



Firm Profile

Heritage Landscapes LLC is a national and international leader in revitalizing heritage assets and sustaining communities. Heritage assets are sustainable. We work at the entangled intersection of culture and nature, economy and society, partnering with respected clients and colleagues to promote recognition and stewardship of the diverse values of shared places, vessels of heritage. Appreciating quality of life and authentic experience, we employ a range of preservation and green design tools to reclaim the legacies of historic places. Communities and their public landscapes are a collective inheritance, given by past generations, for our experience and toward the enrichment of the unborn. Through documentary research and holistic assessment, we to decode design intent and human influences toward expressing the multiple values of landscape within the realistic opportunities and constraints of our times.

Making well-considered interventions, we sustain, repair, reuse, update and revitalize significant places through planning and projects. With deep appreciation for these combined works of humanity and nature, we seek to imbue urban and rural communities and places with vitality, sustainability and resilience, integrating low-impact design, alternative energy, and other contemporary issues while respecting heritage to enhancing meaning and access for all.

Celebrating 29 years of exceptional work, Heritage Landscapes LLC is a woman-owned professional firm and small business with offices in Charlotte, VT and Norwalk, CT. Since 1987, we have focused on integrating heritage and sustainability for communities and cultural landscapes completing over 500 successful projects, including 4 World Heritage sites, some 40 National Historic Landmarks, and garnering 79 professional awards.

Varied planning and landscape architecture scopes address community, civic, campus, park, parkway, linear corridor, museum, estate, historic site, cemetery and residential heritage assets. Our diverse body of work encompasses heritage local national and international importance. Project scopes range from cultural landscape research to construction administration addressing historic research, existing conditions, analysis, community outreach, design, interpretation, heritage tourism, management, and construction documents. Products include focused reports, comprehensive plans and guidelines, signage, brochures, fundraising materials, staff and volunteer information, construction documents, strategic plans, management plans, and maintenance calendars. Heritage Landscapes embraces all aspects of the vitality and relevance of valued heritage. We are effective collaborators joining with teams and clients to revitalize heritage assets and sustain communities.



Camden Harbor Park restoration and new access design, Heritage Landscapes, 2002-2005

Heritage Landscapes LLC

Preservation Planners & Landscape Architects

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Our Approach

We begin projects by understanding the tangible and intangible values inherent in and ascribed to cultural properties and their historic evolution. Informed by the project mission and goals and the landscape program, we conduct our work in partnership with owners, stewards and stakeholders toward safeguarding, modifying to suit current needs, communicating about and planning to ensure the perpetuation of historically significant cultural landscapes. Our work is fully informed by national and international preservation standards, guidelines, charters and declarations. Projects conform to the precepts and treatment concepts of federal guidance, and local and regional advice. We integrate current best practices appropriately to respond to and innovate on green objectives.

Though treasured for their tangible and intangible values, the viability of cultural landscapes depends on effective initiatives that honor unique character, promote full use, foster enjoyment, and incorporate multiple aspects of sustainability. A holistic approach to sustainable design addresses cultural, natural, societal, and economic aspects of planning and projects for this and future generations. For example, at Shelburne Farms, National Historic Landmark, we guided unobtrusive solar orchard siting with trail and school bus access for informational visits. Understanding places across the fourth dimension - time past, present, future - is at the root of suitable yet innovative solutions.

Grounded in cultural landscape values and we embrace principles of sustainability, functionality, aesthetics and communication. Preservation is inherently green, and is reinforced with contemporary green practices in our work. The convergence of cultural and natural resource considerations is a pivotal element that incorporates a solid understanding of integrated systems and processes.

To reinforce respect for public landscapes, we seek to communicate messages about the heritage property and its cultural or historic values, to communities and visitors through varied media, including design cues, focal elements, signs, brochures, digital tours, etc. Because public landscapes are places for people of all abilities to experience and enjoy, we are committed to providing universal access by redesigning circulation systems in a manner that respects historic landscape character. Based on our extensive work in landscape management we provide our clients with approaches that incorporate maintenance issues, providing change management tools and maintenance schedules for efficient human resources use. A holistic research, analysis and design approach addresses multiple issues simultaneously to yield place-based, traditional, and durable materials with a grace of application and detail. Our interest is in visionary, yet realistic planning and projects that add vibrancy to valued places and are readily implemented.



NPS National Mall Turf & Soils Restoration phase 1 underway fall 2013, Heritage Landscapes, HOK team leader

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Context for Success

Our historical knowledge has been enriched over time through study of varied types, scales and significances of landscapes we have learned from and improved. As a result, we understand origins and evolution of communities, sites, vernacular and designed landscapes bringing a broadly researched context to all our works. World Heritage projects for Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, Birmingham, Alabama, Intramuros, Manila and India's heritage cities engage living cities, heritage assets, development, governance, for integrated sustainability and change management. Our urban work on systems of public spaces, parks, and parkways for Baltimore, Rochester, Fort Wayne, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Chicago provides opportunities for research, planning and implementation projects that address a valued nation-wide legacy, applying best practices in preservation and sustainability.

Exploring public institutions and government campuses at Washington DC Capitol Square, Senate Parks, National Mall, and the Capitols at Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming, has provided a firm foundation in iconic public landscapes to resolve current issues. Commissions for historic city and inter-city parkways garnered a context for parkway design, principles, and evolution.

We have investigated the grounds of notable figures in American history at Abraham Lincoln's Home and Cottage, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest and University of Virginia, Washington Irving's Sunnyside, Elisabet Ney's Formosa, James Deering's Vizcaya, Pierre S. du

Pont's Longwood, and Ernest Hemingway's Finca Vigia, Cuba. Expertise in modern works was gained through commissions on Fletcher Steele's Garden Amphitheatre, Frank Lloyd Wright's Graycliff and Tiranna, Louis I. Kahn's Bathhouse and Day Camp, John O. Simonds' Mellon Square, Russel Wright's Manitoga, and the 1969 Woodstock Festival historic site.

Our work on military properties, like Valley Forge, the Continental Army Winter Encampment, Conanicut Battery on Narragansett Bay, Redoubts at West Point, and the York and James Peninsula Revolutionary and Civil War sites, informs our understanding of military history and landscape character. Likewise, cemeteries, monument grounds, places of commemoration, and religious pilgrimage sites embody enduring social values that are expressed in the landscape.

Recent landscape management frameworks for the Joseph Smith Birthplace, The Cummer Museum and Gardens, and the gardens at Vizcaya bring landscape curation to new levels underpinning quality of experience and sound stewardship. We bring a depth and breadth of knowledge to each new project.

Studies of heritage assets in relation to contemporary utility proposals have resulted in reviews of potential adverse impacts to community and corridor heritage. New York's Cooperstown region review addressed a large wind project proposal. For New Hampshire consideration of a power transmission corridor assessed historic and cultural landscape resources.



Restored Modernist Mellon Square prompted adjacent investments, view by Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

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Collaboration & Teamwork

Collaboration is the key to excellent results. Our diverse clients include international organizations, not-for-profit entities, citizen advocacy groups, museums and institutions, private owners and municipal, state and federal agencies. We consider clients as full partners in project work, articulating goals, shaping project programs, providing data on staffing and funding capabilities, clarifying community and visitor issues, weighing alternatives, and making decisions. As effective members of interdisciplinary teams, we serve in both team leader and subconsultant roles. Award-winning work is an outcome of a well-informed, talented, creative and dedicated team. Our plans, implementation strategies, sustainable practices and management guidance all ensure that multiple needs are met as cultural, fiscal, environmental, social and recreational values are incorporated.

Working as preservation professionals, guidance from national and international regulations and advisory documents applies and is a required framework for planning and action. It is especially important in interdisciplinary project

teams that our combined efforts align to preservation guidance that requires respectful intervention. As project teams are formed we hope to begin from a shared understanding and seek clarity on project intent and objectives that set the agenda toward an atmosphere of open communication, creative collaboration and mutual respect.

Our expertise is in research, inventory, assessment, evaluation, preservation, design and management of cultural landscapes of all types. Sometimes landscape preservation goals will appear to oppose other project goals. Creative attention to "win-win" solutions can generally reach an acceptable outcome. We are fully willing and able to work toward these integrated solutions. Our three decades of endeavors reveals that great teams create award-winning works. Collaborating with our clients, partners, teams, stakeholders, community leaders and the engaged public, Heritage Landscapes envisions a positive, informative and satisfying future for heritage of all types that sustains culture, ecology, economy and community.



Mt. Zion historic neighborhood Somers, NY is centered around this historic hilltop church.

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