



March 20, 2020

Dear Federal, State and Local Officials,

NALP is the national trade organization representing the \$82 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. Landscapers 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.

We have seen various iterations of language included in orders being issued throughout the nation the past few days. To further add confusion during a trying time each locality or state that has made a declaration and exempted “essential” or life sustaining services has used different verbiage. Regardless of which language is used it is clear that landscape services are essential and life sustaining, see below for a list of provisions that include landscape services:

Workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences

Support, such as road and line clearing, to ensure the availability of needed facilities, transportation, energy and communications

Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses

“Administrative Support Services – support services to businesses and dwellings”

“Repair and Maintenance – personal household goods repair and maintenance”

For the foregoing reasons, landscape services should fall within any description and are certainly “essential” and “life sustaining.”

Landscape professionals support other life sustaining 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 do not increase the transmission of COVID-19. The landscape industry is taking aggressive steps within our organizations to stop the transmission of COVID-19. Because our 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