

Part 535 – Landscape Architecture

535.0 General

NRCS conservation and project work results in noticeable and permanent changes to the landscape across the United States on millions of acres. On a national scale, the public need for conservation of landscape resources becomes more important as development, population, and management pressures increase. Federal legislation recognizes the need for landscape resource conservation.

535.1 Scope

NRCS policy is to maintain or enhance landscape resources. The basic principles of landscape architecture are to be applied as an integral part of all engineering work. They must be considered early in planning and continued through design, construction, operation, and maintenance to ensure safe, appropriate, cost effective, functional, and efficient results.

535.2 Definitions

Landscape Architecture.—The science of planning and designing the landscape for sustainable use and the conservation of landscape resources. It is an integrating discipline that links biophysical sciences, engineering, and sociopolitical sciences into holistic site and landscape-scale designs. Landscape architecture evaluates traits, patterns, and structure of geographic areas, including the biological and physical characteristics and its social and economic relationships.

535.3 NRCS Technical Assistance for Landscape Architecture

- A. Landscape resource planning procedures must be performed in accordance with Technical Release Number 65 (TR-65), “Procedures to Establish Landscape Resource Priorities.”
- B. If additional assessments are necessary, NRCS landscape architects, or the landscape architectural services of private firms or individuals can be used for both planning and design. Sponsors and governmental institutions that have specialized landscape resource planning capabilities may also be used.
- C. Other inventories, investigations, and studies of the landscape resources may be required in special situations, such as when a project is located within the viewshed of a property on the National Register of Historic Places.