



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
**LANDSCAPE
PROFESSIONALS**

ENTER THE 2026 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



Photo: DC Modern Sanctuary; Rossen Landscape



Photo: Tempo by Hilton Raleigh Downtown; *Greenview Partners*

The **National Association of Landscape Professionals Awards of Excellence** annually recognize exceptional commercial and residential lawn care and landscape contracting, management and design projects. Earn recognition, no matter the budget. Projects range in size and scope from less than \$25K to more than \$1M.



Deadline extended to: August 7, 2026
Award recipients will be recognized at ELEVATE
Entry Fee: \$599 – NALP Members Only



CATEGORIES



Photo: East Hampton Bed and Breakfast; Groundworks Landscaping, Inc.



Photo: Legacy Lane; R.P. Marzilli & Co., Inc.



Photo: Hilton Vacation Club Grand Beach Orlando; LandCare

Contracting - Commercial and Residential

Focuses on installation

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$250,000
- \$250,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,000 - \$1,000,000
- Above \$1,000,000

Design/Build - Commercial and Residential

Focuses on both design and installation

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$250,000
- \$250,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,000 - \$1,000,000
- Above \$1,000,000

Management - Residential

Management - Commercial

- Housing (ex: HOA properties)
- Office & Industrial Sites/ Hotels & Resorts
- Retail
- Institutional
- Multi-Use Properties

Lawn Care - Residential

Lawn Care - Commercial

- Housing (ex: HOA properties)
- Office & Industrial Sites/ Hotels & Resorts
- Retail
- Institutional
- Multi-Use Properties

CATEGORIES



○ Interior Installation

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$75,000
- \$75,000 - \$150,000
- Above \$150,000

○ Interior Design/Build

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$75,000
- \$75,000 - \$150,000
- Above \$150,000

○ Interior Containerized Plantings

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$75,000
- \$75,000 - \$150,000
- Above \$150,000

○ Interior Landscape Maintenance

○ Erosion Control/Ecological Restoration

○ Special Events

- Exterior
- Interior

○ Decade Awards

Must have received a GOLD award 10 years ago or more and have continuously managed the property to enter.

- Landscape Management Decade
- Lawn Care Decade
- Interior Maintenance

JUDGES' TOP HONORS

The prestigious Judges' Award is chosen from the top scoring GOLD winning entries. The judges will honor one project from each of the following category groups: Contracting, Design/Build and Management.

The winners will be revealed during the Awards Celebration at ELEVATE!
The Judges' Awards PLUS other surprise awards will be revealed during the Awards Celebration at ELEVATE!



Photo: Harwood No. 14; Southern Botanical, Inc.

Attend the Awards of Excellence
Celebration at ELEVATE in Tampa, FL this
November to hear the announcements of
all the Awards of Excellence winners!

Recognition and Publicity

- All award-winning companies will be invited to attend the Awards of Excellence event at ELEVATE.
- All winning entries will receive a beautiful, personalized plaque and the opportunity to order additional customized plaques.
- Each winning entry will be featured in the NALP online awards gallery and listed in *The Edge* magazine.
- NALP will promote the Awards of Excellence through press releases and on social media.
- The trade press often features award-winning projects.
- Companies will receive marketing tools such as digital awards graphics, press release templates, social media guidance and more!

Eligibility

- Properties must not be owned by the entering firm (including showcase projects completed at a firm's facility).
- Projects that have previously received a GOLD award in a category may not be re-entered in the same category.
- A project may be entered in more than one category but each entry must have its own unique name, description and photos. Separate entry fees apply.
- If you'd like to submit an entry for a Decade Award and are unsure if your project is eligible, please reach out to NALP.



JUDGING

All awards are determined based on a 100-point scoring system. Points are awarded by a judging panel that is comprised of industry professionals from all regions of the United States. Projects are judged based on appearance, degree of difficulty and other criteria specific to each category. Entries do not compete against each other; they are judged on their own merit. Company names are kept anonymous from the judges. Entrants are permitted to see their scores and any comments the judges may have provided. There are no set number of awards given per award type and entries are not guaranteed an award.



Photo: Lake Country Luxe; Bret Achtenhagen's Seasonal Services, Inc.

Award recognition enhances company image with clients and celebrates the team behind the work.

Now Accepting Entries – Do Not Miss Out!

New Deadline: August 7, 2026

Entering the Awards of Excellence is easy. Just follow these basic steps.

Visit landscapeprofessionals.org/aoe and select **Enter Now**. (You will need your NALP login to access).

Choose your best projects. Enter projects/properties that are at the right stage of maturity. Plants should be established and growing (no tree stakes).

Decide on the project title. The title will be visible to the public but can be changed for any plaques purchased for clients.

Gather information needed to address the questions below:

- ✓ What was the client's intent, and what goals or outcomes did they want to achieve?
- ✓ Describe the scope of work and your company's approach to delivering the project or service.
- ✓ Describe any existing conditions, constraints, or challenges encountered before or during the project or service, and how they were addressed.
- ✓ How did the completed work or ongoing service successfully meet the client's goals and expectations?
- ✓ On a scale of 1 - 10, how would you rate the overall complexity or level of difficulty of the project or service?
- ✓ List which elements of the project your company self-performed and which elements were subcontracted.

Choose the best photos. Submit high-resolution photos in JPEG format. Include before photos whenever possible, as they are important to the judging process. Limit drone images to no more than one or two per entry. Photos should primarily feature work that was self-performed by the company. Clean properties before photo shoots. Do not include company names, logos, or any other branding on submitted images.

Create a photo caption for each photo. Provide a clear, concise description of what is in the photo. This is your opportunity to walk the judges through the project as if they were touring the property in person.

For Design/Build projects only - Include a detailed design plan in PDF format. Please make sure there is no company name/logo on the design plan.

Review your entry. Details matter and make a difference between award levels. Check for any spelling and grammatical errors.

» Congratulations! «

Finish these steps, submit the entry fee, and your award entry will be complete.



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For more information and to enter, visit
landscapeprofessionals.org/aoe



IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, OR NEED ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT:



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