



2009

## Environmental Improvement Awards Program

# CALL FOR ENTRIES

### PURPOSE

**The aim of the Michigan Green Industry Association Environmental Improvement Awards Program is as follows:**

1. To increase public awareness and reflect MGIA's commitment to environmental improvement through quality landscaping.
2. To recognize and encourage the landscape professional who executes superior landscaping through the use of quality materials, design, and workmanship.
3. To recognize the consumers.

We invite ALL contractors regardless of membership status to submit their work for award consideration.

### ELIGIBILITY

Landscape projects for which the entrant is responsible for the major portion of the work may be entered for judging in one of the following categories listed below. All entries must have had the largest portion of the work completed within the last three years to be eligible. Each entry must be accompanied by an entry fee (\$75 for MGIA members/\$125 non-members). In addition, projects which have previously received an award in a particular category cannot be re-entered in the same category.

### ENTRY CATEGORIES

- Residential Landscape Construction:**  
*Single Family Residence Only*
- Commercial Landscape Construction:**  
*Commercial Sites, Government or Institutional Projects, as well as Multi-Family Residential Projects*
- Landscape Reconstruction:**  
*Residential and Commercial*
- Residential Landscape Maintenance:**  
*Single Family Residence Only*
- Commercial Landscape Maintenance**
- Interior Landscape Installation**
- Interior Landscape Maintenance**
- Creative Horticulture**
- Irrigation Installation**
- Landscape Lighting**
- Hardscapes**
- Water Features**

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The recipients will be recognized with the presentation of plaques at MGIA's Annual Environmental Improvement Awards Program Banquet and Holiday Celebration on Thursday, December 3, 2009.

### ENTRY PROCEDURES

1. Complete both sides of the entry form. Be sure to include all relevant information, as only this information will be given to the judges. **Do not include company names on any of the descriptions or photographs.**
2. Submit a set of not less than 5 or more than 10 standard-sized color photographs. The photographs should not be any larger than 5 x 7. Polaroids are unacceptable. Be sure to identify each photo with the project name (*not your company name*), and number each to correspond to the photo description on the entry form. **NOTE: All images preferably, should be, submitted digitally on disc at a high resolution (in addition to the printed photographs).**
3. Project descriptions should be typed or printed clearly on the entry form so it can be easily read by the judges. Photographs should clearly display the quality of materials and workmanship involved. Whenever possible, "in-progress" and/or "before and after" photographs of the project should be included.
4. Submit each entry in a single envelope or package.
5. All entries must be received in the MGIA office no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2009. All entries accepted become property of the MGIA and may be used for publication or for any other purpose the Association deems appropriate.
6. All material submitted for awards must be cleared by entrant for release upon submission.



The Annual MGIA Environmental Improvement Awards Program is sponsored by the Michigan Green Industry Association.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:** A team of distinguished professionals will evaluate entries based upon a point system and then make recommendations to the awards committee. Total points will equal one hundred. Work will be judged on the basis of craftsmanship, relative contribution to the quality of the environment, and overall excellence. Participants will be notified of the judges final decision prior to the awards presentation. Each entry will be visited by our judges (*subject to proximity*). Please advise your clients that this will occur. **Entries will be judged by the following criteria:**

### CATEGORIES 1, 2 & 3: 100 points

#### Residential Landscape Construction, Commercial Landscape Construction, and Residential Landscape Reconstruction

- **Design** (25 Points)
  - Maintenance consideration
  - Originality
  - Use of space and natural terrain
- **Site Development** (15 Points)
  - Proper grade
  - Drainage of all water
- **Quality of Construction** (35 Points)
  - Proper pitch
  - Good cuts and miters
  - Step construction
  - Straight lines, are they straight?
  - Contoured lines, are they flowing?
- **Plant Material** (25 Points)
  - Suitability of plants for location
  - Pruning and planting procedures
  - Quality of plants
  - Textures for summer and winter

### CATEGORY 4: 100 points

#### Residential Landscape Maintenance

*All grounds entered in this category maintained must be three years or older and be maintained by the submitting contractor for a minimum of two growing seasons.*

- **First Impression** (10 Points)
  - Impression of the site and how it is adapted to its location and surroundings
- **Bed Work** (30 Points)
  - Clean lines
  - Properly mulched
  - Free of weeds and other debris
- **Turf Quality** (30 Points)
  - Does all turf have a uniform color and texture?
  - Are all turf areas maintained at the same height of cut?
  - Uniformity of weed control
  - Uniformity of turf grass development
- **Care of Ornamentals** (30 Points)
  - Insect and disease control
  - Pruning practice
  - Removal of dead and diseased wood
  - Shearing and shaping of hedges
  - Removal of paralleled and rubbing branches

### CATEGORY 5: 100 points

#### Commercial Landscape Maintenance

*All grounds entered in this category must be three years or older and be maintained by the submitting contractor for a minimum of two growing seasons.*

- **First Impression** (10 Points)
  - Impression of the site and how it is adapted to its location and surroundings
- **Bed Work** (30 Points)
  - Clean lines
  - Properly mulched
  - Free of weeds and other debris
- **Turf Quality** (30 Points)
  - Does all turf have a uniform color and texture?
  - Are all turf areas maintained at the same height of cut?
  - Uniformity of weed control
  - Uniformity of turf grass development
- **Care of Ornamentals** (30 Points)
  - Insect and disease control

- Pruning practices
- Removal of dead and diseased wood
- Shearing and shaping of hedges
- Removal of paralleled and rubbing branches

### CATEGORY 6: 100 points

#### Interior Landscape Installation

- **First Impression** (20 Points)
  - Impression of the site and how it is adapted to its location and surroundings
- **Design** (30 Points)
  - Maintenance consideration
  - Continuity
  - Originality
  - Use of space
- **Plant Selection** (20 Points)
  - Suitability of plants for that location
  - Quality of plants
- **Installation** (30 Points)
  - Topdressing
  - Planting procedures
  - Pruning procedures
  - Maintenance consideration

### CATEGORY 7: 100 points

#### Interior Landscape Maintenance

- **First Impression** (40 Points)
  - Impression of the site and how it is adapted to its location and surroundings
- **Horticultural Procedures** (60 Points)
  - Dead or diseased material removed
  - Pruning/Trimming
    - Cleanliness
    - Vigor of plant
    - Topdressing

### CATEGORY 8: 100 points

#### Creative Horticulture

*This category includes short term interior and exterior seasonal displays, specialty and theme gardens, plantings and other items which don't fall under other categories.*

- **First Impression** (30 Points)
  - Impression of the site and how it is adapted to its location and surroundings
- **Quality of Work** (20 Points)
- **Creativity** (15 Points)
- **Originality** (15 Points)
- **Effectiveness** (20 Points)

### CATEGORY 9: 100 points

#### Irrigation Installation

*Please include an accurate "as-built" drawing and a list of equipment used.*

- **Design** (35 Points)
  - A. *Zoning*
    - Separate zones for sod areas and shrub beds
  - B. *Correct Water Placement*
    - Radius not interfering with trees, buildings, walks, etc.
  - C. *Sprinkler Head Location*
    - Spacing or coverage within manufacturer's specifications
  - D. *Proper Watering Schedule*
- **Installation** (45 Points)
  - A. *Controller*
    - Location and installation
    - According to design
  - B. *Backflow Prevention*
    - Adheres to state and local health codes and regulations

- Aesthetically pleasing
- C. *Sprinkler Heads and Valve Boxes*
  - At correct grade
  - Follows design and manufacturer's recommendations

D. *No Trench Settling*

- **Quality of Materials** (20 Points)

### CATEGORY 10: 100 points

#### Landscape Lighting

- **First Impression** (30 Points)
  - Impression of the site and how it is adapted to its location and surroundings
- **Design** (35 Points)
  - Proper use of fixtures for given purpose
  - Achieving highlighting goals
  - Lighting balance
- **Installation** (35 Points)
  - Controller location
  - Proper fixture installation
  - No exposed wires
  - Solid wire connections

### CATEGORY 11: 100 points

#### Hardscapes

- **First Impression** (25 Points)
  - Impression of the site and how it is adapted to its location and surroundings
- **Design** (35 points)
  - Originality
  - Does project compliment building architecture and existing landscape and plantings?
  - Is project proportionate to surroundings?
- **Quality of Construction** (40 points)
  - Straight lines, are they straight?
  - Contoured lines, are they flowing?
  - Proper drainage
  - Is product being used per manufacturer's specifications and guidelines?
  - Good cuts and miters?
  - Is there any noticeable settling?
  - Is there evidence of washout?
  - Adheres to state and local codes and regulations?

### CATEGORY 12: 100 points

#### Water Features

- **First Impression** (30 points)
  - Impression of the site and how it is adapted to its location and surroundings
- **Design** (35 points)
  - Originality
  - If water feature is natural, does it appear natural?
  - If water feature is formal, does it appear formal?
  - Does project fit in well with surroundings?
  - Evidence of lighting considerations
  - Use of space and natural terrain
- **Installation** (35 points)
  - Proper placement of boulders and other natural elements
  - Is volume of water proper to size of water feature?
  - Adheres to state and local codes and regulations?
  - Is plumbing and wiring neat and organized?
  - Is mechanical area: Accessible? Out of Site?
  - Any exposed: Wires? Liner?



# 2009 Environmental Improvement Awards Program

## CALL FOR ENTRIES ENTRY FORM

(Entry Deadline: Monday, September 21, 2009)

Please complete and furnish the information for each entry. Use copies of this form for additional projects entered (**one entry per form**). Company and project names should be typed or printed clearly as they are to appear on the award. A fee of \$75 (members) or \$125 (non-members) **PER ENTRY** must accompany this form. Checks should be made payable to the MGIA, we also accept credit cards.

Please print or type clearly:

Name of landscape firm entering project \_\_\_\_\_  
(name exactly as it should appear on award plaque)

Name of contact in firm \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address for Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Project designed by:  Landscape designer/architect  Landscape Contractor  Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, You have my permission to use photos of this job for promotional purposes.  No, Please do not use my photos for promotional purposes.

Project being entered \_\_\_\_\_  
(name exactly as it should appear on award plaque)

Address of project \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Client \_\_\_\_\_

### CATEGORY OF PROJECT *Check appropriate boxes*

**NOTE:** Each category selected counts as a separate entry fee.

**CATEGORY 1: Residential Landscape Construction: Single Family Residence Only**

- Under \$10,000  \$50,000 - \$100,000
- \$10,000 - \$25,000  \$100,000 - \$250,000
- \$25,000 - \$50,000  Over \$250,000

NOTE: Irrigation costs need not be included in determining price category.

**CATEGORY 2: Commercial Landscape Construction: Commercial Sites, Government or Institutional Projects, as well as Multi-Family Residential Projects**

- Under \$10,000  \$50,000 - \$100,000
- \$10,000 - \$25,000  \$100,000 - \$250,000
- \$25,000 - \$50,000  Over \$250,000

NOTE: Irrigation costs need not be included in determining price category.

**CATEGORY 3: Landscape Reconstruction: Residential and Commercial**

Residential and Commercial reconstruction includes homes or businesses that have landscapes that contain turf, trees and shrubs at the time the contractor is called in. These projects can involve complete tear-out or combinations of old and new.

- Under \$10,000  \$50,000 - \$100,000
- \$10,000 - \$25,000  \$100,000 - \$250,000
- \$25,000 - \$50,000  Over \$250,000

**CATEGORY 4: Residential Landscape Maintenance: Single Family Residence Only**

**CATEGORY 5: Commercial Landscape Maintenance: Commercial sites, Governmental or Institutional projects, as well as Multi-family Residential projects.**

**CATEGORY 6: Interior Landscape Installation**

**CATEGORY 7: Interior Landscape Maintenance**

**CATEGORY 8: Creative Horticulture**

This category includes short term interior and exterior seasonal displays, specialty and theme gardens, plantings and other items which don't fall under other categories.

**CATEGORY 9: Irrigation Installation**

**CATEGORY 10: Landscape Lighting**

- Residential  Commercial

**CATEGORY 11: Hardscapes**

**CATEGORY 12: Water Features**

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT** \_\_\_\_\_

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**SPECIAL OR UNUSUAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED** \_\_\_\_\_

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## PHOTO DESCRIPTIONS

Make sure the following descriptions correspond with your numbered photographs.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

### LOCATION MAP

This map is a crucial part of this application. Please provide a detailed map indicating major crossroads. *Suggestion: Print out a map from computer mapping program or online site such as [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com).* **Without a detailed map, judges cannot complete the judging process.**



### HELPFUL TIPS FOR ENTERING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM

*The following are suggestions to help you when completing the entry form.*

Pay careful attention to photograph selection. Don't show anything that could defeat the credibility of your project: you should not have any nursery pots showing, plant tags, brown leaves, mulch or stone spilled over bed edging, uneven pruning, bare patches of dirt, etc.

If possible, hire a professional photographer to take shots of your projects. Otherwise, be sure your photos are clear and focused. Attempt to take your shots during mid-day when it is clear and sunny.

When submitting photographs for residential and/or commercial construction or reconstruction and interior landscape installation, be sure to show "before and after shots." If there were special challenges in a particular project, be sure to mention them in your description and try to take shots to highlight that particular challenge.

When submitting photographs for maintenance categories, show close-up shots as well as long shots of the area being maintained.

When submitting photographs for creative horticulture, landscape lighting, hardscapes or water features, be inventive. Try to take shots from an interesting perspective, perhaps attempt to highlight the challenges of the project in the photographs. If possible, show close up shots as well. First impressions are important.

When writing your descriptions, keep them concise and to the point. You want to make sure you include all the challenges of the project and those unique points that make your project stand out. Be sure that your descriptions are helpful to the judges in giving them a full understanding of the project.

Make sure project has been well-maintained as a team will be judging each site in person. If necessary we can notify you as to day and approx. time of judging. Poorly maintained sites are noted in the judging process and may lose points.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the MGIA office at (248) 646-4992 or email [dandrews@landscape.org](mailto:dandrews@landscape.org).

#### Have you enclosed (per entry):

Application     Color Photos or Slides     Detailed Map     Payment (see below)

Payment:  Check (payable to MGIA)    Bill My Credit Card:  MasterCard     Visa    Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Digit Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**When completed, return form, photos, and payment to:  
MGIA, 30600 Telegraph Road, Suite 3360, Bingham Farms, MI 48025**