

Announcement of Position Opening

We are living at the time of man's final conquest over the wilderness. What we have saved, and what we may save in the next few years, will be all the true wild nature that will remain to pass on from generation to generation in the years ahead. There will never be another chance.

— George B. Fell, founder of Natural Land Institute



Natural Land Institute Seeks Executive Director

The Board of Trustees of the Natural Land Institute (Rockford, Illinois) announces that they are seeking candidates to fill the position of Executive Director of the organization. Applications will open on February 20, 2023 and will be accepted until March 31, 2023. It is the goal of the Search Committee to fill the position by June 2023. Salary Range: \$74,000 to \$102,000.

Send resume and cover letter to NLISearch@naturalland.org

Job Responsibilities

The Executive Director of the Natural Land Institute reports to and is supervised by the NLI Board of Trustees. The Executive Director directs all land trust operations and programs, supervises staff, and represents NLI as the face of the organization. Responsibilities include implementing NLI's Strategic Plan, leading and facilitating fund development, and prioritizing program activities to ensure that NLI

functions within its capacity and in concert with the strategic plan direction provided by the Board. *Relocation requested.*

**NATURAL
LAND
INSTITUTE**
Conserving Land
in Northern Illinois



About Natural Land Institute

Mission

The mission of the Natural Land Institute is to create an enduring legacy of natural land in northern Illinois for people, plants, and animals.

Purpose

- Acquiring and protecting natural areas.
- Restoring, managing and stewarding natural areas and native species.
- Conducting research and managing information.
- Disseminating information about land and nature conservation.
- Developing sound public policies and plans.



Photo: David C. Olson

Who We Are

The role of Natural Land Institute (NLI) includes advocacy for land preservation, as well as land-use planning and direct action to preserve areas by acquisition and conservation easements. NLI also



collaborates with other organizations and agencies to achieve its conservation goals.

What We Do/Where We Do It

Natural Land Institute (NLI) is a regional land trust which accepts donations of properties, buys lands, manages natural areas, and helps landowners establish legal agreements that permanently limit harmful use and development.

Since 1958, NLI has protected, managed, and restored 18,000 acres throughout Illinois and southern Wisconsin. These include prairies, forests, wetlands, and river corridors. NLI currently owns and manages 26 preserves totaling 3,119 acres and holds 48 conservation easements on 4,404 acres.



Responsibilities and Qualifications

Job Title: Executive Director, Natural Land Institute

Reports to: Board of Trustees and Board President

Leadership

Lead and coordinate annual reaffirmation of shared goals and strategies. Provide activity updates of key priorities, delivering with recommendations in timely, concise and contextual fashion.

Fiscal Soundness

Cultivate donor base while developing and growing sound financial capacity toward ongoing mission support. Develop operating and project budget, commensurate with shared goals and strategies.

Management

Hire, manage and motivate staff and active volunteers to achieve mission determined strategies and priorities within limited time and resources, maximizing organizational skills, competencies, interests and expertise.

Communication

Represent organization throughout the greater community and within membership, through various venues to include appearances, presentations, newsletters and personal relationships, while projecting the best of the Natural Land Institute.

Skills & Experience

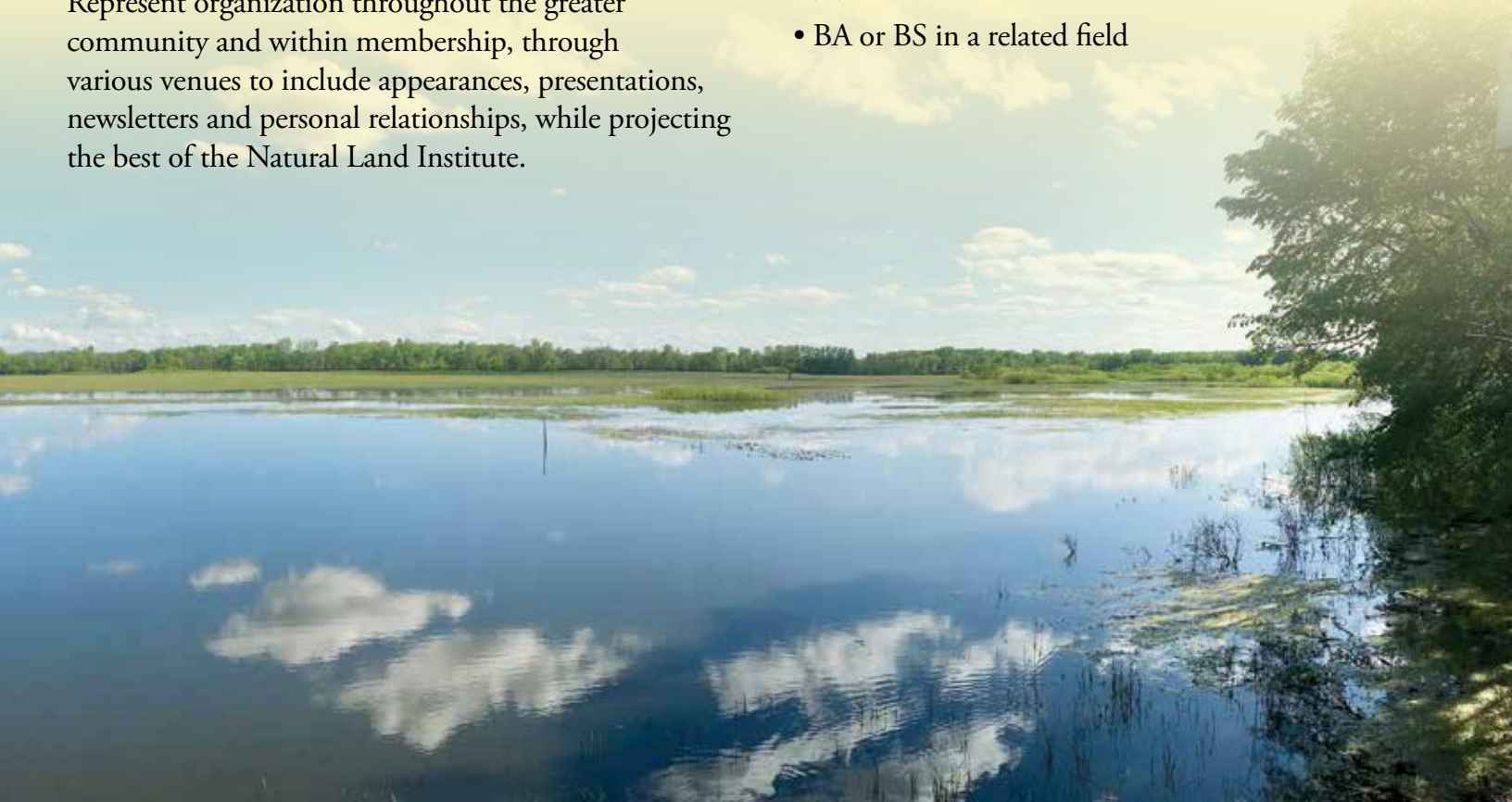
- Natural resources & land trust experience preferred
- Grant writing skills
- Strong public presentation & writing skills
- Staff development & mentoring skills
- Conservation practices experience
- Experience in nonprofit administration and fundraising preferred

Interpersonal Competencies

- Interest and willingness to learn about new subjects and develop new skills
- Passion for the mission
- Community minded
- Team player with effective personal & team time-management skills
- Builder of trust & meaningful relationships with good listening skills
- Sound judgment: asks for help when needed

Education

- BA or BS in a related field



Rockford Region

Rockford and the northern Illinois region is one of unfolding vibrancy. Its enhancements of recent years include the revitalization of historic manufacturing buildings into new hotels and residential living spaces, as well as meeting, cultural and restaurant spaces.

The 4-county area — population 438,000 — is home to unique and valuable forest preserves, a nationally notable park district, and an aerospace manufacturing industrial hub ranked 6th in the nation.

The region is within easy driving of a world class airport from which any exotic city in the world can be reached, explored and enjoyed. And Chicago itself, America's "second city," is an easy visit with its array of professional sports, theaters, museums — including an aquarium, a planetarium, world class art — and superb shopping. Milwaukee, Madison and Chicago are all within easy driving distance.

The Rockford area features a lower cost-of-living where it is often said that "one can purchase twice the home for half the price" in tree lined well-kept neighborhoods. To be sure, the city — as with any metro area — has low income and underemployed among its demographics, but many efforts are underway to improve living, working and education standards.

Importantly, to those of us tied to nature, the region is close to woodlands, wetlands, and prairies that the Natural Land Institute has been acquiring, preserving, and restoring for years. One of NLI's strategies includes an exciting pilot project that introduces sustainable farming techniques on working farms, aided by several



Hundreds attend the very popular downtown City Market held every Friday afternoon during the warm summer months.

foundation funded projects.

There's much left to do to extend the hand of nature into the region through NLI programs and activities. You can be a big part of the Natural Land Institute's long-running heritage dating back to George Fell and NLI's original founding. Submit your resumé and cover letter to the following email: NLISearch@naturalland.org



...a unique career opportunity with the Natural Land Institute



Since its founding in 1958 by George Fell, the Natural Land Institute has been at the forefront of the natural area preservation movement.

Mission: The Natural Land Institute serves as a land trust for 12 counties in Northern Illinois. Its mission statement is to create an enduring legacy of natural land in northern Illinois for people, plants and animals.

About NLI: The Natural Land Institute is a not for profit, 501(c)3 tax-deductible land conservation organization — privately funded through donations and membership gifts from individuals and businesses, private foundation grants, family foundations, events, and sponsorships. The Natural Land Institute employs 6 full-time staff and 2 part-time staff. NLI has a 16-member board of trustees, and the organization is financially sound with more than \$6 million in investments. The Board is building endowment funds to sustain staff and operations into the future.

The Natural Land Institute's history of leadership, growth, and accomplishment has engendered recognition, respect, and support. With its contacts, facilities, resources and extensive ongoing programs, it has the foundation to continue its leading role in the natural area field with an unlimited sphere of influence.

History: George B. Fell founded the Natural Land Institute in 1958 and served as Executive Director until his death in 1994. George's dedication to the

preservation of natural areas continues to inspire the programs of NLI. He created a land conservation movement that continues to protect the wonderful diversity of native plants and animals and the beautiful tapestry of life.

In 1963, The Natural Land Institute initiated the enactment of legislation to create the pioneer state system of legally protected nature preserves in the country. NLI provided staff for the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission for 18 years. In 1978, NLI fostered development of the Natural Areas Association and provided administrative office functions, facilities, and financial underwriting for its first 13 years.

NLI played a pioneering role in developing the state's Department of Natural Resources' *Illinois Natural Areas Inventory* and the *Illinois Natural Areas Plan*. It conducted Illinois' first endangered species study, leading to the establishment of the state's official endangered species list. In 1994, the Natural Land Institute helped organize the Blufflands Alliance, the nation's first multi-state alliance of public and private organizations working together to save a regional landscape.

NLI Today: The Natural Land Institute owns 26 private preserves totaling over 3,119 acres. NLI also holds 48 conservation easements on private property, totaling over 4,404 acres of land preserved.

Since its inception in 1958, NLI has preserved more than 18,000 acres of land in Northern Illinois.

In recent years NLI has acquired additional farm and prairie acreage and is in continuing conversations with owners of adjacent property to protect additional

lands. NLI has recently initiated a pilot working lands (farmland) conservation initiative. NLI's Conservation@Programs encourage private landowners and businesses to become involved in community conservation by creating and managing sustainable natural areas in their surroundings.

Statement of Beliefs

Land Acknowledgement

We commit to preserving and stewarding species, populations and ecosystems of the land and waters of our home — northwest Illinois.

We recognize that these lands and waters served as the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of indigenous people that have dwelt here for millennia.

We acknowledge our indebtedness to traditional ecological scientific knowledge with its interwoven perspectives.

We pledge to work with indigenous groups and nations to share information and build mutual respect, making our conservation better.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

We are committed to building a culture that respects

everyone and where many voices can be heard. Our effectiveness and impact across our region will be enhanced, and our mission well-served as we recognize diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in all aspects of our work.

Our Changing Climate

We recognize that our actions are instrumental in mitigating the impacts of climate change by providing clean air, clean water and healthy soils — resulting in significant levels of carbon sequestration.

We are committed to managing our natural areas to make them more resilient and adaptable to those changes.

We recognize that protecting our natural areas is imperative to protecting our quality of life in the face of our changing climate.

NATURAL LAND INSTITUTE

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The Natural Land Institute is seeking an Executive Director to serve as its chief executive officer. We are soliciting applications from persons with appropriate educational and work background who have ability, motivation, and tenacity, and who can demonstrate a high level of achievement. If you qualify and are interested, please send a resume and cover letter to: NLISearch@naturalland.org

