What is landscape?

• The European Landscape Convention defines landscape “as a zone or area as perceived by local people or visitors” (ELC art. 1, para. 38)

• “Landscape is an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.” (Council of Europe, 2000)
What is landscape?

• “Landscape is about the relationship between people and place. It provides the setting for our day-to-day lives. The term does not mean just special or designated landscapes and it does not only apply to the countryside. Landscape can mean a small patch of urban wasteland as much as a mountain range, and an urban park as much as an expanse of lowland plain. It results from the way that different components of our environment - both natural (the influences of geology, soils, climate, flora and fauna) and cultural (the historical and current impact of land use, settlement, enclosure and other human interventions) - interact together and are perceived by us. People’s perceptions turn land into the concept of landscape”. (Swanwick, C. and Land Use Consultants (2002))
Why assess landscapes?

• People value highly scenic landscapes
• Scenery contributes to a "sense of place", a mutually shared image
• Landscape character can be defined and managed
• Scenic integrity is important
Things to remember

- Landscape settings required for certain management activities are important
- Landscape visibility is significant
- Visual absorption capability is an important tool
- Diversity is desirable
- Harmony is desirable
Things to remember

• The public values cultural enclaves in landscapes that are natural or natural appearing
• People cannot always distinguish between natural landscapes and those resulting from historic cultural alterations
• Special places are important
• Types of viewers are important
• Variations in cultures
Who conducts landscape visual assessments?

- Federal/State Programs
- Management Organizations
- Planning Committees
- Advocacy Groups
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, UK
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

LVIA as part of EIA
LVIA as part of EIA
Environmental Impact Assessment requires a wide range of environmental topics to be investigated. The topics can be summarized as:

- human beings, population
- flora and fauna
- soil, water, air, climate
- landscape
- cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)
- material assets
Two components of LVIA

Landscape effects assessment
• deals with changes to landscape as a resource

Visual effects assessment
• is concerned with how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by change in the landscape
LVIA Process

• Baseline Study
• Identification and description of effects
• Mitigation
• Evaluation of effects
• Engaging with stakeholders and the public
Scenery Management System (SMS)

Used by the USDA Forest Service for National Forest Lands
Scenery Management System (SMS)
A Scenery Management System should:

- Be logical and orderly
- Serve scenic assessment needs in all levels of planning and implementation, from broad-scale land planning to detailed project planning
- Produce goals and objectives useful for scenery management.
- Allow scenery managers to be capable of interacting with values and needs of other resource disciplines
- Have a systematic approach so that others are able to replicate its results
- Serve as a communicative tool
A Scenery Management System should identify the following:

- Landscape character
A Scenery Management System should identify the following:

- Landscape character
  - Attributes
A Scenery Management System should identify the following:

- Landscape character
- Attributes

A uniform closed canopy of overstory vegetation.
A Scenery Management System should identify the following:

- **Landscape character**
- **Attributes**

Openings in the canopy of overstory vegetation.
A Scenery Management System should identify the following:

- **Landscape character**
- **Attributes**

Structures that have positive cultural connotations and are recognized as scenic attributes.
A Scenery Management System should identify the following:

- Landscape character
- Attributes
- Character types

Oregon Dunes; Broad Valley Rockies; Sonoran Desert
A Scenery Management System should identify the following:

- Landscape character
  - Attributes
  - Character types
- Visual sensitivity of landscapes
- Scenic integrity

North Park Pittsburgh
Methods of Visual Representation

The landscape “as is” and “as proposed”
Viewshed Analysis (2D)

Loyalsock Trail Viewshed

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community
Viewshed Analysis (3D)

...a viewshed is like a search light rotating at a "viewer" location...

...noting the locations where the beam illuminates the terrain

Viewshed Map (draped over Elevation)
Photomontage
Photomontage

Current view of the view across the Kromme from the St Francis Marina. (Photos in Final EIA Report)

Future view across the Kromme if the Eastern cluster of turbines is developed.

Photomontage

Digital models and renderings
Digital models and renderings

http://www.bustler.net/images/news2/minneapolis_riverfront_design_competition_shortlist_3a.jpg
Resources on Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation - via ASLA.org

http://www.asla.org/hals.aspx > General Resources on Historic Preservation

- Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey
- The Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS)
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation
- Association of Preservation Technology
- National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
- National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
- National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
- National Landscape Conservation System
- National Preservation Institute
- Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
- Preservation Directory
- SAH Archipedia
- Trust for Public Land
### Cultural Landscapes
- Cultural Landscapes Currents
- The Cultural Landscape Foundation

### Gardens
- American Public Gardens Association
- Dumbarton Oaks
- Catena, the Digital Archive of Historic Gardens and Landscapes
- Garden History Links
- Historic Landscape Institute at Monticello
- Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies at Harvard
- Massachusetts Horticultural Society
- Southern Garden History Society
- The Garden Club of America
- The Garden Conservancy
- Wave Hill
Heritage Resources

- Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- Preserve & Protect
- The National Trust (UK)
- World Commission on Protected Areas
- World Heritage Convention

Research

- Archives of American Gardens, Smithsonian's Horticulture Services Division
- Guidelines for Documenting and Evaluating Historic Military Landscapes: An Integrated Landscape Approach
- HABS/HAER/HALS Library of Congress Collection
- Library of American Landscape History
- National Historic Landmark database

Historic Preservation - via ASLA.org

http://www.asla.org/hals.aspx > General Resources on Historic Preservation
Research cont.

• National Register of Historic Places database
• Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties
• NPS History E-Library
• Preservation Brief 36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes
• Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines: Archeology and Historic Preservation
• The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties & Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes
• The University of Toronto’s Centre for Landscape Research

National Register Bulletins:

• Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes
• Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties
• Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places
• Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields
• Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering Historic Mining Properties
• Historic Residential Suburbs: Guidelines for Evaluation and Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places
• How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes
• National Register of Historic Places database
Thank you. Any questions?