

Guidelines for Authors

Natural Areas Journal provides a forum for communication among persons involved in the identification, preservation, protection, and management of natural areas and elements of natural diversity. We welcome articles focusing on nature preserves, natural areas, state or national parks, rare and endangered species, land preservation, and practical approaches to natural areas work.

Submit manuscripts online via Editorial Manager at www.editorialmanager.com/naj. Please identify the intended manuscript category following the guidelines given below.

Natural Areas Journal welcomes manuscripts for publication in several categories.

- Research Articles (2000 to 7500 words) are peer-reviewed and detail original research in which new data, concepts, or applications are presented. If you wish to submit something significantly longer, contact the Editor.
- Research Notes (3000 words or fewer) are peer-reviewed and report results of completed original research projects of smaller scope.
- Conservation Issues articles (2000 to 7500 words) are reviewed by at least one Associate Editor. They may summarize observational research that involves minimal quantitative data, review legislation pertinent to the natural areas profession, discuss trends and issues in biodiversity conservation and management, or be reviews or syntheses of topics related to natural areas and the preservation of biodiversity.
- Stewardship in Action articles are short communications (3000 words or fewer) reviewed by the Editorial Board that describe new techniques and equipment, research in progress, and innovative or best management practices. Natural area managers are encouraged to not only report on techniques that worked, but also on those that did not. For authors who do not have the time to write a Stewardship in Action article, we can assign a writer who will interview you and prepare it (contact the Editor).
- Forum submissions (less than 1000 words) comment on material published in the *Natural Areas Journal* or address issues of general interest to natural area professionals.
- Book Reviews (1000 to 2000 words). Prospective book reviewers and publishers should contact the Book Review Editor at najbookreviews@gmail.com for more information.

Preparing your Manuscript

Once the manuscript has been accepted for publication, check the files to be certain that all parts have been included.

- Title (do not use abbreviations)
- Short title or running head
- Authors' names in the correct order
- Affiliations for each author
- Contact information for the corresponding author
- Abstract (250 word limit)
- Key words (up to five)
- Text
- Acknowledgments
- Footnotes for tables only, denoted by superscripted lowercase letters
- References or Literature Cited section
- Tables and table captions
- Figures and captions
- Appendices
- Short authors' biographies

Check to be certain that all parts of the manuscript are in the correct format and location.

- The first page should contain the complete article title, article type, running heads, author names and affiliations.
- The text should follow.
- Figure captions and tables should be placed at the end of the text file.
- Figures should be left in individual files in their native format. Do not place them in a Word file because the resolution of the figure may be decreased.
- Check the manuscript to be certain that it is the final accepted version and that all last-minute changes have been incorporated into the text.
- Review recently published articles for journal formatting and style.
- All figures should be mentioned in the manuscript and should match the figures provided by the author. There should be a separate figure caption for each figure.
- Figure parts should be named consistently in the figure, in the caption, and in the text (A vs. a, left vs. right, etc.).
- We accept figures in most widely used formats. For more details, please request the Guide to Art Preparation from the Managing Editor.
- Tables should be mentioned in the text and include a descriptive caption. Tables must be in an editable format such as Word or Excel. PDF files cannot be used for typesetting. For more details, please request the Guide to Table Preparation from the Managing Editor.
- Express all measurements in metric units.
- All maps submitted must contain a compass and a scale (in metric units).
- Scientific names of taxa must be supplied, specifically at first mention of a vernacular name in both the abstract and in the text. Include naming authority at first mention of species in the text.
- References should be in the correct order, all necessary elements should be present, and they should be formatted to match the journal's preferred style.
- The editorial staff reserves the right to adjust the author's style to standards of uniformity.