LANDSCAPE AND URBAN PLANNING
An International Journal of Landscape Science, Planning and Design

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Description p.1
- Audience p.1
- Impact Factor p.1
- Abstracting and Indexing p.2
- Editorial Board p.2
- Guide for Authors p.5

DESCRIPTION

Landscape and Urban Planning is an international journal aimed at advancing conceptual, scientific, and applied understandings of landscape in order to promote sustainable solutions for landscape change. Landscapes are visible and integrative social-ecological systems with variable spatial and temporal dimensions. They have expressive aesthetic, natural, and cultural qualities that are perceived and valued by people in multiple ways and invite actions resulting in landscape change. Landscapes are increasingly urban in nature and ecologically and culturally sensitive to changes at local through global scales. Multiple disciplines and perspectives are required to understand landscapes and align social and ecological values to ensure the sustainability of landscapes. The journal is based on the premise that landscape science linked to planning and design can provide mutually supportive outcomes for people and nature.

Landscape science brings landscape ecology and urban ecology together with other disciplines and cross-disciplinary fields to identify patterns and understand social-ecological processes influencing landscape change. Landscape planning brings landscape architecture, urban and regional planning, landscape and ecological engineering, and other practice-oriented fields to bear in processes for identifying problems and analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating desirable alternatives for landscape change. Landscape design brings plans, designs, management prescriptions, policies and other activities and form-giving products to bear in effecting landscape change. The implementation of landscape planning and design also generates new patterns of evidence and hypotheses for further research, providing an integral link with landscape science and encouraging transdisciplinary collaborations to build robust knowledge and problem solving capacity.

AUDIENCE

Landscape planners, landscape architects, landscape conservationists, ecologists, urban planners, urban ecologists and land managers.

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Introductory Note: This Guide for Authors for Landscape and Urban Planning includes revisions to the Aims and Scope, Article Types, and Special Issue policies discussed in editorials published in Vols. 105-106 (2012) of the journal. These can be individually accessed free of charge through the Editor's Choice link on the journal's web page: http://www.journals.elsevier.com/landscape-and-urban-planning/ or as a compiled package available from the Editorial Office by contacting LAND@Elsevier.com. Authors seeking further information about the journal’s broad policy directions should consult these editorials, but for up-to-date details on specific aspects of manuscript submissions should rely on the online version of this Guide for Authors.

-The Editors

1. Aims and Scope

Landscape and Urban Planning is an international journal aimed at advancing conceptual, scientific, and applied understandings of landscape in order to promote sustainable solutions for landscape change. Landscapes are visible and integrative social-ecological systems with variable spatial and temporal dimensions. They have expressive aesthetic, natural, and cultural qualities that are perceived and valued by people in multiple ways and invite actions resulting in landscape change. Landscapes are increasingly urban in nature and ecologically and culturally sensitive to changes at local through global scales. Multiple disciplines and perspectives are required to understand landscapes and align social and ecological values to ensure the sustainability of landscapes. The journal is based on the premise that landscape science linked to planning and design can provide mutually supportive outcomes for people and nature.

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2. Article Types

Landscape and Urban Planning publishes original, empirical research on important international and regional issues in landscape science, with an emphasis on applied work that provides solutions for landscape design. Most manuscript submissions take the form of full-length Research Papers. Shorter Research Notes are also encouraged as described below. To facilitate the discourse of landscape science and design, a limited number of articles of other types will also be considered for peer review upon approval by one of the Co-Editors-in-Chief prior to submission.

2.1. Research Papers

Given the problem-driven nature of landscape science and the journal’s commitment to linking research and practice, most Research Paper submissions will fall within the area of applied research. Purely conceptual or theoretical work will be considered on a limited basis under the Perspective Essay article type (see below). Otherwise, Research Papers focused on modeling and other "basic" research efforts should include at least a small sample of data to demonstrate proof-of-concept. Whether basic or applied, all Research Papers should describe the relevance of the work and its implications for landscape and urban planning, design, management and/or policy. Research Papers are typically between 4000 and 8000 words, including manuscript text and references (use 25-60 references as a guideline). Some exceptions to the upper length limit may be allowed for reports of large-scale interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects or for qualitative research where in-text quotations provide evidence in lieu of tables and figures. An abstract (250 words or less), keywords (3-6), and research highlights (3-5) are also required. Tables and figures should be used with economy to convey essential aspects about study concepts and findings. One or two contextual photos may be optionally included as figures to convey to readers the essential nature of the landscape and issues examined in the article. Other informative materials may also be optionally submitted, including Appendices, Acknowledgments, short Author Biographies, Graphical Abstracts, Google Maps (KML files), Embedded Audio and Video files, and Supplementary Material for online-only publication (see Section 3.8 below).
2.2. Research Notes
A Research Note is a concise but complete description of a limited investigation that will not be included in a later paper. It provides one of the following functions: (1) presenting initial proof-of-concept results on new ideas, timely issues, or innovative approaches; (2) reporting replications or extensions of previously published research that does not merit another full-length treatment yet provides results that contribute to a greater understanding of the phenomena under study. Research Notes should typically be limited to 2000 words and a total of 3 tables and figures, yet be sufficiently documented, both by reference to the essential literature and description of methods employed, for readers to be able to assess the scholarly rigor of the research. A Research Note should include a brief (150 words or less) abstract, keywords (3-6), and research highlights (3-5). The title of the submission should be prefaced with the words "Research Note."

2.3. Review Articles
Review Articles examine a coherent and comprehensive set of published research studies or other works (e.g., policies, reports, case studies) covering a subject area of current or emerging interest. They can take one of two forms: (1) Narrative Reviews identify, synthesize, and/or offer critical assessments of the state-of-the-art in knowledge about a subject, highlighting important concepts, variables, and theories under study, problems and knowledge gaps yet to be addressed, and guidance for future research. (2) Analytical Reviews involve systematic assessments of the literature, often using bibliographic database search and retrieval systems such as Scopus or Web of Science, alone or in combination with full-text searching, mining, and analysis software. These include Systematic Reviews and meta-analyses that follow a standardized format aimed at building a base of knowledge for evidence-based design (e.g., http://www.environmentalevidence.org/EBConservation.htm). They also include quantitative, bibliometric techniques such as citation analysis and qualitative analyses of content themes aimed at identifying the structure of and trends in knowledge about an area of inquiry. Review Articles are typically between 6000 and 10,000 words in length, including references and tables. Please include an abstract (250 words or less), keywords (3-6), and research highlights (3-5), and follow APA 6th Edition guidelines (Section 6.26) for referencing documents included in your analysis. Review Articles may be invited or offered but must be approved by one of the Co-Editors-in-Chief prior to submission. Those considering submitting a Review Article to the journal are encouraged to send a prospectus or attach a cover letter with their submission outlining the topic and scope of coverage; originality and need for the review; number, type (i.e., peer-reviewed journals vs. other document types), and international range of citations included; and a brief assessment of previously published reviews related to the topic.

2.4. Perspective Essays
Perspective Essays present new ideas or frameworks; challenge current thinking, policies, or approaches; or otherwise offer thoughtful reflections aimed at improving our understanding of the interactions between people and natural and built environments and their implications for landscape planning, design, management, and policy. Perspective Essays should be grounded in the existing literature and adequately referenced but with an emphasis on original thought rather than an exhaustive accounting of the ideas of others. Perspective Essays may range from 2000 to 8000 words in length with a limited number of tables and figures. Except for short essays, submissions should be structured with section headings that convey to readers key themes and a logical flow of ideas. An abstract (250 words or less), keywords (3-6), and highlights (3-5) are required. Perspective Essays may be invited or proposed but must be approved by one of the Co-Editors-in-Chief prior to submission.

2.5. Comments and rejoinders
A Comment is a critical or explanatory note on an article published in Landscape and Urban Planning. It may be invited or proposed but must be approved by one of the Co-Editors-in-Chief prior to submission. Comments should typically be of 2000 words or less with a limited number of references. Please include a short abstract (150 words or less), 3-5 highlights, and 3-6 keywords. The title of the submission should be prefaced with the words: "Comment on", followed by the title of the previously published article and the authors' names. Should one or more Comments be accepted for publication, the handling editor may invite the author(s) of the previously published article to write a Rejoinder, which may be published along with the Comments.

2.6. Editorials
The Co-Editors-in-Chief, Associate Editors, Editorial Board members, and invited guests may occasionally provide brief commentaries on significant issues of relevance to the journal’s aims and scope, introductory essays to special issues, as well as news and information relevant to the journal and its readers.

2.7. Book Reviews
The editorial team is not accepting books for review at this time. Please consult the online Guide for Authors for future updates.

2.8. Special Issues
A Special Issue (SI) in Landscape and Urban Planning is a coherent collection of 10-15 papers on a specific theme of research and scholarship that falls within the aims and scope of the journal and has a broad international appeal. Research Papers form the core of a Special Issue, but SIs are also given breadth and depth by an introductory Editorial and other article types which may include a Perspective Essay, Review Article, Research Notes, and Comments. SIs are proposed and orchestrated by a guest editor under the guidance of a member of the journal's editorial team, and are selected for development through a competitive process of proposal submission and evaluation. The journal's editors welcome innovative proposals of high quality and relevance from prospective individuals or teams, and may publish up to four SIs per year. Proposals are due July 1st of each year with selections announced in October. Information and proposal guidelines are available on the journal's web page: http://www.journals.elsevier.com/landscape-and-urban-planning/policies/.

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3. Manuscript Submission Process
The editorial staff of Landscape and Urban Planning will facilitate a double-blind peer review process for original manuscripts that meet the following requirements:

Fit within the aims and scope of the journal and conform to one of its article types. Are written in English and comply with ethical standards and formatting guidelines. Exhibit good scholarly qualities and research significance as assessed by an editor's initial "desk" review.
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The sections below correspond to the submission sections that can be found along the left-hand column throughout the online submission process.

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You will be asked to select the type of contribution you are submitting from a drop-down menu. Use the categories presented in Section 2. (Article Types) in this document as a guide.

3.3. Enter Title (required)
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3.4. Add / Edit / Remove Authors (required)
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3.5. Submit Abstract (required)
Provide a concise abstract (see length limit under Article Types) that clearly states the purposes of the research, methods, principal findings and conclusions, and key implications. An abstract is often viewed separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. References should be avoided and abbreviations (if necessary) must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

3.6. Enter Keywords (required)
Provide a maximum of 6 keywords specific to your submission. Choose terms carefully as the keywords will be used for indexing and database searching purposes. Limit keywords to one concept per keyword. Avoid entire phrases and repetition of the title. Only use abbreviations firmly established in the field. Separate keywords with semi-colons.

3.7. Additional Information (required)
3.7.1. Paper's Suitability - The authors should prepare a statement of 90 words or less regarding 1) the purpose and significance of the paper and 2) how the paper fits within the aims and scope of the journal.

3.7.2. Publishing Ethical Standards - We ask that authors carefully read each statement and state that their submission follows each ethical standard in the text boxes provided. Note that in the initial screening process, our editorial staff uses plagiarism software to check the originality of the entire manuscript as well as any publication history of parts of the manuscript. If evidence of any plagiarism is found, your manuscript will be immediately rejected.

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3.8. Suggest Reviewers (required)
We ask that authors suggest at least five reviewers based upon the key topics or approaches dealt with in the manuscript. The editorial staff selects appropriate reviewers from a number of different sources, including those suggested by the authors. Please ensure your suggested reviewers are geographically diverse, technically qualified to review your paper, and do not have any conflicts of interest regarding the authors or subject matter of the work. Conflicts of interest include (but are not limited to) current employment at same institution, close colleagues, industry sponsors, professional partnerships, past or present association as thesis/dissertation advisor or student, and direct collaborators on a project or major co-authors on a publication within the last 5 years. Prepare the following information for each suggested reviewer. Please ensure that the information you provide is accurate and up-to-date.

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3.8.2. Academic degree(s)
3.8.3. Institution
3.8.4. Current e-mail address
3.8.5. Country
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In the final part of the submission process, you will upload your documents into EVISE to complete your submission file. You may add or remove documents throughout the submission process. Please pay close attention to the technical requirements of these documents. This will ensure efficient processing and handling of your manuscript.

General formatting guidelines for all source files- All submission text files should be in doc or docx file formats (see below for figure and other multimedia file formats). Each of the documents below should be prepared and submitted as separate documents. Ensure that all text documents are letter sized (8.5" x 11") with 1-inch margins on all sides. Some exceptions will be made for tables that are better presented in landscape page orientation. All text must be in 12-point Times New Roman font with left-margin alignment. The Detailed Response to Reviewers (submitted for revised manuscripts) and Manuscript files should include plain page numbers (no running heads) in the upper right-hand corner of each page. If not otherwise specified, follow formatting and other style guidelines presented in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association-6th edition (hereafter, "APA 6th ed.")

3.9.1. Cover Letter (optional for new submissions, required for revised submissions) - Please use the cover letter to convey to the Editor any pertinent information about your submission not otherwise included in the required fields in the submission process (see Section 3.6). For example, some institutions require an internal or external "pre-review" of the manuscript for scholarly, statistical, or policy aspects prior to journal submission, and it would be helpful for the Editor to know this and, if appropriate, the names of the reviewers. Also, some authors send their papers through an in-house or professional editing service prior to submission, and mention of this would also be appropriate. Finally, if the submission is part of a larger research project or builds upon research that has already been published, please mention this work (including citations) and explain how your submission to this journal differs from it. Note that all new submissions are screened for plagiarism with iThenticate software, and an explanation could help the Editor understand the unique contribution of the submission when compared alongside similarly worded texts.

For revised submissions, authors must provide a cover letter addressed to the assigned editor explaining in general terms how they have addressed the reviewer comments. This letter is a different file than the Detailed Response to Reviewers (see below); it is not given to the reviewers and can be used by the author to explain any disagreements they may have with reviewer recommendations, how they resolved conflicting recommendations between reviews, and so on.

3.9.2. Complete Title Page (required for all submissions) - Following the format guidelines above, create a title page with the following components:

Full title All author names in order of authorship, with surnames (family names) in all CAPITAL letters. Affiliation and e-mail information for each author. Full contact information for corresponding author, including full postal address, phone number (with country code), and e-mail address. 3.9.3. Detailed Response to Reviewers (required for revised submissions) - Following the general formatting guidelines above, create a detailed response to reviewers using the editor and reviewer comments you received in your decision letter and (if any) those downloaded, from your account in EVISE. This file should not include any self-referencing, logos, headers or other identifying information.

There are no mandatory procedures for how authors should prepare their Detailed Response to Reviewers, and the editors see many creative uses of tables, text highlighted in color, and other ways that address reviewer concerns. But it is usually beneficial to the author to err on the side of being too detailed and comprehensive rather than vague, and it is always a good idea to maintain politeness and respect for the authority of the reviewer, even if you disagree with them on a point.

In structuring your response, it is usually the most helpful if authors summarize or copy/paste each major reviewer comment then respond to it. You should do so separately for each of the reviewers, and if more than one reviewer has the same comment it is fine to simply repeat the same response.
(some reviewers are only concerned about the issues they raise and will not look at the other review comments and your responses). If it is a substantive comment, authors will sometimes copy/paste the sentence/paragraph from their revised paper into their response, or summarize their change then refer to the specific line numbers in the revised paper where the reviewers can find it. For minor changes such as terminology, typos, new citations, etc., it is sufficient to reply "Done" or "Change made."

3.9.4. Highlights (required for all research paper submissions) - Follow the general formatting guidelines above to create your research highlights document. Highlights are important in communicating the main findings and implications of your research and will appear in article summaries in ScienceDirect and on the front page of published articles alongside the abstract, keywords, and optional graphical abstract. Make sure that the highlights are written as a series of 3-5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point). Each bullet point should contain brief sentences or phrases that describe the key findings and/or implications from the research, not the goals or methods. Highlights should complement the abstract, not duplicate it. See http://www.elsevier.com/highlights for examples.

3.9.5. Manuscript (required for all submissions) - We now offer the option of uploading your manuscript as a single text file in the style of your choice. References may be in any style as long as they are complete and consistent. Tables and Figures may be embedded at appropriate locations within the body of the manuscript or placed in order after the references. If preferred, authors may still upload new submissions using our standard format, which requires that you attach a separate file for the manuscript text and for each figure. Manuscript file requirements: Editable text file; single or double spaced (preferred) in easy-to-read font and size; left-justified single column; continuous line numbering; anonymity for blind peer review.

Manuscript formatting - In addition to the general formatting guidelines listed above, there are several specific requirements for the manuscript file. Please use double-spacing and ensure that each new paragraph is clearly indicated by a tab or blank line. Use continuous line numbering in the body of your manuscript only. Turn off line numbering for References, Table captions, Tables, and Figure captions; these sections may be single-spaced and each should begin on a new page. Your manuscript should be ordered as indicated in the list below:

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Length - Please refer to the word count guidelines in Section 2 (Article Types) above.

Manuscript structure and content - Except for short Perspective Essays and Comments, authors should include distinct sections in the manuscript using this numerical structure with up to three levels of subheadings: 1., 1.1., 1.1.1., 2, etc. Most manuscripts should follow a standard structure and content for research reporting:

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