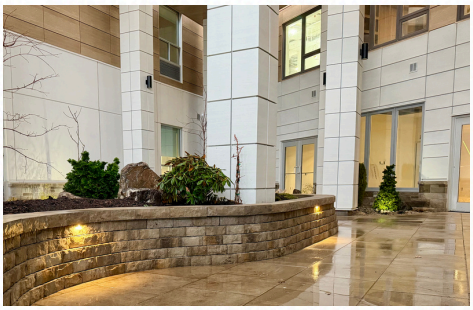
2026 LANDSCAPE AWARDS

Landscape nova scotia Green for Life

Landscape nl Green for Life







SHOWCASE YOUR CREATIVITY AND BE RECOGNIZED FOR YOUR EXPERTISE

The Landscape Awards program is open only to active members of Landscape Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador.

ENTRY DEADLINE: JANUARY 15

Landscape Construction, Maintenance, and Design entries that achieve Excellence Awards in the program are eligible for selection into the National Awards of Landscape Excellence the following year.

NATIONAL AWARDS OF LANDSCAPE EXCELLENCE
Grow • Design • Landscape • Maintain

FOR LANDSCAPE AWARDS PROGRAM DETAILS CONTACT JAN@LANDSCAPENOVASCOTIA.CA OR JAN@LANDSCAPENL.COM DIRECT: 902-800-4321

2026 LANDSCAPE AWARDS

ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. The Landscape Awards Program is open only to active members of Landscape NS and NL.
2. Entry deadline–January 15 each year.
3. Any landscape project which the entrant has contracted and executed the major portion thereof will be eligible (80% of the work will be considered a major portion).
4. A project cannot be entered in more than one category in the same year.
5. No company may enter more than two projects in any one category.

   Limit of 10 entries per company, per year.

   Landscape construction projects must have been completed no more than three years prior to the entry deadline.

   Projects receiving a previous Landscape Construction Award cannot be re-entered in the Construction category.

9. A Maintenance category entry must have been maintained and under the care of the entrant for one full growing season prior to entry.
10. Projects receiving a previous Maintenance Award cannot be re-entered by the same contractor. Maintenance Award sites may be re-entered by a different contractor after three growing seasons.
11. Construction Award sites may later be entered in the Maintenance category, providing the current entrant has maintained it for one growing season.
12. A Design category entry must have been 100% completed by the entrant. Landscape designs cannot be submitted if the project has been entered into another category in the same year.
13. Submit project descriptions in Word format.

    Submit category entries must be submitted in PDF format for them to be considered for the National Awards of Landscape Excellence.

JUDGING

Judging will be conducted by professionals in the fields of landscape design and architecture, contracting, education, horticultural services, etc.

Each project is evaluated on individual merit, independent of other entries, regardless of size or cost.

Submissions with top scores may be selected for entry into the National Awards of Landscape Excellence.

The decisions of the judges are final.

LANDSCAPE NOVA SCOTIA AND LANDSCAPE NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

For more information, contact Jan at jan@landscapenovascotia.ca, jan@landscapenl.com or call direct: 902-800-4321

LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CATEGORIES:

Submit no less than eight and no more than 15 colour images. *Entry will be returned for editing if more than 15 photos are submitted.*

Videos may be included but are not required.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES CATEGORY:

Submit no less than eight and no more than 15 colour images. *Entry will be returned for editing if more than 15 photos are submitted.*

The landscape surrounding the feature must be completed so that the judges can evaluate the suitability and integration of the feature into its surroundings.

Pools should not be entered into this category as there is typically not enough to judge. Pools are to be entered into full construction categories.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN CATEGORY:

Submit entry as would be presented to client, or as a PDF file. Show all details. Multiple pages allowed. Remove company name and logos. Submissions may be in colour or black and white. If the design is computer-generated please indicate the software program used.
Up to five before photos may be included with the design.
"After" photos will not be judged. However, up to three after photos may be included to be shown during the awards presentation (*if applicable*).
Designs must indicate site elevations and include a keyed plant list.

WRITTEN DESCRIPTIONS

All entries must include a one-page electronic (MS word) description of the project (500 words max). Please include the project's complexity, what you were hired to do, any challenges you faced, the client's requests, and other relevant information. For Maintenance projects used, state specifically which areas you did and did not maintain. (e.g. patio area, shrub, pruning, turf, etc.)
Please include specifically which elements of your project you did and did not do. This eliminates any confusion when judges are reviewing the project. Do not include your company name in project description.

GENERAL

All manual submitted, including images, design plans, and text, once received, become the property of the Landscape Nova Scotia & Landscape Newfoundland. Entrants must grant permission for the Association to use images, in an appropriate manner, for program promotion or Association publications (print and online).

These entries which meet the award criteria will receive an award and will be recognized in Association publications.

A representative of the member company submitting the entry must sign the entry form for each submission, which will indicate that their client has given permission for photographs of their property to be published.

ENTRY DEADLINE: January 15 each year

2026 LANDSCAPE AWARDS

CATEGORIES:

- Residential Landscape Construction under $25,000
- Residential Landscape Construction $25,001 -$75,000
- Residential Landscape Construction $75,001-$150,000
- Residential Landscape Construction $150,001 - $250,000
- Residential Landscape Construction over $250,001
- Commercial Landscape Construction over $25,000
- Commercial Landscape Construction $25,001-$75,000
- Commercial Landscape Construction over $ 75,001-$150,000
- Commercial Landscape Construction $150,001-$250,000
- Commercial Landscape Construction over $250,001
- Landscape Features - Residential (patios, gazebos, ponds, etc)
- Landscape Features - Commercial (patios, ponds, waterfalls, entry gates, etc.)
- Green Roof/ Green Wall Maintenance
- Residential Maintenance
- Commercial Maintenance
- Multi Unit Maintenance
- Commercial or Residential Landscape Design

PHOTOGRAPHY REQUIREMENTS

- Choose only the best images for award submission.
- For Construction and Maintenance categories, include & 15 images. For the Design category, include no more than 5 "before" and 3 "after" images.
- Choose the highest quality resolution on your camera to produce the best image. Only high resolution images can be used in our publications.
- Do not include panoramic photos as they distort the image.
- Do not make changes to the original image size, and do not make major adjustments to the image with photo editing software.
- Do not submit photos that are out of focus, too dark (underexposed), or too light (overexposed).
- Do not show your company name and/or logo in any photos.

FILE NAMING

Proper file namings are very important, especially if you are submitting more than one entry. Example: Company name, project name, image, number (You may abbreviate your company name).Consider numbering the month order that you would prefer them viewed (co-ordinate with your project description).

HELPFUL HINTS AND TIPS:

The judges determine the quality of materials (both plant and hardscape), complexity, completness of installation, workmanship, and horticultural consistency in the project,using only the photographs and written description submitted with each entry. Remember, judges are members so first impressions count for them.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Photos submitted should be ones that you would be proud to display for your most discerning clients. Take photos from a variety of angles and points of interest. Include close-up photos of the edges, shrubs, etc. that you show beds, your construction or maintenance skills. Candid photos of people using the landscape can show use and demonstrate scale (must have photo permission).

Elevated/overhead shots taken from a normal vantage point (i.e. deck, upstairs window) can be morning or later in the day, or with an overcast sky. Submit photos taken during the summer or early fall. Lawns should be green; if some photos are taken in the autumn season, the trees and shrubs should still be some leaves. Planted areas are much more impressive in photos if given an extra year to grow. Night shots are helpful when judging lighting.

SITE PREPARATION:

- Remove distracting objects before photos are taken.
- Hoses lying across walkways, stray tools, litter, and so on have no place in a successful photo entry.
- Include before, during, and after photos of your work as it helps the judges to see your whole project.
- Plant material should be properly selected and well-adapted to the site.
- Sweep up mulch that has spilled onto hard surfaces.
- Make sure plant material is well-pruned and free of insects or disease. Remove all tags and flagging. Remove all weeds from shrub beds.



WHAT THE JUDGES LOOK FOR - CATEGORY MARKS OUT OF 100 POINTS

CONSTRUCTION - RESIDENTIAL/ COMMERCIAL

CONSTRUCTION QUALITY: 50PTS

GRADE CONTOURING—Consistent with surrounding terroir; smooth, gradual transition of landscape area; drainage/slope.
BOULDERS—1/3 to 1/2 of boulder/rock buried; match surfaces where boulders/rocks meet in groups.
DRY STREAMBEDS—Follows a natural drainage path; materials suit the surrounding landscape.
PAVING (BRICK, STONE, TILE, ETC.)—Proper grading; high quality finish; neat and clean; consistent with industry standards.
DECKING AND BENCHES—High quality materials with a good foundation and adequate structural strength; good construction detail.
FENCES—Plumb; not warped; suitable attributes for site (material, height, etc.); gates properly placed, latched.
WALKWAYS—Plumb, good joints, no cracks, free of hazards; materials installed with industry standards.
WALLS—Proper materials and installation to meet purpose (industry standards); clean, even lines; functional and attractive.
WATER FEATURES—Quality of installation; no sign of leaks/water loss; no equipment showing needlessly; flow suits size of feature.
FIRE PIT/BBQ—Proper materials and installation; adequate distance from any flammable structure and plants.
IRRIGATION SYSTEMS—Head-to-head spacing; properly installed, easy access to valves.
LIGHTING SYSTEM—Wiring properly buried and neatly installed.
SOD—Proper installation (note seams, edges); smooth, even grade.
TREES—Planted straight and at proper depth; no excess soil mounded at base; properly staked (where required); tags removed.

QUALITY OF PLANTS: 25 PTS.

TREES/SHRUBS—Healthy appearance, no obvious damage or disease.
MULCH—Appropriate amount added around trees/shrubs/ planting beds; minimal potential for mulch to spill onto walkways.
PLANT GROUND COVERS—Adequate plantings for coverage; proper placement and healthy appearance; appropriate plant choice.
BEDS OF COLOR—Healthy appearance; appropriate spacing for mature size of plants.
TURF—Healthy appearance/color; even texture across turf area.

DEGREE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY: 15 PTS.

Grades, water drainage, site access, environmental factors, client requirements, etc.

OVERALL IMPRESSION: 10 PTS.

Does the project have a WOW factor?

Has the contractor worked to ensure this project appears to its best advantage?

Has unattractive debris and construction equipment been removed?

Is there a sense that the contractor is proud of this project?

MAINTENANCE - RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL

TURF AREA: 30 PTS. Healthy appearance; no evidence of uneven fertilizer application. Free of litter; tolerable level of weed presence in turf; no evidence of uncontrolled pest infestation. Mowed evenly; no evidence of mechanical damage from maintenance equipment; edges of turf appear clean and/or uniform. Wells around trees are free of weeds and debris. Maintenance equipment/tools have been removed from the site.

TREES, SHRUBS, & FLOWERS: 30 PTS.

TREES AND SHRUBS—Healthy appearance; no evidence of uncontrolled pest infestation; properly pruned and not interfering with pedestrian or vehicle traffic; properly staked or supported (if necessary); tree wells free of debris and weeds; no evidence of mechanical damage from maintenance equipment.

HEDGES—Properly shaped, healthy appearance.

PLANT GROUND COVERS—Healthy appearance; edged neatly off of walks and away from buildings and trees.
BEDS OF COLOR— Thoughtfully selected annuals; well planted, healthy appearance and aesthetically pleasing.

HARD LANDSCAPE AREAS: 30 PTS.

DRY GROUND COVER—Evenly raked, no bare spots; cleared from patios, walks, and drives.

DRY STREAM BEDS—No weeds or debris; no washouts (bare areas).

WATERFALLS—No leaks or excessive water loss; neat and clean.

WALKWAYS, ROADS AND PARKING AREAS—Free of weeds, debris and hazards.

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS—Evidence of full water coverage on all turf and/or planted areas; sprinkler heads, bubblers and/or emitters maintained at the proper height and position.

OVERALL IMPRESSION: 10 PTS.

First impression of the overall appearance? Neat and tidy? Healthy and green?

RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN

ORIGINALITY,CREATIVITY,ANDEFFECTIVENESS OF DESIGN ELEMENTS: 45 PTS.

Does the design stand out from the run-of-the-mill designs? Is there function, accent, and balance of composition (including integration of plants and hardscape)?

SOLUTIONS TO SITE PROBLEMS: 15 PTS.

Has the site designer incorporated solutions to site problems in a practical manner?

PLANTS: 20 PTS.

Are the plant choices appropriate for the growing zone, lot size, light conditions, spacing, grouping, colour, and texture?

CLIENT REQUESTS: 10 PTS.

Has the designer considered the client's needs, desires, and instructions?

PLAN PRESENTATION: 10 PTS.

Easy to read and understand? Includes a complete list of plants and a professional finish?

WHAT THE JUDGES LOOK FOR - CATEGORY MARKS OUT OF 100 POINTS

RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES

CONSTRUCTION QUALITY: 50 PTS.

DOES THE FEATURE DEMONSTRATE A HIGH STANDARD OF WORKMANSHIP AND MATERIALS? Consider only the criteria specific to the feature in this project:
GRADE CONTOURING— Consistent with surrounding terrain; smooth, gradual transition of landscape area; proper drainage/slope
BOULDERS—1/3 to 1/2 of boulder/rock buried; match surfaces where boulders/rocks meet in groups.
DRY STREAMBEDS—Follows a natural drainage path; materials suit the surrounding landscape.
PAVING (BRICK, STONE, TILE, ETC.)—Proper grading; high quality finish; neat and clean; consistent with industry standards.
DECKING AND SEATING—High quality materials with a good foundation and adequate structural strength; good construction detail.
FENCES—Plumb; not warped; suitable attributes for site (material, height, etc.); gates properly placed, latched.
WALKWAYS—Plumb; good joints; no cracks, free of hazards; materials installed with industry standards.
WALLS—Proper materials and installation to meet purpose (industry standards); clean, even lines; functional and attractive.
WATER FEATURES—Quality of installation; no sign of leaks/water loss, no equipment showing needlessly, flow suits size of feature.
FIRE PIT/BBQ—Proper materials and installation; adequate distance from any flammable structure and plants.
IRRIGATION SYSTEMS—Head-to-head spacing; properly installed, easy access to valves.
LIGHTING SYSTEM— Wiring properly buried; fixtures and transformers neatly installed.
SOD—Proper installation (note seams, edges); smooth, even grade.
TREES—Planted straight and at proper depth; no excess soil mounded at base; properly staked (where required); tags removed.

DEGREE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY: 20 PTS.

CONSIDER—Steep grade, water drainage, site access, environmental factors, etc. Does it meet a special request of the client? Does it demonstrate particular expertise with material or technique?

OVERALL IMPRESSION: 10 PTS.

FIRST LOOK—Does the feature have a wow factor? Does it fit in with its surroundings? Does it function properly? Imagine yourself as the owner of the property; are you satisfied?

TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 80 WILL BE CALCULATED AS A PERCENTAGE OF 100%

GREEN ROOF/GREEN WALL AWARD ENTRIES - GENERAL INFO

A greenroof/greenwall maybe installed: • using a recognized/approved modular system (i.e. trays) which

includes drainage layer, filter cloth, growing media and plants
•by placing each component separately
•by using a combination of these two methods

A green roof/green wall project is the development of a contained green space on a roof/wall structure (not on the ground surface). The category does not include using free-standing containers or planters.

A project shall be considered as a green roof or green wall when it is an extension of an existing roof/wall and includes industry recognized/approved:
•waterproofing system
•root repellant system
•drainage system
• filter cloth
The project must also include appropriate plant material.

NOTE: ANY FEATURES OF THE PROJECT THAT CAN BE DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO DESIGN (RATHER THAN EXECUTION) ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE CRITERIA FOR A CONSTRUCTION CATEGORY (E.G. STORM WATER MANAGEMENT, ETC.)

CONSTRUCTION - GREEN WALL

CONSTRUCTION QUALITY: 65 PTS.

DOES THE INSTALLATION DEMONSTRATE A HIGH STANDARD OF WORKMANSHIP AND MATERIALS? Consider these criteria for features present in the project: • Consistent grade • Grid/trays alligned • Seams not visible (unsightly fabric or plastic is hidden) • Plants installed in consistent, apparent layout (rows, patterns) • Plants installed correctly in growing media

ARE THE PLANT MATERIALS OF A HIGH STANDARD OF QUALITY?
HEALTHY APPEARANCE—No obvious damage or disease
PLANTINGS FOR COVERAGE—Appropriate for mature size of plants

DEGREE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY: 20 PTS.

ACCESS ISSUES—Street closures, restricted work times, challenges to reach height **CHALLENGES DUE TO WALL SIZE**—e.g. soil volume **INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS**—were obstacles overcome? How were environmental challenges addressed? Any use or fabrication of special equipment to undertake the installation?

OVERALL IMPRESSION: 15 PTS.

FIRST LOOK—Does the feature have a wow factor? Has the contractor worked to ensure this project appears to its best advantage? Is there any unattractive debris or construction equipment present? Do you sense that the contractor is proud of this project?

CONSTRUCTION - GREEN ROOF

CONSTRUCTION QUALITY: 65 PTS.

DOES THE INSTALLATION DEMONSTRATE A HIGH STANDARD OF WORKMANSHIP AND MATERIALS? Consider these criteria for features present in the project: • Consistent grade • Grid/trays alligned • Seams not visible (unsightly fabric or plastic is hidden) • Plants installed in consistent, apparent layout (rows, patterns) • Plants installed correctly in growing media

ARE THE PLANT MATERIALS OF A HIGH STANDARD OF QUALITY?
HEALTHY APPEARANCE— No obvious damage or disease.
ADEQUATE PLANTINGS FOR COVERAGE—Appropriate spacing

for mature size of plants

DEGREE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY: 20 PTS.

ACCESS ISSUES—Street closures, restricted work times, challenges to reach height
SLOPE OF ROOF—is the roof flat, sloped, multi-terraced?
CHALLENGES DUE TO SIZE— e.g. soil volume
INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS—were obstacles overcome? How were environmental challenges addressed? Any use or fabrication of special equipment to undertake the installation?

OVERALL IMPRESSION: 15 PTS.

FIRST LOOK—Does the feature have a wow factor? Has the contractor worked to ensure this project appears to its best advantage? Is there any unattractive debris or construction equipment present? Do you sense that the contractor is proud of this project?

APPLICATION FORM

What Association are you with?

- [ ] Landscape Nova Scotia
- [ ] Landscape Newfoundland/Labrador

Your name

Name of Entrant Company

Contact email

Contact phone number

Name of Project (to appear on award)

Project Designer (for Design category only)

Category

- [ ] Residential Landscape Construction under $25,000
- [ ] Residential Landscape Construction $25,001 -$75,000
- [ ] Residential Landscape Construction $75,001-$150,000
- [ ] Residential Landscape Construction $150,001 - $250,000
- [ ] Residential Landscape Construction over $250,000
- [ ] Commercial Landscape Construction under $25,000
- [ ] Commercial Landscape Construction $25,001-$75,000
- [ ] Commercial Landscape Construction over $ 75,001-$150,000

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APPLICATION FORM

Category

- [ ] Commercial Landscape Construction $150,001-$250,000
- [ ] Commercial Landscape Construction over $250,001
- [ ] Commercial or Residential Landscape Design
- [ ] Commercial Maintenance
- [ ] Green Roof/ Green Wall Maintenance
- [ ] Landscape Features - Residential (patios, gazebos, ponds, etc)
- [ ] Landscape Features - Commercial (patios, gazebos, ponds, etc)
- [ ] Maintenance – Residential
- [ ] Maintenance – Multi Unit
- [ ] Maintenance – Commercial

Your Canva profile name won't be shared

PERMISSION TO USE DIGITAL PHOTOS: I understand that upon submitting the digital photos accompanying this application, I am granting permission to Landscape Nova Scotia Horticulture Trades Association and/or Landscape Newfoundland/Labrador for the use of these photos in Association publications and program promotion (print and online). I certify that the information provided on this application form is complete and true to the best of my knowledge.

Send project photos and videos (2 minutes or less) via WETRANSFER or add to a Google drive and share with INFO@LANDSCAPENOVASCOTIA.CA or LNL@LANDSCAPENL.COM

CONSENT:

Landscape Nova Scotia and Landscape Newfoundland administration reserves the right to re-categorize any entry to ensure a project is accurately judged.

By submitting this application, you verify that the information provided on this form is accurate, and that you have read and agree to abide by all rules and procedures. By submitting this entry application, you expressly indicate that you have obtained consent from my client to disclose their name and to have such personal information disclosed in relation to the program, including the publication of photographs of their property.

SIGNATURE _____