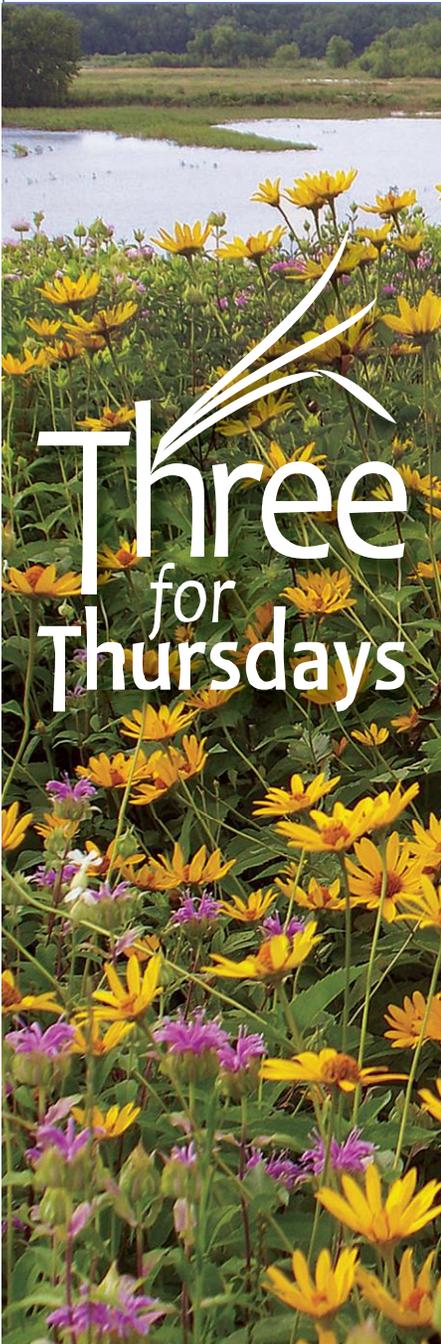


# NATURAL LAND INSTITUTE

Conserving Land  
in Northern Illinois



Three  
for  
Thursdays

## The Natural Capital Coalition...

...Is merging with the Social and Human Coalition bringing together the organizations for greater impact. I always find it interesting to see what others are doing across the state, nation and internationally. It really gives me hope. You may be interested in exploring these efforts.

<https://mailchi.mp/98e4479df89a/natural-capital-coalition-july-newsletter-1295917?e=9f1adb55d2>

<https://businessfornature.org/>

## Land Protection and Climate Change

As NLI and JDCF delve deeper into our regional planning effort for NW Illinois, we have been awarded a grant by the LTA to incorporate climate resiliency into our planning. This is why: A report just released by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms that land conservation and management are central to how the world can mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. The report makes clear that to protect the world's food supply, we need to be careful to keep the *natural* in natural climate solutions by not going too far in pursuing large-scale bioenergy operations and afforestation, i.e., planting trees where they did not previously grow. Instead, we need to maintain our focus on protecting and restoring natural ecosystems consisting of native plants and animals.

Land trusts can show the way here by using climate-smart practices as they steward the forests, grasslands, wetlands and agricultural soils under their management. To help with this effort, the Land Trust Alliance is exploring new ways for land trusts to tap into ecosystem services markets to get paid for implementing those practices. It makes clear the absolutely essential role that land conservation plays in addressing the world's greatest environmental challenges. *(news release by the Land Trust Alliance)*

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srcc/>

## Environmental & Economic Benefits of Soil Health

To provide the economic evidence that soil health practices work, American Farmland Trust estimated the net economic and environmental improvements experienced by four farmers who have adopted several soil health practices, including: no-till or strip-till, cover crops, nutrient management, conservation cover, compost application, and mulching. NLI is on the right track with our Working Lands Guiding Principles and Policy! We're currently working on our Procedures and lease structuring.

<https://farmland.org/project/quantifying-economic-and-environmental-benefits-of-soil-health/>

Enjoy the Outdoors! Kerry

September 26, 2019

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