



**MICHIGAN GREEN
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**



2025

MGIA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entry Deadline: Friday June 27, 2025



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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 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 (\$125 or \$150 for late entries). In addition, projects which have previously received an award in a particular category cannot be re-entered in the same category. The MGIA Environmental Improvement Awards is a unique awards program in which judging takes place onsite. Entries that are submitted outside of the tri-county area will be judged by photos only (must submit before AND after) and will not be eligible for the Best of Show Award.

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/Sustainable Landscapes**
- **Irrigation Installation**
- **Landscape Lighting**
- **Hardscapes**
- **Water Features**

BEST IN SHOW AWARD

This award is given to one gold award-winning entry at the discretion of the judges and will be announced at the Annual MGIA Awards Program and Holiday Celebration on December 4, 2025.

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 December 4, 2025 in Livonia.

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 your company name on any of the descriptions or photographs.**
2. Submit a set of not less than five or more than 10 standard-sized color photographs. Identify each photo with the project name (not your company name).

NOTE: All images must be submitted digitally on a disc or thumb drive at a high resolution (in addition to the printed photographs). "In-progress" and/or "before and after" photographs of the project MUST be included. Hardscapes entries or entries that contain hardscapes MUST include "in-progress" photos illustrating the type of base materials, geo-grid/geo-textiles used.

LANDSCAPE LIGHTING ENTRIES: In addition to the printed and digital photos, please include a 30 to 60 second video of the lighting project recorded at night, no audio is required (Do not identify your company). **Accepted file formats: M4V, MP4, MOV, H.264, MPEG-4.**

3. Project descriptions should be typed or printed clearly on the entry form so it can be easily read by the judges. **The "Description of Project" and "Special Circumstances, Client Requests or Unusual Problems Encountered" sections are extremely important to complete in detail.** Photographs should clearly display the quality of materials and workmanship involved.
4. Submit each entry in a single envelope or package.
5. Entries must be received in the MGIA office no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, June 27, 2025. Late entries (\$150 entry fee) will be accepted through Friday, August 1, 2025. 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.

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. Recipients will be recognized at the Awards Banquet on December 4, 2025. **Each entry will be visited by our judges (subject to proximity and criteria requirements being met). Please advise your clients that this will occur. The MGIA will contact each entrant with judging dates once assigned. Entries will be judged by the following criteria:**

CATEGORIES 1, 2 & 3: 100 points

Residential Landscape Construction, Commercial Landscape Construction, Residential Landscape Reconstruction

Design (25 Points)

- First impression
- Design intent
- Use of design principals
- Maintenance consideration
- Originality
- Use of space and natural terrain
- Textures for summer and winter

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
- Planting procedures
- Quality of plants

CATEGORY 4: 100 points

Residential Landscape Maintenance

All grounds entered in this category must be maintained by the submitting contractor for a minimum of ONE FULL growing season. NOTE: Entries will be judged on ALL criteria, NO EXCLUSIONS.

First Impression (10 Points)

- Impression of the site and how it is adapted to its location and surroundings

Bed Work (30 Points)

- Clean lines through edging or natural edging
- Properly mulched
- Free of weeds and other debris
- Maintenance on annuals and perennials

Turf Quality (30 Points)

- Does all turf have a uniform color & 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 maintained by the submitting contractor for a minimum of ONE FULL growing season. NOTE: Entries will be judged on ALL criteria, NO EXCLUSIONS.

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
- Maintenance on annuals and perennials

Turf Quality (30 Points)

- Does all turf have a uniform color & 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/Sustainable Landscapes

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?
- 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?

2025 Environmental Improvement Awards Program

ENTRY FORM

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 \$125 or \$150 (late entry) **PER ENTRY** must accompany this form. Checks should be made payable to the MGIA, we also accept credit cards. **ENTRY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025. Late entries will be accepted through August 1, 2025. (\$150 per late entry).**

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. 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 *(Please check appropriate boxes)*

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.

1. When did construction begin? _____ End? _____

2. Does your company do the maintenance on this project? Yes No

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.

1. When did construction begin? _____ End? _____

2. Does your company do the maintenance on this project? Yes No

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

1. When did construction begin? _____ End? _____

2. Does your company do the maintenance on this project? Yes No

Category 4: Residential Landscape Maintenance

Single family residence only

What year did you begin maintenance? _____

Category 5: Commercial Landscape Maintenance:

Commercial sites, governmental or institutional projects, as well as multi-family residential projects.

What year did you begin maintenance? _____

CATEGORY 6: Interior Landscape Installation

CATEGORY 7: Interior Landscape Maintenance

CATEGORY 8: Creative Horticulture/ Sustainable Landscape

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

Hardscapes \$25k-\$50k: Must include hardscape work performed to ICPI specs, and can include any or all of the following: grills, entertainment areas, fire features, kitchens, over-head structures, etc.

Hardscapes Over \$50k: This category is judged on correct procedure and implementing ICPI standards before, during, and after construction.

Note for Patios and Walls: Must include before, in-progress, and after photos of the project encompassing some of (but not limited to) the following details: Site prior to excavation, existing sub-grade, compaction methods, Geo-textile shingling, base material with compaction methods, Geo-Grid usage, bedding/immediate paver base material used, screeding procedure of immediate base pavers are set on and quick description of slope establishment, drainage pictures (especially for retaining walls). Use brief descriptions where needed.

If the above criteria are met then remaining visible paver/hardscape work will be judged onsite.

CATEGORY 12: Water Features

MAP INSTRUCTIONS

This map is a crucial part of this application. Please print and provide a map from a computer mapping program or online site (Mapquest.com or Google Maps). **WITHOUT A DETAILED MAP, JUDGES CANNOT COMPLETE THE JUDGING PROCESS.**

***The following sections are **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** to complete in detail. If you need more space, please include a separate sheet of paper.**

- Descriptions of your projects are important to the judges. Keep them concise and highlight challenges and unique features of your work.
- Please include a design intent that include demands of your client, problems of the site and the steps you took to address them.
- Clearly define the parameters of YOUR work to be judged on the site. Identify elements provided by sub-contractors or others, if applicable.

*DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

*SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, CLIENT REQUESTS OR UNUSUAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

CHECKLIST FOR ENTERING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM

PHOTOS

- Take numerous digital photos, but submit only 5-10 that have the best representation.
- Avoid bright, sunny days; slightly overcast days yield the best photos.
- Take "before" photos of all entries. *(The best "before and after" shots are taken from the same vantage point. "In-progress" and/or "before and after" photographs of the project MUST be included. Hardscapes entries or entries that contain hardscapes MUST include "in-progress" photos illustrating the type of base materials, geo-grid/geo-textiles used.)*
- Maintenance categories should include both overall views and close ups of significant elements.
- Try taking photos from interesting vantage points. *(For example, photos looking up from ground level or looking down from above, if possible.)*
- Provide photos that highlight unique features or challenges of your project
- **All images must be submitted digitally on a disc or thumb drive at a high resolution (in addition to the printed photographs).**

VIDEO

- **Landscape Lighting Entries:** In addition to photographs, please submit a 30 to 60 second video of the lighting project recorded at night (no audio required). Please include as much of the site as possible.

FILLING OUT THE FORM

- Descriptions of your projects are important to the judges. Keep them concise and highlight challenges and unique features of your work.
- Please include a design intent that includes demands of your client, problems of the site and the steps you took to address them.
- Clearly define the parameters of YOUR work to be judged on the site. Identify elements provided by sub-contractors or others, if applicable.

NOTE: Maintenance Projects must be maintained by the submitting contractor for a minimum of ONE FULL growing season.

PREP FOR THE JUDGING DAY

- Judges will evaluate your project based on what they SEE. Check your entry sites and make sure they are "award worthy." Dead plants, weeds, plant tags, etc. will affect judges' first impressions and will result in loss of points.
- MGIA will provide the date for the judging of your entries so that you may notify the client and "freshen" the site.

LOCATION

- Exact address of the project.
- **Detailed map from major cross streets** *(utilize a computer or an online mapping program like Mapquest or Google Maps.)*
- Define precise location of the work on the site you are entering *(front of residence, full site, etc.).*

DON'T FORGET TO ENCLOSE:

Application

Color Photos and DISC

Detailed Map

Entry Fee (\$125 per entry by June 27, or \$150 per late entry by August 1)

Payment Method: Check Enclosed (payable to MGIA)

Credit Card*

*Please note, a 3% administrative fee will be applied for credit card payments.

Acct.#: _____

Exp. Date: ____/____/____ Billing Zip Code: _____ 3-Digit Code: _____

Signature: _____

When completed, return form, photos and disc/thumb drive and payment to:

Michigan Green Industry Association
30600 Telegraph Road,
Suite 3360, Bingham Farms, MI 48025

Ph: (248) 646-4992 • Fax: (248) 646-4994