

Erik J. Bednarek, PLA, CLARB

Landscape Architecture Group Leader



Education

BS, Landscape Architecture,
University of Massachusetts,
1994

AS, Arboriculture & Park
Management, Stockbridge
School of Agriculture, UMass.,
1991

Registrations/Certifications

Registered Landscape Architect,
NH, MA, RI

Certified Landscape Architect

Affiliations/Memberships

Urban Land Institute, Group-
Associate Corporate Private

Erik brings over 28 years of diverse experience in the landscape architecture and urban design fields including streetscapes and plazas; hospitals and healthcare facilities; industrial and lab buildings; residential communities and estates; parks, airport landscapes, and shared use paths along with commercial and institutional projects. His unique and steeped experience in construction and irrigation allows him to provide realistic design strategies that are sustainable, creative, and aesthetically enticing providing a high value to each project. He has also been involved with and managed complex high-profile public and private projects throughout the Northeast including guidance for LEED certification.

28 years of professional experience

Eastern Connecticut State University, South Residential Village, Willimantic, CT

Erik worked on the addition of three student residence buildings obtained LEED certification. The landscape design process included research for LEED requirements and development of conceptual and construction documents that would include wildflower meadows, non-reflective pavement, tree canopy cover, efficient and dark sky compliant lighting along with specific irrigation specifications to meet the strict certification requirements. Benches, bollards and decorative walls long with emergency and pedestrian access all complimented the pedestrian circulation and use around the residences.

Wesleyan University, Freeman Athletic Center Expansion, Middletown, CT

Erik worked on the expansion of the athletic center included close coordination with the architects and general contractor for designing two main entrances with complementing landscape amenities. A large drop off courtyard incorporated several decorative urban design elements such as brick pavers, scored concrete walks, light pole fixtures, benches, trash receptacles and light bollards. The second entrance incorporated similar elements designed to harmonize with a suspended pedestrian bridge and the parking lot connection. Other design initiatives included planting enhancements to the parking lot, pedestrian bridge and drop off area with durable plant materials and tree preservation techniques.

Maple Avenue Streetscape Improvement Plan, Hartford, CT

Erik worked on a half mile of streetscape design, which included the evaluation of existing trees and development of a tree preservation management plan for establishing a sustainable and a well-defined character to this extreme urban corridor. Many studies were conducted for specifying durable streetscape amenities and enhancements, which included detailed paving patterns and details, crosswalk studies, lighting layout, trash receptacles, along with the Barry Square design that included a raised granite planter, granite sign, tree grates, flagpole, irrigation, tree grates and guards, and dedication pavers.

Cargill Falls Mill Site Planning, Putnam, CT

Prior to joining VHB, Erik provided site planning and landscape architecture for phase one of the renovation of seven historic buildings on seven acres of land. The resulting plan develops



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48,000 SF of prime commercial space and extends the Putnam's River Mills Heritage Trail and park system by three-quarters of a mile along the Quinebaug River.

Walden Square Redevelopment, Cambridge, MA

Working with Winn Companies and PCA Architects on the redevelopment of the Walden Square apartment complex in North Cambridge, Erik co-led site planning strategies and ped/bike circulation on the multi-acre site. His work included revisions to the internal sidewalk and path system, enhanced links to the Yerxa Road Underpass, placement of a Bluebikes station, locations for long- and short-term bike parking, and a tree-planting strategy to help screen the east/west path from adjacent properties.

Greylock Glen Recreation & Environmental Center Master Plan, Adams, MA

Erik assisted in the design and development of a master plan for this unique recreational and education center focused on teaching of ecology of the site along with natural resource conservation, sustainable development, emerging technology information, and environmental art exhibits. Located at Mt. Greylock, the master plan program included an art and nature center, a visitor's base camp leading to various hiking and biking trails, a Nordic ski and sports center, a performing arts amphitheater, art exhibits, innovative lighting and parking solutions, and rustic lodging. Intense studies and analysis of topography, drainage and vegetation were critical for appropriately locating all design elements that would complement the land, surrounding communities and the region while also harmonizing the relationship of pedestrian interaction with the vehicular circulation.

Avalon at Steven's Pond, Saugus, MA

Erik assisted in the design process for this high-end, 300-unit residential complex including site analysis, planting and irrigation design, grading, light fixture layout, budget analysis, and project management. Design challenges included incorporating landscape friendly spaces (i.e. parks, patios, community center) linked by an ADA accessible pedestrian path system throughout a severely slope site. He utilized specific plant species within challenging climate and planting conditions, while complimenting the pedestrian spaces and overall site. Designing of landscape buffers soften views and slopes while relating to the adjacent 60 acres of preserved woodlands.

202 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA

Erik is currently leading the landscape architecture design for this urban lab building, including conceptual design through design development plans, which included streetscape design with Bluebikes, paving, street trees, and lighting along with a pedestrian plaza servicing the lower-level café with granite planters, permeable paving, low-level LED lighting, trellis screens, and planters. With the project being located on one of the pedestrian access corridors, a street park was designed with a painted roadway theme with storytelling signage and exercise stations linked to a bio-infiltration basin designed to infiltrate stormwater and be an attractive feature for the elevated plaza.