



Wild Ones -- Natural Landscapers, Ltd.
2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road
Neenah, WI 54956
920-730-3986

Board of Directors Prospectus

Wild Ones (Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd.) was founded in 1979 by nine attendees of a natural landscaping workshop who, in collaboration with Wisconsin environmental luminary Lorrie Otto, inspired a movement to connect people with nature and restore ecological value to degraded landscapes by planting native plants. Wild Ones incorporated in the state of Wisconsin in 1990 and was recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1995. Financial support for Wild Ones comes from membership dues, donations, investment income, grants, fundraising initiatives and program revenue.

How Wild Ones Makes an Impact

Wild Ones promotes native landscapes through education, advocacy and collaborative action. We inspire change through our core values:

- **Respect** for each other, for nature and for the earth.
- We are an **inclusive community**: diverse voices and backgrounds make us stronger; we welcome everyone to join us.
- We provide **evidence-based information**, because the seeds of change spread most efficiently when grounded in data.
- We are **action and growth oriented**; we learn, grow, and share our knowledge.

With more than 10,000 members and 100+ chapters in 30+ states, we fulfill our mission through a robust network of dedicated members and community-based, volunteer-led chapters. Wild Ones chapters offer a wide array of educational programs and hands-on learning opportunities, including conferences, yard tours, field trips, and community projects. We work to increase access to native plants through plant sales and seed sharing. Many chapters provide educational resources and advocate for natural landscaping through their newsletters, websites, social media channels, and their collaborations with community stakeholders.

Wild Ones board and staff provide organizational leadership, oversight, administration, and membership services for our chapters and our independent members (partners-at-large, or PALs). Wild Ones offers national programs such as the quarterly *Journal*, Native Garden Designs, Seeds for Education grants, Wild for Monarchs materials, and educational webinars.

About the Board of Directors

Wild Ones Board of Directors supports our mission by setting direction, providing oversight, ensuring financial and ethical accountability, participating in strategic planning, fundraising, and committee functions, and advising on program priorities. Current standing committees include Executive, Finance, Governance, and Mission. We function as a governing board and, as needed, a working board.

Bylaws provide for 10 - 15 directors serving three-year terms. Directors can be re-elected for a maximum of two terms; board elections are held annually by e-ballot.

Nomination & Election Process and Timeline

Candidates for Wild Ones Board of Directors self-nominate. The online Nomination Form is available on the Wild Ones website. Under the Get Involved tab, click Volunteer to access the Nomination Form:

<https://wildones.org/board-nomination-form/>. Wild Ones Nominations Committee reviews applications



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and interviews and selects candidates to stand for election. Wild Ones members elect Wild Ones board directors.

Applications will be accepted through August 11, 2024. Applications will be reviewed as they are received; we encourage early applications. Interviews will be scheduled as applications are received. Following the elections and completion of board orientation, new directors will begin their terms on January 1st, 2025.

Deadline for applications:	August 11, 2024
Application review and interviews:	July 23 – August 16, 2025
Selected candidates announced:	Early September
Voting Period:	September 22 – October 14, 2024
Notification to candidates of election results:	October 17, 2024
Onboarding:	early November – mid-December 2024
New directors take seats:	January 1, 2025

Responsibilities

Directors are expected to attend and participate in board meetings, serve on one or more board committees, and attend Wild Ones programming and events as they are able.

Expectations of Board Directors Include:

Board Participation

- Attending board meetings; meetings are held in alternating months on the 4th Monday of the month. Board directors may be excused from 2 of the 6 meetings per calendar year (Jan – Dec).
- In the months between regular board meetings, the board holds “50/50 sessions.” These are 90-minute meetings split between discussions of current topics and social time getting to know each other. Although optional, attendance is strongly encouraged.
- Meetings are held via video conference (e.g., Zoom, MS Teams) phone calls, and face-to-face meetings. Consistent, stable, and adequate internet access and bandwidth are necessary to effectively participate in board meetings.
- Reviewing materials in advance of the board meetings. Materials are shared via Microsoft SharePoint. Directors will need to access both email and SharePoint frequently.
- Serving on at least one standing committee.
- Engaging in board and committee discussions; listening and asking questions; making motions and decisions consistent with Wild Ones mission, personal conscience, convictions, and ethics; supporting majority decisions once issues are decided by the board.
- Maintaining the confidentiality of the board’s executive sessions; speaking for the board or Wild Ones only as authorized.
- Suggesting agenda items for board and committee meetings; ensuring that significant policy matters are addressed.
- Volunteering to fill officer roles and chair committees as vacancies arise.



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Fiduciary Responsibility

- Exercising prudence and sound fiscal practice in the control of funds.
- Reviewing financial statements; helping the board fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities to maintain a stable and forward-looking organization.
- Abiding by all relevant laws and regulations, Wild Ones mission, bylaws, and policies.
- Avoiding conflicts, or the appearance of conflicts, that might compromise the board or the organization, and disclosing possible personal conflicts to the board.

Fundraising

- Supporting the development and implementation of fundraising strategies.
- Maintaining a Wild Ones membership and contributing according to your means.

Commitments

Most board directors can expect to spend 6-10 hours per month on national board work. You may also be expected to attend an annual in-person board meeting or retreat at your own expense.

Service as a board director commits you to

- participating in six board meetings per year (meetings typically last 2 – 2.5 hours)
- participating in board “50/50 sessions”
- serving on one or more board committees (most meet monthly for one hour)
- meeting preparation
- completing assigned tasks
- responding to board communications

Additional Information

The following documents can be viewed on the Wild Ones website at: <https://wildones.org/board-nominations/>.

- Wild Ones 2022 IRS 990 tax report
- Bylaws
- Recent Financial Statement
- 2024 Annual Report

Questions

For questions about nominations, or if more information is needed about the board or the Wild Ones organization, please email Nominations Chair, Rita Ulrich at secretary@wildones.org.