

# THE INFORMED Consumer



## HOW TO HIRE A LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

Finding a landscape contractor is not a difficult task, but assessing the qualifications and business practices of an individual or a company can require substantial effort on the part of the consumer. The State of Illinois and most of its municipalities do not define nor regulate the work of landscape contractors, which puts the burden of responsibility and risk on the consumer.

Consumers in Illinois can look to **Landscape Illinois** to find qualified, reputable, and insured professionals providing all manner of landscape and exterior services. Through Landscape Illinois, members obtain training and continuing education in both technical and business skills to enhance their business practices and the professionalism of their employees. The more than 800-member firms across the state have unparalleled access to research, publications and product information, as well as an open-line of communication to product manufacturers, educators and researchers.

### How We Stand Apart

- ☐ We are members of Landscape Illinois.
- ☐ We carry workers compensation insurance and business liability insurance appropriate to our operation, and for the entire duration of the project.
- ☐ We are appropriately licensed to do the type of work proposed in your community.
- ☐ We comply with all state and federal labor laws.
- ☐ We employ state-licensed pesticide applicators to apply chemicals when necessary.
- ☐ We employ staff who are properly trained and qualified to operate the machinery used.
- ☐ We provide a written estimate that details the cost of your improvement, the materials being used, and our contractual obligations.
- ☐ We can provide a portfolio of our work as well as references.

WHAT CAN A LANDSCAPE ILLINOIS MEMBER DO FOR YOU?

#### CONSTRUCTION

- Plant Installation
- Retaining Walls
- Excavating & Grading
- Carpentry & Decks
- Landscape Lighting
- Stone, Brick & Concrete Masonry
- Fences & Gates
- Green Roofs & Walls
- Patios, Driveways, Walks
- Irrigation Systems
- Erosion/Flood Control

#### HORTICULTURE

- Tree Care/Arborist
- Soil Preparation
- Weed, Insect & Disease Control
- Nursery Sales
- Ecological Plantings

#### MAINTENANCE

- Lawn Mowing
- Weeding, Fertilizing, Core Aeration
- Pruning
- Mulching
- Spring & Fall Clean-Up
- Annuals & Containers
- Holiday Lighting
- Snow Removal

#### DESIGN

- Site Analysis
- Outdoor Kitchens & Living Areas
- Vegetable and Perennial Gardens
- Sport Courts
- Pools & Spas
- Water Features
- Fireplaces & Fire Pits