



March 30, 2020

Dear Federal, State and Local Officials,

NALP is the national trade organization representing the \$98 billion landscape industry in the United States. Member companies specialize in lawn care, landscape maintenance, tree care, irrigation, and water management. Landscape professionals work daily throughout the Nation servicing homes and businesses to maintain their landscapes, sustain the environment, and take pride in our communities by enhancing and maintaining healthy green spaces.

As a Nation, we are all struggling to combat the rapid transmission of the coronavirus “COVID-19,” and we understand and acknowledge that in some instances, drastic steps are being taken, including shutting down businesses deemed not “essential” or “life sustaining”.

We are communicating with you today to assure you that landscape services are essential services that are life sustaining and must continue during any emergency declaration or quarantine scenario. Landscape professionals are partners during this critical time in assisting in the protection of public health and public safety. Without the landscape industry conducting these valuable services, we will undoubtedly see increased instances where people may be harmed or become sick from other illnesses compounding our already stretched medical resources.

On March 28, 2020 the Department of Homeland Security updated the national [Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response](#) to indicate which businesses the Federal Government have determined are critical and essential and should remain in operation. The list specifically enumerates the landscape industry, which includes all aspects of landscape services including landscape maintenance, lawn care, irrigation and tree care.

“Workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators, builders, contractors, HVAC Technicians, landscapers, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, businesses and buildings such as hospitals, senior living facilities, any temporary construction required to support COVID-19 response.”

We would like to remind you and emphasize the critical and essential nature of landscape services.

Landscape professionals support other life sustaining industries and businesses through maintenance of their property and the landscapes around the roads they travel and utilities they need to remain fully operational.

Landscape professionals are protectors of public health performing essential treatments to lawns and green spaces to reduce the transmission of dangerous and deadly diseases through pests like mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas.

Landscape professionals protect property and maintain greenspaces that could otherwise jeopardize public safety. Landscape professionals are keeping public and private pathways free from obstruction and potential hazard. Crime rates are increased in areas where green spaces are not maintained. Tree removal is also a critical function of our industry to avoid damaging homes and their families. Landscape professionals are reducing overhead hazards from wind effects. Lastly landscape professionals play a critical role in maintenance and removal to assist in fire abatement.

Landscape professionals are implementing strong procedures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Because the landscape industry functions outside this greatly reduces the chances to come into contact with other individuals. Within the industry, strong policies are being put in place to maintain social distancing with both clients and within our teams that are working in the field.

We are all in this together, and the Landscape industry stands with our public officials to stop the rapid transmission of COVID-19 while also continuing to perform those essential functions that are necessary within our communities throughout the Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Britt Wood', written in a cursive style.

Britt Wood
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Landscape Professionals