



NATURAL AREAS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT ON THE ELECTION

In A Time of Uncertainty, We Need to Focus Together on What We Value

With the results of Tuesday's election, we as natural areas professionals have entered a time of great uncertainty about future leadership, policies and public attitudes. What will these changes mean for us, and what impact will they have on the land we all hold dear?

But we feel certain that it is critical not to give up hope. We have too much to protect, and the stakes are too high to become discouraged.

We will need to roll up our sleeves and act, perhaps in ways we are not used to, to ensure that natural areas across the nation continue to be funded, protected, and conserved.

Here at the Natural Areas Association, we like to say that **we are all better together**. That's never been more important to recognize. If we stand united, we can help support each other during these turbulent times, while increasing the impact of our actions.

As a professional community, we are united in our passion for what we do, and we must be just as united in our resolve to protect what we value and love.

We will meet this challenge together.

In strength and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa L. Smith".

Lisa L. Smith, Executive Director

About the Natural Areas Association: We are the only national, non-profit membership organization that is dedicated to the support and advancement of the community of natural areas professionals. Our members work to protect and restore natural areas, ecosystems and landscapes, and include natural lands managers, natural resource managers, land trust staff and volunteers, biologists, ecologists, researchers, policy specialists, educators, students, and anyone with an active interest in environmental conservation and natural areas stewardship. For more information, go to <https://www.naturalareas.org/>