involve redesign on the part of the reviewer in order to make recommendations for improvement of the plans.

Other GS-12 positions are responsible for the review of landscape architectural plans submitted to their agency by architects, builders, contractors, local authorities, and others for such projects as large subdivisions, housing developments, and hospitals. These reviews are for the purpose of checking such things as quality of landscape design, costs, conformance to agency requirements, and agreement between landscape architectural and engineering aspects of the project. This review leads to guidance and negotiation in order to achieve the best planning solution possible for design problems. It requires extensive liaison with those who are doing the design work and with city or State officials and local authorities. GS-12 landscape architects are expected to see that the best possible landscape design is obtained. Frequently, they are required to make recommendations for improvement of design involving extensive alteration, on their part, of plans submitted for approval.

These assignments require the special knowledge and skill of a senior landscape architect, e.g., the ability to handle advanced landscape architectural problems such as unusual and varying factors of climate and terrain, and the ability to coordinate the activities of a number of groups effectively.

Responsibility of the position

Supervisors assign work in terms of broad, general objectives. Landscape architects at this level are relatively free from technical control. Technical decisions and recommendations are seldom changed by higher authority; completed work is reviewed for adequacy in terms of the broad objectives of the assignment and for compliance with agency policies and regulations.

Personal contacts constitute a substantial portion of the work at this level. GS-12 landscape architects must coordinate work and maintain liaison with organizations performing related work; planners, architects, engineers, builders, and contractors; State and municipal authorities; related agencies; and the general public.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-13

Difficulty of assignments

Assignments at this level are of unusual difficulty and responsibility and provide considerable opportunity for individual decision-making. GS-13 landscape architects are generally specialists in their area of work. This refers to extensive knowledge of the special requirements of such projects as parks, parkways, roads, highways, recreation facilities, airfields, hospitals, subdivisions, rental housing, and military installations. Landscape architects at this level typically perform such duties as representing the agency at meetings with high-ranking professional personnel from other agencies and organizations requiring negotiation on the part of the GS-13 landscape architect to reconcile diverse points of view; making special landscape architectural studies in connection with proposals for projects not within the ordinary master planning concepts; and performing consultant service on landscape architectural matters for a variety of organizational segments within the agency. Some positions at this level act as professional advisors to field office staffs serving a large geographical area containing diversified developments in this country and/or abroad.

Those GS-13 landscape architects who are engaged in the review of plans submitted for approval make recommendations on plans for any type of unprecedented landscape architectural projects. Typically, they are responsible for the development of requirements and schedules for the preparation of plans on an agency-wide basis and for coordination of the review of the various phases of landscape planning within the agency.

Assignments at this level require wide professional experience in landscape architecture; extensive knowledge of agency policies, aims, objectives, and of existing legislation and program requirements of the agency; and an ability to meet and deal effectively with management, engineers, architects, builders, contractors, and others, since a substantial portion of time at this level is spent in consultation and negotiation.

Responsibility of the position

Supervision received at this level is usually in the form of administrative direction. Assignments are given in terms of general objectives, and recommendations made at this level are accepted as technically sound.

Personal contacts are an important factor at this level. GS-13 landscape architects act as consultants and negotiators. They may be required to speak before groups on technical matters relating to their work.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GS-0807-14

Difficulty of assignments

GS-14 landscape architects generally serve in a staff capacity as expert consultants in a specialized agency program. Their assignments are for the purpose of meeting special requirements of officials at the agency's highest policy and program planning echelons and involve highly unique and unprecedented design problems. Landscape architects at this level typically are responsible for the coordination of large-scale programs requiring new techniques and approaches for a wide variety of types of terrain and climate and involving the planning of a substantial amount of high-level landscape architectural work to be carried out at the GS-11 and 12 levels. GS-14 landscape architects are required to originate broad landscape architectural programs involving the study of agency operations and worldwide design developments, to develop and modify their planning objectives, and to assess the technical performance and effectiveness of programs and the desirability of major program changes.

Assignments at this level require the knowledge and ability of an authority on all specialized areas of landscape architectural work performed in an agency and on all program areas in the agency that require landscape architectural services.

Responsibility of the position

Supervision received at this level is in the form of administrative or nontechnical direction. Guidance is received only in terms of broad policy and budget limitations.

Personal contacts are an outstanding factor at this level. GS-14 landscape architects are required to negotiate agreements with high-level professionals in other fields and to explain and promote their proposals for new work to top management. They represent their agency at meetings with top officials from other agencies and organizations. Because of their authoritative knowledge in their area of work, recommendations of landscape architects at this level are almost universally accepted as technically sound.