

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Landscape Design Schools  
COURSE I CURRICULUM**

**a) *Space, Design, and People*:** Discuss the following: spatial structure; mass and void; the three space-defining components—earth (mounds and grading); plants; and structures (e.g. baffle, screen, and canopy); spatial progression/sequence (garden rooms); and spatial involvement by people.

**b) *Principles and Elements of Landscape Design*:** Include these topics: landscape design theory; approach to design; and the evolution of a design (the design process). Include also the organization of space for use and beauty with a discussion of the art elements as building blocks for the following design principles: balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm, and scale.

**c) *Developing Your Home/Private Grounds*:** Discuss the basic steps in planning a landscape. Include securing the plot plan; determining easements, utility lines and underground wires; topographical features (drainage, paving, etc.); existing structures, and plantings that will affect the design plan. Determine the environmental conditions or views within and without the property that should be emphasized or hidden. Illustrate the importance of planning for the current and future needs of the family by preparation of a list of priorities; explain the difference between designs for short-term versus long-term goals.

**d) *Basics of a Site Plan*:** Describe the methods to take simple site measurements. Briefly explain the kinds of common design documents. Provide an easy explanation of the mechanics of delineation; review the various symbols and other aspects of making and reading landscape plans. Explain computer-aided design (CAD) and the new technology programs available as design tools.

**e) *Color in the Landscape*:** Show examples of color perception in landscape design; use a color wheel to explain color and its emotional impact. Illustrate color variations in foliage, flower, fruit, stem/trunk, and other landscape materials; discuss the value of color charts in keeping records of plant characteristics. Discuss the importance of color in plants, structures, surfacing, and furnishings. Stress the importance of design unity through color harmony, based on design concepts.

**f) *Design for the Environment*:** Discuss working with the environment in the execution of a design plan through sound site-planning practices with emphasis on plant ecology, indigenous materials, and reduction of energy consumption, sound water management practices, maintenance reduction, cost-effective design, and implementation practices. Emphasize energy conservation through designing for seasonal climate factors.

**g) *Public Landscapes*:** Discuss the role of designers in public space design, to include gardens for a church, library or school. Review areas for planning—from landscape development (streets and medians, parks, municipal complexes, etc.) to public art (sculpture and water). Briefly mention zoning, building, and performance codes as landscape management tools and their impact on public landscapes. Discuss management and maintenance of public landscape spaces: include the topics of urban forestry, scenic corridors, streetscape, out-door advertising, and local ordinances. Highlight the critical impact of the public on-site usage (underuse versus overuse, crowd control, infrastructure, etc.) and the need for coordinated planning efforts among local, state, and national agencies.

**h) *Development of Landscape Design*:** Emphasis should be placed on how landscape design has been influenced by environmental and societal factors. Discussion may include: brief highlights of the early development (Egypt, Greece, Persia, Rome, etc.) of landscape architecture and design; the importance during the Medieval period of protective enclosures; the emphasis during the Renaissance period on order and the elaboration of pattern. Give special attention to Italian and French influences. Mention the Muslim influence in Spain. Trace English design until World War I.

**i) *Landscape Design Resources*:** Discuss the related design professions, including the urban planner, landscape architect, architect, landscape designer, landscape contractor, the design/build professionals, and others in landscape design work, including horticulturists, nurserymen, landscape contractors, and those at garden centers. Discuss the extent of professional training required for each profession, and their standards, services, and fees or methods of payment. Discuss their responsibility for public health, safety, and welfare; mention briefly the use of professional registration and certification as a means of public protection. Discuss the value of collaboration of these design professionals. Besides financial and educational considerations, the client should base the selection of design professionals on an individual's artistic vision, skill, and competency in implementing details, ability to serve the client's wants and needs, as well as reputation.

**j) *Special Interest Lecture*:** LDS 20 lists suggested topics. NGC LDS Instructors' Chairman must approve any others.