



2026 DSBN REGIONAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN SKILLS CHALLENGE SECONDARY LEVEL SCOPE

Tech Chair(s)

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EVENT DETAILS

Date: Wednesday March 4, 2026

Time: 8:00-2:00

Location: Niagara College, NOTL Campus

Maximum Competitors: 12

Registration: Please connect with a teacher advisor at your school to complete your registration for this competition to be eligible to participate.

Competition Schedule

8:00 a.m.

Sign in/ Arrival/ Set up

8:30 a.m.

Orientation & Opening Remarks

9:00a.m.

Begin Landscape Design

(should be complete bubble diagrams and concept drawing)

11:40 a.m.

******* Lunch *******

12:10 p.m.

Continue Landscape Design

2:00 p.m.

Competition concludes - Judges Panel/ roundtable

**** Each competitor will be given a number by their coordinator upon registration at the location and will be judged anonymously during the competition.**

GENERAL CONTEST INFORMATION

Purpose of the Contest

To provide competitors with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to create a small landscape design for a residential property. This competition allows students to showcase their skills in developing design solutions that meet a client's needs, respond to existing site conditions, and are functional and aesthetically pleasing. Students will showcase their ability to design using a variety of different hardscape and plant materials. This contest connects students with pathways and careers connected to Landscape Design and Landscape Architecture.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE TESTED

- Ability to develop a design concept by producing a hand-drawn conceptual bubble diagrams
- Ability to demonstrate the skills and knowledge of drawing methods and tools such as: hand drawing, CAD software or Dynascape as the final drawing method
- Ability to create a to-scale (1:200 metric scale) master plan using the provided base plan
- Ability to lay out the landscape elements as outlined in the project requirements (specific plan and client requirements will be handed out at the start of the competition)
- Ability to solve design problems using the elements and principles of design
- Ability to choose appropriate plant symbols
- Ability to choose appropriate plant material for the environment
- Ability to label plants and design elements clearly
- Ability to incorporate grades/elevations into the design
- Ability to create a master plan that incorporates project requirements and client wish list items

JUDGING CRITERIA

Drawing Setup and Presentation <i>Ability to create a professional and aesthetically pleasing landscape design that is complete shows attention to detail and includes correct graphics.</i>	/15
Landscape design is complete.	/1
The title block includes the designer's name.	/1
The title block includes a scale.	/1
The title block includes a date.	/1
The base plan is centred on the page.	/1
Appropriate landscape symbols, line weights, textures and patterns are used (deciduous vs. coniferous, plant groupings used, hardscape patterns etc.).	/5
The landscape plan is clearly labelled	/5
Overall Design Solution <i>Ability to demonstrate the skills and knowledge to develop a creative and functional landscape design.</i>	/ 20
The conceptual bubble diagram highlights clients' needs and relates them to each other and the existing site conditions.	/5
Landscape design is drawn to scale.	/5
Landscape design is functional.	/5
Landscape design is creative.	/5
Meeting the Client's Needs <i>Ability to follow the directions outlined in the Drawing Requirements/Clients Wish List package provided at the competition and include all elements.</i>	/45
1. Provide privacy from the neighboring properties on the East and South side of the backyard	/5
2. The client is open to any style. You are designing for a family of 4 (2 adults 2 young kids)	/5

3. The septic tank must not have any permanent or heavy items located on top of it.	/5
4. Be conscious of the swale in the yard and where it drains	
5. Include a pool and pool shed in your design.	/5
6. Design a patio area and seating around the pool and incorporate a new fence around the pool. Remember the home cannot be used as a fence boundary. The pool must be enclosed by a fence on all four sides.	/5
7. Design multiple garden beds and create a plant oasis in the backyard	/5
8. Design a functional deck that can accommodate barbecuing, dining, and grade transitions off the back deck (steps where required).	/5
9. Include a walkway: connecting the driveway to the front door and on the East side, connecting the driveway to the new back deck	/5
10. Design a front garden that enhances the street appeal of the house	/ 5
Selection and Use of Materials <i>Ability to demonstrate an understanding of the use of plant material and hardscape material.</i>	/20
Ability to select plant materials according to scale, texture, colour, and season of interest that meet the client's needs and are appropriate for the design site.	/10
Ability to select and arrange a variety of hardscape materials that meet the client's needs and are right for the design site.	/10
Total Mark out of 100	/100

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Supplied at the Competition:

- Print and digital baseplan of the design site in a 1:200 metric scale
- Competition package including deliverables, mark breakdown and photos of the design site
- A computer with DynaSCAPE Design and DynaSCAPE colour

Brought by the Competitor:

- Students are expected to bring their own computer if they prefer to use a specific design program not listed in the supplied materials
- Trace paper
- 1:200 scale
- Pencil or vellum
- Markers/ pencil crayons
- Circle templates or any other materials the competitor needs to complete a hand drawing

SAFETY

TEACHER'S ROLE:

Instructors are expected to familiarise their student participants with the scope

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS & SUPERVISION

Teachers must supervise the student to ensure that safety is adhered to and to maintain the integrity of the competition. If a supply teacher is required, it is preferable to have the supply teacher supervise your student for the Challenge, and you can remain with your class, this might not be possible for challenges where safety is a concern.

Other safety considerations:

N/A