When searching for a RainScapes professional, many people don’t know whether to look for a **Landscape Architect**, a **Landscape Designer** or a **Landscape Contractor**.

All three provide very different services, and licensure requirements in the State of Maryland vary. Here is a general breakdown:

- **Landscape Architect.** A professional, licensed by the State of Maryland, who can design and develop construction plans, details, and specifications for a landscape based project. This typically includes detailed site assessments and grading plans, planting plans, lighting, steps, etc. For more information, to search for a landscape architect, or to determine if they are licensed in Maryland, visit:
  - State of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Landscape Architects Public Inquiry Search ([mcgreenbiz.org/green-business-directory](mcgreenbiz.org/green-business-directory))
  - American Society of Landscape Architects: MD Chapter ([marylandasla.org](marylandasla.org))
  - American Society of Landscape Architects: Potomac Chapter ([potomacasla.org](potomacasla.org))

- **Landscape Designer.** A person who provides landscape design and horticulture services, such as container garden and planting bed design concepts, planting plans, and selection of materials. For more information and to search for a landscape designer, visit:
  - Association of Professional Landscape Designers ([dcmdva-apld.org](dcmdva-apld.org))
  - Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council's (CCLC) Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals CBLP Directory ([cblpro.org/directory](cblpro.org/directory))

- **Landscape Contractor.** A professional, licensed by the State of Maryland, to install/construct and maintain landscapes. To install, the professional’s company must have the Maryland Home Improvement Contractor license; ask for their number. For more information, to search for a landscape contractor or determine if they are licensed in Maryland visit:
  - State of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Home Improvement Public Inquiry Search ([dllr.state.md.us/cgi-bin/ElectronicLicensing/OP_search/OP_search.cgi?calling_app=HIC::HIC_qselect](dllr.state.md.us/cgi-bin/ElectronicLicensing/OP_search/OP_search.cgi?calling_app=HIC::HIC_qselect))
  - MD, DC, VA Landscape Contractors Association ([lcamddcva.org](lcamddcva.org))
  - MD Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association ([mnlga.org/AF_MemberDirectory.asp](mnlga.org/AF_MemberDirectory.asp))
  - Additional information for locating a qualified professional can be found on these websites: National Green Infrastructure Certification Program maintenance contractors ([ngicp.org/program/list-of-certified-individuals](ngicp.org/program/list-of-certified-individuals)); Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals ([cblpro.org/directory](cblpro.org/directory)); and the Montgomery County Green Business Certification Program ([mcgreenbiz.org/green-business-directory](mcgreenbiz.org/green-business-directory)).

**Questions to ask when choosing a landscape professional:**
- Are you licensed to do this work in the State of Maryland?
- Can you provide a list of references?
- What is your previous experience?
- Have you ever installed a RainScape or other stormwater project? If so, how many and what type?
- What is your experience using native plants in your designs?
- Do you have experience designing for multiple environmental benefits? List your interests.

*Do your research, and you will be well on your way to helping to protect our local water quality and creating a beautiful and successful Rainscapes project to enjoy for years to come!*