



# LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM 2024





Pathways Park at Roswell Park  
Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Fisher Associates  
ASLA Honor Award  
Buffalo, NY  
Assembly District 141  
Senate District 63  
Photo Credit: Elizabeth Felicella

## CONTENTS

Climate Resilient New York Act of 2024	p. 4
CHIPS Funding for Bicycle Lanes & Greenway Trails	p. 6
Complete Streets Design Guidelines	p. 8
Continuing Education for Landscape Architects	p. 10
IDA Open Space Preservation & Improvement Grants	p. 12
Park Accessibility & Sustainability Grants	p. 14
Urban Reforestation Act	p. 16



Lakeshore Retreat  
Wagner Hodgson Landscape  
Architecture  
ASLA Honor Award  
Carmel, NY  
Assembly District 94  
Senate District 40

Photo Credit: Wagner Hodgson



# CLIMATE RESILIENT NEW YORK ACT of 2024

## SUPPORT

and Executive Law

S.8158 Harckham  
No Same As

We support the Climate Resilient New York Act of 2024 which establishes the Office of Resilience, a Chief Resilience Officer, and a Resilience Task Force to assess and identify climate-related threats and develop a statewide resilience plan.

Task Forces and officers can work with Landscape Architects to identify and educate about climate threats. For example, at the tip of Manhattan, The Battery Playscape is a new play area that promotes ecological literacy in children.

The designers responded to the destruction caused by Superstorm Sandy, and weaved ecology and climate resilience narratives into a challenging and vibrant play experience that is educating the next generation.

Battery Playscape  
Starr Whitehouse Landscape  
Architects and Planners PLLC  
ASLA Honor Award  
New York, NY  
Assembly District 61  
Senate District 27)

Photo credit: Sahar Coston-Hardy





# CHIPS FUNDING FOR BICYCLE LANES and GREENWAY TRAILS

## SUPPORT

and Highway Law

A.8273 Fahy  
S.7890 Harkham

We support this bill which revises the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (“CHIPS”) formula to include bicycle lane and greenway trail mileage and allows CHIPS funds to be used for the purpose of constructing or maintaining bicycle lanes, greenway trails, and other multi-use trails.

The current program prevents New York localities from prioritizing bicycle lanes in their jurisdictions. Given that bicycling is an affordable, low-carbon mode of transportation, this legislation is needed to ensure that New York State is encouraging investment in safe, accessible bicycle lanes.

Additionally, allowing localities to invest in non-motorized use trails provides New Yorkers with increased opportunities for recreation and associated public health benefits.

Erie Harbor Enhancements Phase II:  
Genesee Gateway Park  
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.  
Rochester, NY  
Assembly District 138  
Senate District 56

Photo Credit: Olivia Perrins





# COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM



We support this legislation that amends highway law to expand the consideration of complete street design principles in transportation projects. The bill requires that all transportation projects consider convenient access and mobility for all users of all ages, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, and motorists. This will be accomplished by utilizing complete street design features during such projects' planning, design, construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, maintenance, and pavement recycling. Complete street design principles improve safety, accessibility, and mobility for all users. The bill also outlines circumstances where complete street design features may not be necessary.

For example, The South Campus Area Streetscapes Plan spatially examines and illustrates the potential for streetscape improvements, mixed-use development opportunities, and better organization of building masses, pedestrian spaces, vehicular circulation and public transportation infrastructure. The multi-jurisdictional project area includes neighborhoods within the Town of Amherst and City of Buffalo.





# CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

## SUPPORT and Education Law

We support this bill to modernize the section of law regulating continuing education for Landscape Architects licensed and registered in New York State. Mandatory continuing education for Landscape Architecture was signed into law as chapter 638 of 2005. Since that time, such factors as a burgeoning use of on-line educational opportunities have revolutionized the manner in which continuing education programs are offered.

This bill seeks to give landscape architects flexibility and capability to take full advantage of these opportunities. The carry-over provision is consistent with the laws in other states and laws that regulate other professions in New York. Similar updates to mandatory continuing education were recently signed into law for professional engineering, land surveying, geology (ch.260 of 2020), and architecture (ch.578 of 2021). This bill will:

- authorize the State Education Department (SED) to provide an adjustment or full exemption from continuing education for good cause.
- increase flexibility for continuing education activities. This section would also allow up to six credits to be transferred from one registration period to the next.
- allow Landscape Architects to take courses in architecture, engineering, interior design, land surveying, and geology, so long as the courses contribute to the practice of Landscape Architecture and meet the standards prescribed by the commissioner.



Brooklyn Botanic Garden  
Michael Van Valkenburgh  
Associates, Inc.  
ASLA Award of Excellence  
Brooklyn, NY  
Assembly District 44  
Senate District 20

Photo Credit: Michael Van  
Valkenburgh Associates, Inc.



# IDA OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION & IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

## SUPPORT

S.3312 Skoufis  
A.6931 Thiele

We support this bill, which allows industrial development agencies to make grants to municipalities for open space preservation, parkland improvements, and conservation easements where the municipal governing body finds that the grant encourages tourism or otherwise improves the quality of life.

Permitting industrial development agencies to provide funding opportunities for open space, parkland preservation, and land conservation will provide opportunities for growth in the tourism industry and will protect New York State's important agricultural resources. "Agrotourism," the intersection of agriculture and tourism, has proven to be an important economic development driver throughout New York State, including the Hudson Valley area, in terms of jobs and revenue. Typically, large scale commercial development occurs on farmland because of its clear and flat topography, making it an ideal locale for new projects. This legislation will establish a funding mechanism to prevent future loss of this irreplaceable resource.



Waterman Conservation Center  
Green Infrastructure Project  
Delta Engineers  
ASLA Merit Award  
Apalachin, NY  
Assembly District 124  
Senate District 58

Photo Credit: Amanda Scholl



# PARK ACCESSIBILITY & SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS

## SUPPORT

and Arts and Cultural Affairs Law

A.526 Carroll No Same As

Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center  
Colliers Engineering & Design  
Albany, NY  
Assembly District 109  
Senate District 43

2024 Merit Award

Photo Credit: Colliers Engineering & Design

We support this bill to establish 10 regional councils that will administer competitive accessibility and sustainability grants for regional arts, cultural institutions, and parks.

The arts are an integral driver of the state's economy and serve as critical assets to communities. Given the large number of people employed and served by our cultural spaces, arts institutions, and parks, the return on investment in regards to sustainability will have significant impact to our state's overall energy footprint.

The much-needed accessibility improvements will greatly benefit seniors and differently abled people making use of museums, and art and recreational spaces, allowing greater access to our cultural treasures for both citizens and tourists, enhancing appreciation for the arts, improving educational participation, and providing associated economic benefits.





# URBAN REFORESTATION ACT

## SUPPORT

and Highway Law,  
State Finance Law,  
Environmental  
Conservation Law

A. 1780    McMahon  
S. 8825    May

We support this bill, the Urban Reforestation Act (URA), which amends three existing laws. These amendments create work standards and direction for hiring of forestry roles with the funds collected by fees assessed on billboards. The Bill mentions the need for specific roles involved in urban reforestation, mainly professional foresters (someone who graduated from a school of forestry or is accredited by a professional forestry association). The necessity for these specific roles is justified by the specificity of the actions required to implement urban reforestation. These activities include conservation, tree planting, pruning, and maintenance-covering the entire lifecycle of reforestation from planning to maturity. It also specifies key roles to be hired such as professional foresters. Finally, the URA directs fund allocation based on population size, population density, and need for vegetation planting and maintenance.

Seascape  
LaGuardia Design Group  
ASLA Honor Award  
Sagaponack, NY  
Assembly District 01  
Senate District 01

Photo Credit: Anthony Crisafulli



EASTERN LONG ISLAND  
NATIVE MEADOW PLANTING





**Landscape Architects are ready to be active partners to aid the State of New York in achieving its goals!**

Landscape Architecture is the primary profession responsible for the *“Development of land areas where, and to the extent that the dominant purpose of such services is the preservation, enhancement or determination of proper land uses, natural land features, ground cover and planting, naturalistic and aesthetic values, the settings, approaches or environment for structures or other improvements, natural drainage and the consideration and determination of inherent problems of the land relating to the erosion, wear and tear, blight or other hazards.”* (NYS Title 48-Practice Act)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**



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Battery Playscape  
Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects  
and Planners PLLC  
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Photo Credit: © Sahar Coston-Hardy/

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