



# Founder & General Contractor

## Job Description

A **founder** is someone who starts their own business, and a **general contractor** is like the team leader who plans projects, solves problems, and makes sure everything gets built the right way. They **mix hands-on skills**—like building, digging, and fixing things—**with big-picture thinking**. Alexandria is both! She started a landscaping company that helps neighborhoods deal with rain in smart, sustainable ways—like designing yards and parks that soak up stormwater, prevent flooding, and protect local rivers.

## Salary

Entry — \$48,700

Middle — \$108,989

Top — \$204,233

## Core Tasks

- Oversees **sustainable construction** projects from start to finish.
- Applies **eco-friendly** practices like rainwater harvesting.
- Manages teams**, contractors, and project timelines.
- Leads **land use planning** with a focus on conservation.

## Workplace / Environment

- Work hours**  
**Approx. 40- 45 hours/week**  
(At key milestones overtime work may be required to meet deadlines)
- Environment**  
Office and on-site construction, **overseeing teams** and ensuring sustainable practices.
- Travel**  
To project sites, **meet with vendors**, and **monitor project** progress.

## Education / Prerequisites

### Education Level

No specific education required. A degree in Construction Management or Engineering can be helpful

### Licensing

Bond, Insurance and Registration with Department of Labor & Industries

### Pre-Job Preparation

Generally learning skills like construction, landscaping, business, environmental science. Gaining experience through internships, trade programs or community projects.

## Experience

### Soft Skills

- Problem-solving and adaptability
- Strong communication and relationship building
- Passion-driven work ethic

### Technical Skills

- Project oversight and site planning
- Contractor coordination and team management
- Collaboration with engineers for technical execution



## Career Path: Alexandria Van Bryce

### About Me

Founder & General Contractor at Dynamic Waters LLC

Bachelor of Arts in Communications from University of Washington

### High School Life

"So in high school, I was an **athlete**, and played tennis. I was an **outdoorsy person**. In summertime, I spent a lot of time down by the river with my friends. We would make tie rope swings to trees, jump out into the water, go float the **river**, hike into the woods, have **bonfires**, play loud music, and dance. I'm not into learning about the science behind plants, but I spent time in **nature** with my friends and in **community**, and that's where I have immense appreciation for where I am today. I always had **part-time jobs** while going to school and being a **student-athlete**."

### College Choices

"After high school, I had completed my **AA degree**, and wanted the opportunity to potentially be a **family therapist**. I continued going into **higher education**. I went to the **University of Washington**, and I got an undergraduates degree in **communications**. I started taking science classes around **psychology**, and found myself getting less interested the more we got into the **lab sciences**. So I decided to just focus on communications and started opening up possibilities to getting into **journalism**."

### Into the Real World

"I was looking for opportunity to **transition out of HR** and was told great ways to **build my network** and meet other companies is to join aboard of an organization and take my HR knowledge and use that to **support a non-profit organization**. I heard about an organization called the Puget Sound Keeper Alliance and they filed last action losses against large companies that pollute our waterways and that interested me because I'm passionate about **protecting our clean water** rights. So I joined on this board and there was funding available for community projects but there wasn't enough contractors willing to take on doing projects. I decided that I would start on my own **landscaping design and build business**. I would apply for grants for those funds for projects to do **stormwater management projects** and create other spaces to neighborhoods and families but also get to benefit and take care of it"

# About My Job

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"The work is about making lasting change,  
not just completing projects."

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## Pros

- "Opportunity to **create habitat** for pollinators, like butterflies, bees, different parts of our plant community, as well animal community, human community, and getting to have everyone **interact with the outdoor space** that you're creating."
- "Working with **equipment**"
- "Thinking of creative ways to **bring my clients vision to life** for what they want in their yard."
- "I really enjoy **driving my truck**...big truck energy all day every day. "

## Cons

- "Having to go out and **find my own clients**."
- "Having to stay on top of **managing the budget** for the business. Looking at **financials** is not something that I enjoy doing."
- "There are times where you have to prioritize our **team safety**, and so you have to be the bad guy and tell people, **correct people** for their benefit."
- "No one's going to **care for your business** like you do, and there will be instances where you have to delegate work to **team members**."

## Fieldwork

- "My favorite type of project is one where we're helping people deal with **flooding issues**, because you can really see the transformation of someone's **landscape and the impact** on their life right away when the work is complete."
- "**Mitigating stormwater** and flooding issues, so we'll **reroute** that water around their house."
- "We get to bring **heavy machinery** on site. There's nothing like a excavator and the empowering feeling that it is when you can **move large amounts** of soil and dirt."

## Office Work

- "A day for me starts off with **getting up** in the morning and doing **admin work**."
- "**Reaching out** to vendors who sell products that I install for my customers, and **coordinating** getting materials to the job site."
- "Then after the morning gets going, I **meet with my team**." We'll usually talk about the work we're going to be doing ahead."
- "There's oftentimes an **interruption** that comes in, and I need to **meet with a team member** to make sure that they have the tools and the **resources that** they need so that they can go out and **do their work**."

## Expertise

- Providing **invaluable human resources** business partner services to multimillion-dollar organizations.
- Analyzing **complex** organizational dynamics.
- **Implementing** effective policies and **fostering** an inclusive work environment.
- Land management, **carpentry**, and plumbing.
- Technical rainwater **harvesting training** with Dirt Corps.

## Education/Experience

- "In high school, I did the Running Start program, and so my junior and senior year, I **took classes at the local community college.**"
- "After high school, I had **completed my AA degree.**"
- "I went to the University of Washington, and I got an **undergraduates degree in communications.**"
- "I was offered a job as an **HR coordinator** at a company with 100 employees, helping finance small businesses. "

## The Future of **Climate Adaptation**

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"As the planet evolves, the need for sustainable construction grows."

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"My **particular field** is going to be needed more and more as future moves on. **Climate Adaptation** is a term I learned within the last 10 years, and really what it means to me is recognizing that our planet is **evolving and changing**, and we're building more impervious surfaces, more buildings, because we have to house people, but there's an opportunity for us to think about the **watershed** and the water that moves through the **landscape** where we're building people's homes and places to live, and so there's going to be more of a demand of people needing people like me to come and help them with **construction**, and I get to focus on the part of the work that I love, but also I get to see the ripple effect of creating **housing opportunities**, creating **community projects**. So it's a blessing to be in this sector right now, for sure."

# About Sustainability Ambassadors

We are here to **RAPIDLY ADVANCE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**. Empowering **YOUTH** to catalyze community sustainability, **TEACHERS** to integrate rigor with relevance for real-world impact, **COMMUNITY** to drive collective impact.

We support a year-round training program for over 60 highly motivated middle and high school youth, a Teacher Fellows Program, City-County CAP internships, and college-level interns, and work with hundreds of educators to design new models of problem-based, place-based learning around **a shared vision of educating for sustainability**.

## Your Green Jobs Future

**Ready** to explore your future in green jobs? Use [Map your Career](#) to map your trajectory!

**Find** career opportunities near you now! Use [Career Connect - Washington's](#) tool to find programs to build your career skills.

**Interested** in a future in solar? Take a look at the [Solar Jobs Census](#) to track solar job growth nationwide.

**Explore** [RVC's opportunities](#) to work with organizations led by communities of color.

**Dive** into the [Center of Excellence for Clean Energy's](#) robust career tools in the sustainable energy sector.

**Grow** your professional sustainability skillset with the [Seattle Youth Good Program](#).

**See** Seattle's [Clean Energy Resources Map](#) to examine what the city is planning for a greener energy future.

**Check out** the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) to explore the sector's current opportunities. :

## Funder Acknowledgement



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
**Wastewater Treatment Division**

