

Conservation Easements & Land Acquisitions

A3 Environmental Consultants (A3E) is collaborating with the Natural Land Institute (NLI) to permanently protect natural areas in northern Illinois. The work centers around the Strategic Conservation Plan that A3E – Olson Ecological Solutions at the time – developed for NLI in collaboration with their partners. This resource guides and focuses NLI’s work. A3E assists NLI in all aspects of these protection efforts, such as working with landowners to negotiate conservation easements, assisting land acquisitions, writing grants to secure funding, and assessing the attributes and potential issues of each property.

On behalf of NLI, A3E has:

- Led efforts to protect three farms with 182 acres of agricultural fields and natural areas through the Illinois and Driftless Area RCPP programs in partnership with The Conservation Fund.
- Worked with a private landowner to protect 86 acres of floodplain forest with conservation easements.
- Written grant applications to secure funding from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for the protection of five parcels with 202 acres of forests and wetlands, plus an important access parcel to Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve.
- Conducted environmental assessments and due diligence for the acquisition of four of the forested parcels mentioned above and two farms.
- Wrote and compiled baseline documentation reports for four of the properties mentioned above protected by conservation easements plus a 16-acre green burial site in collaboration with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation.
- Assisted negotiations and provided environmental assessments for two parcels totaling 60 acres that became part of Mississippi Palisades State Park.
- Developed a Strategic Conservation Plan that refined and maximized the efficiency of NLI’s Project Selection Checklist to ensure that future projects for land protection are aligned with NLI’s mission and Core Conservation Principles.

Benefits

Permanently protected natural areas • Stormwater filtration • Wildlife habitat • Climate resilience
Carbon sequestration • Community engagement • Strategic partnerships • Efficient planning tools

Services Provided

Strategic Conservation
Plan Facilitation &
Production
Project Selection Checklist
Update
Project Assessments
Conservation Easement
Negotiations & Due
Diligence
Land Acquisition Due
Diligence
Grant Writing
Baseline Documentations
Environmental
Assessments

Since its establishment in 1958, the Natural Land Institute has helped to protect more than 18,000 acres of natural land.

Client

Natural Land Institute

Contact

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Location

Northern Illinois

