

Awards Entry Kit

NJNLA Landscape Awards 2026



Why You Should Enter...

All landscape award winners will be announced at Total Pro Expo on January 26-27, 2027 in Edison, New Jersey with a lunchtime reception, and award-winning projects will displayed during the two day conference, giving you added exposure & congratulations from your peers! Plus, the Grand Award winning project will:

- Be featured on the front cover of the Total Pro Expo program guide,
- Be the background photo on the home page of the NJNLA website, &
- Be featured in the NJNLA Awards Program, distributed at the Annual Awards Dinner, Total Pro Expo, digitally and thru social media!

New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association
www.njnla.org | 609-291-7070 | Contact: njnla.office@gmail.com

The NJNLA is proud to showcase the outstanding projects done by our members in the areas of design, build, maintenance, ecological, and special projects! The awards program gives us the chance to create greater public awareness of the professional landscape community and show off the great work that you do. Why not boast about the quality of your work by entering the Annual NJNLA Landscape Awards Program?

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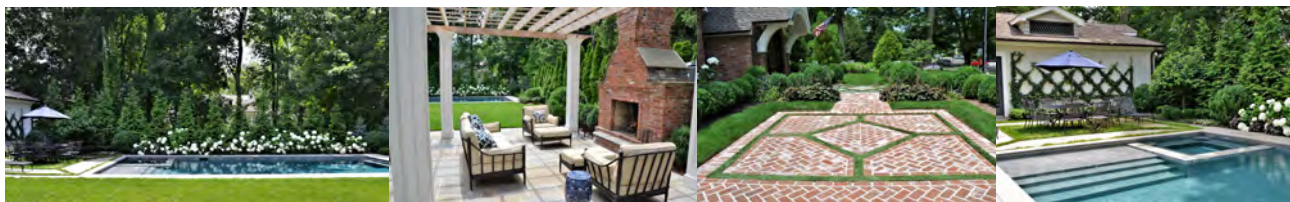
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There's More!

- Use your NJNLA Landscape Awards to promote the quality work you do to prospective customers.
- Take advantage of our award notification press releases and videos – show clients that you are an award-winning landscape professional!
- Come to Total Pro Expo to witness your award-winning projects displayed for over 2000 professionals to see. Award winning companies and projects will be recognized and celebrated during a lunch reception at Total Pro Expo.
- The Grand Award winner will earn the privilege of being featured on the **front cover** of the program guide for Total Pro Expo, the NJNLA Awards Program **AND on the newly-designed NJNLA website.**

It's time to enter the NJNLA Landscape Awards Program!

More information online at www.njnla.org



Program Rules and Tips!

Eligibility Requirements

Only NJNLA members are eligible for entry (*new members only can join now and receive the rest of 2026 & ALL of 2027 for one low fee*). Submitted projects can be entered up to five years after installation. Any project is eligible in which the entrant has executed or designed the major portion of that project. Projects that have previously been awarded an NJNLA Landscape Award are not eligible. The project does not need to be located in New Jersey. Intent to enter form must be sent *with payment* by **Friday, October 23rd**. Completed entries (photos, plan & descriptions) are due **Friday, November 20th**.

Judging & Awards

For each of the levels below, one (1) Excellence Award and one (1) Merit Award will be *considered*. If there are no submissions that meet the pre-determined judging criteria in a particular category, no award will be given.

Design/Build Awards

Design/Build projects will be judged on overall design, use of plant material, the quality of design, and hardscape construction details. Unique site challenges and unusual circumstances will be a factored into the judges' decision-making, so be sure to highlight them in your entry!

Residential Levels (Job Value):

- R-1: \$10,000—\$25,000
- R-2: \$25,001—\$50,000
- R-3: \$50,001—\$100,000
- R-4: \$100,001—\$150,000
- R-5: \$150,001—\$250,000
- R-6: \$250,001 - \$500,000
- R-7: \$500,000 - \$1,000,000
- R+: \$1,000,000 & Up

Commercial Levels:

- C-1: Residential Community
- C-2: Public Facility (including Golf Courses!)
- C-3: Private/Business
- C-4: Institutional/School

Maintenance Awards (Min. 2 yrs. Continual Maintenance)

Landscape Maintenance projects will be judged on quality of work performed, including proper pruning techniques, clean edging and bedlines. Lawns should be lush. Beds, lawns, curbs and sidewalks should be free of weeds and debris, with an overall healthy appearance. Special consideration will be given for seasonal displays.

M-1: Residential Maintenance

M-2: Commercial Maintenance

Special Categories

SHOW: Temporary Display/Exhibition/Flower Show (*only one entry per company please*)

STUDENT: Student Award (*Matriculated students only, no professional work please*)

LIGHT: Landscape Lighting

WATER: Water Feature (*no pools or pool related features*) – Can include irrigation work

CHARITY: Donation/Charity

ECOLOGICAL: Ecological Project (i.e., pollinator or rain garden)

In addition to Excellence and Merit Awards, one **Grand Award** and one **First Time Entry** will be awarded from among all of the entries.

Copyrights and Client Permission

The entrant assumes the responsibility for copyrights, photographic fees and client permission for further use of images by the NJNLA for public relations purposes. The NJNLA is not responsible for the pictures selected or any edited copy used from the press package sent to the media. Entries become the property of the NJNLA and may be used for publication or for any other purpose the association deems appropriate.

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Simple Entry Process

Entry Fee

Each Intent to Enter form (one per project entered) must be accompanied by an entry fee based on the schedule detailed on page 5.

Recognition

Winning recipients will be honored and their awards announced at Total Pro Expo on January 26-27, 2027 in Edison, New Jersey with a lunchtime reception, and award-winning projects will displayed during the two-day conference, giving you added exposure & congratulations from your peers! One complimentary commemorative plaque is provided; additional plaques are available for purchase. Press releases on winning entrants are supplied to companies upon request. .

Jury and Judging

A jury of professionals from various segments of the green industry will be assembled to judge the award entries. Judges will be asked to rate the projects in the following categories:

- ✓ Overall (Design or Maintenance): 30 points
- ✓ Use of/Maintenance of Plant Material: 15 points
- ✓ Use of Hardscape/Built Structure: 15 points
- ✓ Quality of Plan/Presentation: 10 points
- ✓ Quality of Workmanship: 10 points
- ✓ Use of Design Principles and Elements: 10 points
- ✓ "I just like it": 10 points.

Lighting and water feature special awards will be judged similarly, with emphasis placed on those features. Donation/Charity and Ecological Projects will be judged on their horticultural quality and societal or ecological benefit.

The project receiving the largest total point score will receive the Grand Award, regardless of category. More than one Grand Award may be given.

- ☐ Complete and submit the Intent to Enter form found on the next page or online. Form must be received, with payment, no later than **Friday, October 23rd**.
- ☐ Prepare and submit your entry by **Friday, November 20th**. All entries should be submitted by either memory stick or uploaded to Dropbox with a link sent to njnla.director@gmail.com. Entries **must** include:
 - ◇ Digital photos of the project (each photo must be labeled to indicate the order of the photos – i.e., Photo1, Photo2, etc.). Try to include “before & after” photos and **be sure to remove company name/logo from all photos**. Photo descriptions should be included in the brief description document.
 - ◇ Design/Build projects **must** include a plan (digital image is sufficient).
 - ◇ Brief description (150 words or less) of the project including any unique site challenges or unusual circumstances. Maintenance submissions should include a list of services that you provide. Please submit the description as a **WORD document**.
 - ◇ Videos or drone photography are encouraged!
- ☐ Attend Total Pro Expo to see your award-winning projects displayed for over 2000 professionals to see. Award winning companies and projects will be recognized and celebrated during a lunch reception at Total Pro Expo. Be sure to bring your crew!

Very important - Be sure that all company names are removed from photos, landscape plans, etc. Entries with company names included may be disqualified.



Intent to Enter Form

Please complete **one copy of this form for each project entered**. Instructions for electronic submission of projects will then be sent.
Save time - this form is also available online! Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR Code to fill out your Intent to Enter online.

FIRM INFORMATION

Company Name: _____
Company Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Office Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Fax: _____ Email: _____



Scan to Enter Online!

Is this your first time entering the Landscape Awards Program? Y / N

Project Owners Consent: ☐ Yes, the owner of this project is aware of my firm's intent to enter it in the NJNLA Landscape Awards Program and consents to the same.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Name of Project: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Year of Installation: _____
Designer/Landscape Architect: _____
Was any portion of this project (i.e. pools, walls, walks, etc.) installed by someone other than the submitting contract: Y/N (if yes which portions?) _____

This project should be considered for the following award (one category ONLY) - (R=Residential, C=Commercial, M=Maintenance):

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ R-1: \$10 to \$25k | ☐ R+: \$1 million & up (New!) | ☐ SHOW: Temporary/Exhibition | Extra Savings Add-ons: |
| ☐ R-2: \$25 to \$50k | | ☐ STUDENT: Student Award | ☐ NJNLA Membership (\$295.) |
| ☐ R-3: \$50k-100k | ☐ C-1: Residential Community | ☐ LIGHT: Lighting | ☐ Discounted Tickets to Total Pro Expo |
| ☐ R-4: \$100k-150k | ☐ C-2: Public Facility (i.e. golf) | ☐ WATER: Water Feature | (Jan 26-27, 2027): ____ tickets x \$20 |
| ☐ R-5: \$150k-250k | ☐ C-3: Private/Business | ☐ CHARITY: Donation/Charity | TOTAL: \$ _____ |
| ☐ R-6: \$250k-500k | ☐ M-1: Maintenance/Residential | Project | Enter total add-ons below. |
| ☐ R-7: \$500k-\$1m | ☐ M-2: Maintenance/Facility | ☐ ECOLOGICAL: Ecological Project | |

Please return this form to NJNLA, along with entry fee as indicated below:

☐ One Project: \$135 ☐ 2-3 Projects: \$99/submission ☐ 4 or More Projects: \$85/submission (**one form for each project, please**)

NJNLA Membership (**New Members** – Join Now for 2026 & *all of 2027*) - \$295 = \$ _____

Total Number of Award Entries: _____ (one project per form) = \$ _____

Discounted Tickets to Total Pro Expo (Jan 26-27, 2027): _____ x \$20/person = \$ _____

(Save \$20 on Total Pro Expo Tickets – Purchase Now!) **TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____**

Payment may be by check made out to “NJNLA” or by credit card (complete form below):

By Mail: NJNLA, PO Box 183 Bordentown, NJ 08505

By Fax: 609-291-1121

By Email: njnla.office@gmail.com

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Billing Address (if different): _____

CV# _____ Card Type: ☐ Amex ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

