The following is a list of frequently asked questions that we hope is helpful. This is a “living document,” to be updated as the organization grows and progresses, and as more questions are asked and answers are developed!

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WHAT IS WE WANT THE LAND COALITION? (back to top)

The We Want the Land Coalition was created to save the acres of land that were home for over 30 years to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (MichFest), a place that many called “home.” MichFest was a place where we laughed, loved, learned, and struggled together; where we welcomed newborns and scattered the ashes of our beloved departed. It served as an incubator for both personal transformation and profound social justice work. While we do not intend to recreate the Festival, WWTLC does seek to honor the tradition of MichFest by creating a society and community we want to live in and pass on to the next generation.

- WWTLC is a registered nonprofit organization in the state of Michigan, and an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) non-profit charity whose mission is to provide women and girls with unique programs, events, and experiences that celebrate women’s history, promote healing and empowerment, build women’s community, and encourage education and growth. This is made possible through the maintenance, preservation, conservation, and stewardship of approximately 651 acres of land in Walkerville, Michigan, near the Manistee National Forest, the former home of the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival – an area we call The Land.
- WWTLC received federal 501(c)(3) non-profit status in September 2017.
- A nonprofit structure ensures that the possession of The Land can remain within the hands of the women’s community for generations to come.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF WWTLC? (back to top)

- WWTLC, through education, community awareness, interaction with public officials, and restorative efforts, hopes to maintain the condition of The Land in its current pristine condition in perpetuity, for our own use now, and for future generations of women and girls.
- Practice sound environmental stewardship to maintain The Land in its current pristine condition. Preservation of The Land is essential to the local ecosystems.
- Establish protected space for women-only and women-centered events, so that the ethos of the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival may not only endure inside of us, but also be alive and well upon The Land itself.
- WWTLC will offer and host programs in the expansive, wild and protected space offered by The Land as a means of providing women and girls with opportunities to thrive in a natural environment unmediated by some of the more unfortunate realities of modern life.
- By partnering with organizations that serve women and girls, WWTLC seeks to provide women and girls with unique programs, events, and experiences that celebrate women’s history, promote healing and empowerment, build women’s community, and encourage education and growth.
WHAT ABOUT THE MICHIGAN WOMYN’S MUSIC FESTIVAL? (back to top)

- The Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival was a week-long annual event created by and for women that held space for lesbian and women’s culture in the United States and beyond for four decades. Through its longevity, the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival provided respite and sanctuary for generations of women, while showing girls the power that they possess to change the world. WWTLC seeks to honor this 40-year legacy.
- The Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival was completely built, staffed, run, and attended by women. Throughout its 40-year history, the Festival occupied a central and powerful place in lesbian history, embracing and creating space for the vast diversity of the female experience. It provided space for women to share and learn skills including carpentry, plumbing, sound engineering, stage production, and community organizing. For many women, it expanded and transformed their understanding of what it means to be a woman.
- As the former location of the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, The Land is considered by many to be a site of historical significance, one that remains a meaningful, deeply connected space for women and girls who gather there.
- While WWTLC is grateful for the foundation provided by the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, and we thankfully acknowledge that many of the skills needed to form WWTLC as an organization were taught to us via our MichFest experiences, the organization does not seek to recreate or resurrect the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival event.

WHAT IS THE DISPOSITION OF MICHIGAN WOMEN’S FESTIVAL INVENTORY? (back to top)

- In late 2016, the Festival’s inventory was sold at auction.
- WWTLC’s efforts have been focused on purchasing The Land. Therefore, we did not attend nor purchase items on behalf of WWTLC. Many members of the Festival community did attend the auctions and purchased some of the inventory, but WWTLC was not involved.

WHAT ABOUT COMMERCIAL INVESTORS AND/OR DEVELOPMENT? WILL WWTLC SELL SHARES, OR PARCELS OF THE LAND? (back to top)

- WWTLC will not explore private ownership or ownership by shares.
- WWTLC does not plan to sell parcels of the 651-acre Land.
- We seek to ensure the preservation of The Land as primarily undeveloped and, therefore, do not seek commercial development or investors. Lisa Vogel, co-founder and long-time producer of Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, and owner of The Land, worked extensively with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan prior to the sale of The Land to WWTLC to establish a conservation easement that protects The Land from commercial development, while supporting any minimal development that may be required in the future to realize WWTLC’s mission.
WHAT ABOUT MONEY? *(back to top)*

- **What was the price of The Land?**
  - WWTLC signed a land contract agreement with Lisa Vogel in April 2017 to purchase The Land for $1,500,000 over eight years (by 2025).
  - Our goal is to avoid interest expense by paying the land contract off as quickly as possible.
  - WWTLC’s Fundraising Team is dedicated to continuing to raise funds to support this plan.
  - Ongoing fundraising and Land-use rental fees will provide the primary financial means required to sustain and maintain The Land as well as to fund payments on the land contract.

- **What’s a land contract?**
  - A land contract is a form of seller financing. It is similar to a mortgage, but rather than borrowing money from a lender or bank to buy real estate, the buyer makes payments to the real estate owner, or seller, until the purchase price is paid in full.
  - An initial down payment from the buyer to the seller is usually also required by a land contract. WWTLC’s down payment on The Land was $300,000.
  - Under a land contract, the seller retains the legal title to the property, while permitting the buyer to take possession of it for most purposes other than legal ownership.
  - The seller conveys legal title to the property to the buyer when the full purchase price has been paid, including interest.
  - If the buyer defaults on the land contract purchase agreement, all monies paid are forfeited and the seller retains legal title to the property. This is similar to foreclosing on a regular mortgage.

- **Did WWTLC have an outside professional appraise the value of The Land?**
  Lisa Vogel paid for a professional appraisal as part of the process to establish the conservation easement on The Land.

- **Is there a rough estimate of the annual upkeep costs to maintain The Land?**
  This is dependent on property taxes, liability insurance, and operating expenses. The placement of the conservation easement helps to maintain property tax liability at pre-sale levels. An operating budget will be agreed upon annually by the Board in accordance with the organization’s bylaws and within the funds available.

- **Would permanent structures raise real estate taxes?**
  Michigan law defines real property as the land itself, plus all buildings and fixtures on the land. It is likely that any permanent structures would be considered improvements that increase the assessed value, and, therefore, the property taxes.
HOW WILL THE MONEY BE RAISED? (back to top)

- **WWTLC** will conduct annual Fundraising Campaigns which will focus on satisfying the land contract debt obligation as well as meeting ongoing operating expenses. Eventually, we hope to raise additional funds to build a small number of permanent structures on The Land that will make it possible for groups to rent The Land without having to recreate infrastructure from scratch. Our initial primary focus, however, is on land contract repayment and basic operations. We need our whole community to help with fundraising. Some will choose to make individual donations or pledge repeating donations, some will organize community fundraising events, while others may solicit donations and write grants.

- **Will our donations be tax deductible?**
  Yes! WWTLC obtained its 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity determination from the IRS in September 2017. Consult your tax preparer and/or accountant for more information.

- **How will you collect the money?**
  Donors may contribute funds in support of WWTLC’s mission to purchase and sustain The Land for women and girls, forever, in one of the following ways:
    - Personal checks (payable to We Want the Land Coalition, mailed to PO Box 11, Arlington Heights, IL 60006).
    - PayPal
    - DonorBox

- **Is this a donation or an investment with an expected return?** The funds accepted for the purchase of the Land and ongoing sustainability will be donations. In the future, we may ask the community for interest-free or low-interest loans. But for now, we are only seeking donations.

- **Will I be able to contribute specific amounts over time?** WWTLC encourages individuals to give in the way that best fits their financial capacity. This includes choosing to establish recurrent payments and giving multiple individual amounts over the length of the campaign. Recurring donation options are possible using all three donation methods (personal check, PayPal, and DonorBox).

- **What is the minimum donation amount?** There is no minimum donation. Donations of any amount are accepted. Our goal is to enable participation by every woman who has a desire to be part of the effort by making available a variety of options for donating.

- **What about all of the fees associated with fundraising?**
  - Please keep in mind that ALL methods of donation include some fees.
  - Whether donors give via DonorBox, PayPal, or by personal check, each of those entities provides a variety of services for WWTLC, from web hosting, to payment processing and accounting, to donor data collection and management.
  - Even for nonprofits, these services have a price, and the small percentage of funds raised that goes to fees is providing necessary services as well as huge cost and time savings to WWTLC in our effort.
  - We encourage donors to give in the available ways that best suit their preferences and are grateful for every donation, regardless of the amount.
• How will ongoing regular financial management be handled?  
The treasurer of WWTLC, along with the Finance Team, will provide ongoing financial management.
• Can I organize local fundraising events to raise money for WWTLC’s purchase of The Land?  
WWTLC appreciates your generosity and willingness to support the long-term vitality of The Land. For legal reasons, WWTLC is unable to sponsor your event, but gratefully accepts any funds raised through local events.

HOW WILL WWTLC SUSTAIN THE LAND FINANCIALLY? (back to top)

• Sustainability is key. To sustain the literal and figurative upkeep of The Land, owned by a nonprofit organization that is managed by members of our community, will require income for taxes, insurance, staff, tech expenses, land expenses, etc. Income for the long-term sustenance of The Land will come from the following sources:
  o Individual donations. There will be ongoing donations and fundraisers.
  o Some funds will come from rental fees when groups or organizations within the community use The Land for events or gatherings (see below).
  o We hope that future fundraising plans will include a planned giving and endowment program for women who want to give through life insurance, estate planning, and so on, to support The Land long-term.
• Can women add WWTLC to their wills?
  Yes, please! The information needed to include WWLTC in one’s estate planning documents, in addition to the amount of the bequest, is below. Please contact your attorney for additional assistance with the process.

  WWTLG’s EIN: 81-4997325

  Our legal address:
  We Want the Land Coalition, Inc.
  c/o Anne Drake
  587 Kuehnle St.
  Ann Arbor Michigan 48103

  o Here is a link to some information that might be helpful:
  http://www.plannedgiving.com/what-is-planned-giving.

WHAT ARE WWTLC’S PLANS TO SUSTAIN THE LAND ENVIRONMENTALLY? (back to top)

• WWTLG is grateful to Lisa Vogel for her dedication and hard work with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan to establish a conservation easement which both protects
The Land from development and supports any minimal development that may be required in the future in support of WWTL C’s mission.

- **What is a conservation easement?** A conservation easement is a legal, binding agreement between a landowner and a regional Land Conservancy organization that provides protection for all or parts of a property forever, regardless of transfer or subsequent ownership. Conserving The Land in its beautiful, raw state, with minimal development, for future generations of women and girls to enjoy is aligned with the mission of WWTL C.

- There were no conservation easements on The Land when we began this process.

- This conservation easement was transferred to WWTL C at the time the purchase was complete. The impact on assessed value of The Land was taken into consideration when agreeing on purchase price.

- The easement requires the vast majority of the acreage to remain undeveloped, with a small number of exceptions for adding key infrastructure (e.g., utility buildings, bathrooms, picnic shelters, etc.) The conservation easement will protect The Land from development. Because The Land is almost entirely surrounded by the Huron-Manistee National Forest, it will also protect the habitats and resources on the surrounding public lands.

- We don’t know yet what, or if any, permanent structures will be built.

- The conservation easement provides environmental protection of The Land’s natural beauty and fragile topography. Going forward, WWTL C will work directly with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan to ensure that any development, changes, or maintenance are done with minimal impact to The Land and its ecosystem. Many of us say that The Land is magical, but it truly is ecologically astounding.
  
  - The Land contains the headwaters of Ruby Creek, a trout stream that is the highest quality tributary to the Big South Branch of the Pere Marquette River. The creek arises from extensive emergent marshes and cedar swamps on the property, and there are numerous high quality wetlands with diverse vegetation that support important amphibian populations. The Conservation Easement will preserve a naturally vegetated buffer around the headwaters of Ruby Creek.
  
  - The majority of the property consists of level to rolling hills of mixed hardwood-pine forest dominated by white and red oak, red and sugar maple, beech, and scattered white pine. There is also big-tooth aspen, hemlock, witch-hazel, shagbark hickory, black cherry, and around the wetland areas are stands of cedars, hemlock and black spruce. There are both sedge-dominated, emergent (cattails), and shrub dominated wetlands with willow, alder, and dogwood. The oak-pine forest provides excellent potential habitat for interior nesting birds, migratory warblers, hawks, owls, reptiles such as box turtles and snakes, and mammals that likely include bobcat.

**HOW WILL THE LAND BE USED? (back to top)**

- The bylaws of this nonprofit organization specify that The Land be preserved primarily for the use, education, and healing of women and girls, and for women-only and women-centered events.
● Programs, gatherings, and events on The Land will be community-generated and organized, not sponsored by WW TLC.

● The WW TLC board of directors will review and evaluate all proposals for gatherings and events against an established set of criteria that is documented in the organization’s bylaws.

● Approved events will be held on The Land for a fee, which will generate some of the revenue needed to cover taxes, insurance, and upkeep.

● What kind of infrastructure exists on The Land today; what kinds of improvements exist? There are intentionally no above-ground structures, but a lot of important and diverse infrastructure underground, including water wells, septic, waterlines, and electrical and telephone cables. Above ground, there are three-fourths of a mile of blacktop to make The Land more accessible. In the summer of 2018, a concrete shower pad was installed for new, accessible showers in the former DART area.

● How will The Land be maintained between uses? What is the plan for sustaining The Land with multiple uses per year? Stewardship and preservation of The Land are central to the mission of WW TLC. The WW TLC Land Stewardship Team continues to build our knowledge base by tapping the deep knowledge of MichFest women, as well as consulting with conservancy organizations and other experts. This information is crucial for conserving The Land and planning for sustainable land use. These are priorities for us and will be part of the ongoing planning process for the Land Stewardship Team.

● Will there be a physical presence on The Land year-round? This is a long-term goal for WW TLC, but the answer to this question is unknown at this time. Attainment of this goal will be largely dependent upon financial ability to provide structures to support a full-time residence on The Land. If a caretaker is hired at some point in the future, the position will be advertised via our email list, Facebook page, and website. In the interim, WW TLC has implemented two programs to help monitor The Land:
  o Land Host program during the summer months, where 2-4 women sign up to volunteer to serve as hosts for a period of time (e.g., a weekend or a week, or more). Camping is very rustic and primitive during these times.
  o Land Watch program (year-round) where women sign up for day trips to The Land to observe various conditions and attributes that are present, and report findings back to the Land Stewardship committee. Examples of some things that might be observed on a Land Watch tour of duty include fallen trees, damage to wells, excessive wear and tear due to off-road activities, etc.
  o If you’re interested in volunteering in this capacity, please e-mail us at info@wwtlc.org
WHAT IS WWTLC’s VISION AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS FOR RENTAL AND USE OF THE LAND? (back to top)

- WWTLC seeks to ensure that the environmental care and protection of The Land extend into perpetuity through loving stewardship and to guarantee continued use of The Land by the community for gatherings and events that benefit women and girls.
- WWTLC will rent to those who satisfy our rental agreement criteria, which include being able to demonstrate how a proposed event is aligned with the mission of WWTLC in its focus on benefitting women and girls.
- There are 365 days a year and 651 acres of land. A key guiding principle of WWTLC is that there is room enough and time enough for all of us.
- WWTLC’s vision is that opportunities exist for all kinds of events to occur on The Land, with all kinds of definitions and intentions, including explicitly biologically female-only events; explicitly transwoman-only events; and others.
- WWTLC will not define or determine who is female, woman, or girl with regard to who participates in or hosts events on The Land. Rather, our mission is to hold space for the possibility of gatherings and events for women and girls which exemplify all of the differing philosophies and definitions held passionately by our community.
- Our vision is that many groups representing our diverse community will submit proposals for use of The Land. The decision of who will attend an event, whom an event is for, and who will use The Land, is left entirely to the groups and organizations seeking to rent The Land, not to WWTLC. It will be up to these programming groups and organizations to define the boundaries of their events and to demonstrate how their proposed event supports WWTLC’s mission of benefitting women and girls or is connected to the historical legacy of The Land.
- WWTLC expects that all programming groups and organizations, as well as the participants of the events that they present on The Land, will respect the boundaries that other programming organizations have defined for their own events.
- Here is our overview of how this will work:
  - WWTLC’s governing documents will establish detailed criteria and guidelines for land use.
  - Here are some examples of some considerations for usage of The Land: clear articulation of the programming focus of the event; the length of time the event will run; whether additional time is needed for setup and strike; whether temporary structures will be built (and if so, what the plan is for removal); whether electricity or running water will be needed; how the organization intends to care for waste (trash and bio waste); whether and/or how food will be provided for participants; confirmation of event insurance, etc. Please note that this is very much a work in progress and this list is by no means final.
  - Any organization seeking to rent The Land will be required to demonstrate that their program or event, in some tangible way, benefits women and girls or is connected to the historical legacy of The Land.
Any programming organization seeking to rent The Land will have to submit an application for Land use, and pay a security deposit and rental fee. The WWTLC Land Stewardship Committee will adhere to the guidelines and criteria set forth in WWTLC’s governing documents in reviewing and approving applications submitted by programming groups and organizations for their events. Event proposals/applications that meet all the necessary criteria as defined in the rental application will be approved.

- WWTLC’s governing documents will serve to protect the possibility of gatherings and events that set their own boundaries and define their own terms for participation in a range of different ways. Our hope is that there will be many kinds of events proposed by members of the entire community, which will provide revenue to sustain the continued preservation of The Land. Here are just a few examples of what this could look like to WWTLC:
  - A group seeking to use The Land to produce a female-only event;
  - A group of women who have stopped their female-to-male transitions and seek to gather on The Land to draw on its history and power in coming to a new understanding of what it means to be female;
  - A group of women with intersex conditions, such as CAH or AIS, seeking to gather privately on The Land to find reflection in each other;
  - A group seeking to hold a camping retreat for late transitioning trans women;
  - A group seeking to produce a yoga getaway for women born female, women of trans experience, and genderqueer women all seeking to strengthen a woman-centered practice.
  - A group seeking to use The Land for a special-interest retreat open to all who identify as women.

- We understand that some members of the community may feel strongly about autonomous biological female space and/or trans-welcoming spaces, and about definitions. Likewise, across members of the founding board and coalition working team, there exists a wide diversity of feelings and opinions regarding the need for autonomous female space and/or trans-welcoming space, and about definitions. This is part of what makes us a Coalition. WWTLC honors these differences and holds the intention that The Land will be available for programming organizations to create events that meet their needs for the benefit of women and girls – however the programming organization defines those words in relation to their intended participants.

- WWTLC recognizes that it is highly unlikely that a single plan will adequately please all people. Accordingly, we keep our focus trained on maintaining our homeland with the love, care and sacredness she deserves and hope that the community believes that these 651 acres can hold all of us in our great diversity and in our narrow specificity.

- **Can I visit The Land?**
  - Please feel welcome to visit during the day. We call these “day visits.”
  - Please abide by posted signs that direct you to where it is safe to drive, where to park, and any areas that are off-limits to foot traffic.
Due to the conservation easement and other liability issues, camping and other extended stays are allowed only when The Land is leased to event planners for events and/or gatherings. The exception to this would be those volunteering as Land Hosts (see information elsewhere in this FAQ document).

**Can I bring my dog, cat, pet lizard?**
- Generally speaking, pets are not permitted on The Land. Due to the easement and other liability issues, only service dogs are allowed on The Land.
- If you do bring a service dog on The Land, please keep her/him harnessed, leashed or tethered, per ADA guidelines. Service dogs must be under control – either by harness, leash, or tether, or else by voice, signal or other form of command – at all times.
- Please utilize pet rest areas as marked on The Land, and please clean up after your service dog as well as you are able.

**Can I bury my wife, partner, pet, etc. on The Land?**
- The spreading of your loved one’s ashes continues to be welcomed.
- We have researched the issue and full green burials are not feasible at this time.

**WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR EVENTS ON THE LAND IN 2019?**

We are planning for The Land to be available in 2019 for community-organized events, gatherings, and programs, pending confirmation of our permit to operate as a campground. You can join our mailing list, either email or postal, or our Facebook page to stay connected.

**Is there, or will there be, a WWTLC coordinator to manage events?**
WWTLC will not be managing events on The Land. It is up to groups and members of the community to organize the kinds of events they wish to create. WWTLC has a Gathering Planning Support committee, led by a board member, to support and coordinate the event application and scheduling process, as well as a Land Stewardship committee (also led by a board member) to oversee any prep work that has to be done on The Land. In addition, next year, we foresee hiring short term, temporary staff positions to support the summer rental program.

**Is WWTLC permitted, from a licensing and permit perspective, to operate as a campground venue for events?**
WWTLC has satisfied the requirements to operate as a campground, which is what was needed to allow camping events on The Land. The permit application and fee has been filed/paid, and we have received verbal approval. We are just waiting on receipt of the paper copy of the license for it to be official. This license will be posted on The Land as required by the state of Michigan.

**From a legal and/or marketability perspective, what improvements to The Land will be necessary to successfully operation as a venue for groups that produce events?**
We are acutely aware of the ongoing costs of stewarding The Land and are balancing that with making The Land available and useful for events that uphold the mission of WWTLC.
Improvements that were identified as necessary from both a legal and/or marketability perspective that have been completed include installation of a new septic system and installation of a permanent concrete shower pad (including grading for accessibility and planting foliage to add privacy). As needs are identified, and funding is available, additional improvements will be made in accordance with the conservation easement.

- **Is there a capacity limit to how many women and girls can camp on The Land at one time?** The license allows for 175 group camping sites, including tents for volunteer workers as well as event participants. The newly installed septic system is approved to support and accommodate up to 300 people, thus the cap will be 300 until such a time that we install another septic system.

- **When will the 2019 event application be available?** The Event Gathering and Planning committee is currently working on the event application and estimates its availability by mid-late September.

- **Will there be a contract?** Yes. There will be a contract that outlines the fees to rent The Land, payment schedules and requirements, rules and guidelines for use of The Land, as well as communicating what WWTLC will provide and what event organizers will provide. The contract is being drafted and is targeting availability around the same time as the event/gathering application, once our attorney has a chance to review it.

- **What is the fee to rent The Land for a week?** The board of directors is working on finalizing the 2019 budget, taking into consideration 2018 operating expenses and 2019 plans. Our goal is to make camping on The Land reasonable and affordable, and comparable to what it costs to rent campsites at nearby campgrounds for a week, only instead of an assigned campsite in a public campground, a week on The Land offers acres of green camping space for relatively small and private events focused on women and girls.

- **Will there be a food option available?** WWTLC is reviewing the logistics and our capacity for providing food service for gatherings in 2019. This decision will be made by the time we put out the event/gathering applications for 2019.

- **What will WWTLC provide to events on The Land?** WWTLC will provide the infrastructure and venue space. WWTLC cares for upkeep and maintenance of The Land, including roads and paths. We’ll provide gate security, porta-potties, wrist band tickets, handwashing stations, hot showers, shade tent, fire pits, electric charging station(s), dish washing station(s), kitchen space for participants to use, electric service for DART needs.

- **What will event organizers need to provide for events on The Land?** Event organizers will need to support their events by handling publicity, collecting ticket fees, communicating with event participants, arranging for entertainment, activities, and workshops. Participants will need to bring their own tents and chairs.

- **What will the map of The Land look like for events in 2019?** WWTLC is working on re-envisioning the space. The Land Stewardship Committee, currently comprised of 12 hard working volunteers, including the board member who chairs the committee, has been meeting bi-weekly since our inception to work on these types of questions. We anticipate more progress, plans for improvements in areas such as accessibility and land usage over the coming year. At this time, the plan is for events to take place in the area formerly known
as “downtown” on the MichFest map. Because of the increased wear and tear on the sandy topsoil roads, RV camping will likely remain on the firmer areas of the perimeter of The Land.

- **How will events be assigned to weeks on The Land?** Event organizers will be asked to identify their top 3 choices for their events. In order to keep prices reasonable, events with fewer than 100 people will be asked to combine with other events, dependent on mutually agreeable event intentions, etc. The week after Michigan Framily Reunion continues to be of sentimental importance to many women, as it’s the week when MichFest happened for a number of recent years before it ended. WWTLC is seeking to balance the community’s affection for that week, and its desirability for events, with the desire to keep that particular week on the calendar open for day visits, with the need for efficient operations to keep costs down (disrupting the event schedule for that week to keep The Land open drives costs up).

**HOW IS WWTLC STRUCTURED AS AN ORGANIZATION?** (back to top)

- By definition, a coalition is “an alliance of combined action.” We Want the Land Coalition, as an organization name, definitely fits.
- WWTLC is structured to operate as a directorship, with a working board of directors who govern strategy and decision making for the organization.
- The WWTLC board of directors forms working committees made up of interested, qualified and devoted volunteers to carry out the work of the organization, with ad hoc committees and sub-committees formed as needed. These groups are instrumental in helping WWTLC achieve its goals. Examples of current committees include: communications & outreach; elections; executive; finance; fundraising; gathering planning support; and land stewardship.
- WWTLC’s board of directors will consist of at least 4 and no more than 15 directors. Within these limits, the board may increase or decrease the number of directors serving on the board, including for the purpose of staggering the terms of directors. An executive committee consisting of a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer will be elected from sitting board members.
- Criteria for eligibility to hold a position on the board are outlined in WWTLC’s bylaws.
- In general, a 10-hour commitment is what is asked of board members, though that number varies widely based on the work that needs to be done.
- Board membership and positions of relative power will not be reserved for those who have more to contribute financially.
- An historical note: Initially, we started out by calling members of the community who were volunteering in various capacities on working committees “The Coalition.” The types of work that committees (and the women volunteering on those committees) has shapeshifted as the organization has progressed, new bureaucratic (county, state, federal) requirements became apparent, and needs were identified. As an organization, WWTLC continues to be an alliance of combined action, and that action is accomplished through the work of committees. In the late spring, early summer timeframe in 2017, WWTLC shifted to working committees with defined areas of expertise.
HOW ARE BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED? (back to top)

- Our community is rich with brilliant, savvy women, and our strengths are compounded exponentially when we work together. We seek the input and involvement of women from our diverse community for volunteering first on a working committee and later seeking election to the board of directors.
- The current WWTLC Board of Directors will serve the organization for an initial term of between one and three years (to be determined by the board), starting in January 2018, when our fiscal sponsorship agreement with Purple ended and WWTLC became, in effect, its own 501(c)3. Inaugural board members may seek reelection for a second three-year term.
- The first regular WWTLC board elections will be held in 4th quarter 2018, for the term beginning January 2019. Board members will be elected, by a 50% +1 simple majority vote by the board, to three-year terms on a rotational basis in order to preserve continuity of the organization.
- Board positions may be added mid-term by appointment that is approved by a 50% +1 majority vote by the board, or during the regular annual elections cycle. Once the regular election cycle commences, the board of directors will accept nominations for open director positions from within committees.
- Members of the community who wish to volunteer their time and talent by serving on the WWTLC board of directors will be required to first serve as a volunteer on one of the working committees. This will allow interested candidates to explore the work of WWTLC, including time commitments and work content, before committing to serving a full term on the board. If you are interested in volunteering on a committee, please e-mail us at info@wwtlc.org.
- Candidates seeking election to a board position will be vetted to assure they are aligned with the values of WWTLC and have demonstrated a commitment to working for the rights and autonomy of women and girls.
- Board members are limited to serving two consecutive terms in the same position. After serving two consecutive terms in the same position, a board member may seek election to a different position, if desired.
- **What about vacancies that occur before the end of a term?**
  - The bylaws provide for filling board vacancies that occur before the end of a term.
  - With the exception of the position of president (which would be filled through succession of the vice president), if a board position becomes vacant, it will be filled by appointment that is approved by a 50% +1 majority vote to complete the remainder of the term.
  - Complete details of WWTLC’s legal structure and board are contained in our bylaws.
ARE WWTLC POSITIONS PAID? (back to top)

- WWTLC’s board members are not paid.
- WWTLC’s advisory board members are not paid.
- In general, WWTLC relies on the generous contributions of our many unpaid volunteers on working committees and crews. The work that they do includes, but is not limited to work associated with supporting summer events and land infrastructure improvements; fundraising; social-media management; communications; maintaining the e-mail list; donor database management; making custom quilts and other items for fundraisers; serving as Land Hosts or Land Watch volunteers; designing/updating the WWTLC website; etc.
- For the past two summers, WWTLC has offered minimal stipends to some volunteers who had the specific technical skills and knowledge, the necessary availability to do the required work. These volunteers were responsible for supervising significant aspects of the work on The Land, to achieve our organizational goals (i.e., qualifying for a permanent campground license).
- Next year, we foresee hiring short term, temporary staff positions to support the summer rental program. These positions will be posted to the general community.

WHO IS ON THE BOARD? (back to top)

- The current board of directors is as follows: Anne Drake, Leslie Gallagher, Nedra Johnson, Brenda Millhouse-Huebner, Papusa Molina, and Annemarie Serra.

HOW WAS THE INAUGURAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS FORMED? (back to top)

- An inaugural board of directors took on the responsibility for forming the 501(c)(3) organization and preparing the proposal to purchase The Land, etc. The inaugural WWTLC Board of Directors included: Karen Colton, Rae Fehring, Leslie Gallagher, Nedra Johnson, Annemarie Serra, and Karen Thompson.
- Here’s a brief history of how the board came to be:
  - In the fall of 2015, right after the 40th and final Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, Rae Fehring and Annemarie Serra took on the ambitious initiative to explore how to move forward with the next incarnation of the Festival. In the Facebook Group “Planting Something New,” they seized on the idea of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with a focus on providing various enrichment programs for women and girls. Karen Colton researched and presented a plan in that group to purchase The Land separate from the programming entity, as a foundational step for the larger idea. For lots of reasons, momentum stalled and the group fell dormant.
  - In mid-July 2016, Leslie Gallagher, Nedra Johnson, and Allison Porch had a conversation, and the idea of purchasing The Land as a first step resurfaced. Then, seeing in writing Lisa Vogel’s plans for selling The Land on the open real estate market and selling the Festival inventory at auction launched conversations into full-speed-ahead mode.
We Want the Land Coalition FAQ

○ Leslie reached out to Rae, Annemarie, and Karen, and, with the addition of Karen Thompson, the core of our organizing team was formed.
○ Later, the following women joined the board: Tara Ayres, Anne Drake, Brooke Levandowski, Papusa Molina, and Camellia Pisegna.
○ At various points along the way, board and committee members have needed to take short term breaks; some board members have resigned. As a start up organization, some turnover is not unusual. WWTLC has experienced lots of growth and change, progressing through the organizational behavior dynamics commonly referred to as "storming, forming, and norming," while remaining true to our mission of preserving The Land for women and girls, forever. And the contributions of all who have pitched in to help, whether as a board member or volunteer, are very much appreciated.
○ When Lisa Vogel sent her announcement to the worker community, Toni Armstrong Jr. began her own initiative to gauge community interest in raising the funds to purchase The Land. Very quickly, we began working together, because we realized that we share one single common goal: to preserve The Land for the use of our community.
○ Toni Jr. offered to continue communicating with the community for this endeavor, and we gratefully accepted. Toni Jr. chose her own role in this effort and has kept you entertained and enticed, managing the WWTLC page on Facebook (5897 members and counting as of September 4, 2018) as well as recruiting Janis Kidder and Lynn Siniscalchi to create/manage an e-mail list of interested “Sisters of the Ferns.”
○ Together, we laid the groundwork of recruiting volunteers for WWTLC. Together, we’ve compiled Q&A for frequently asked questions, starting with the questions we ourselves asked when exploring this organization’s effort.
○ Our goal remains to share as much information as is practical, as transparently as possible. The reality is that it sometimes takes us longer than we’d like to answer questions, simply because we are also investigating and learning as we go. We are taking into consideration all kinds of questions that are raised, including legal, financial, organizational, philosophical, and practical.

WHAT IS THE ADVISORY BOARD? WHO IS ON IT? (back to top)

○ The WWTLC Advisory Board is comprised of women who each have decades of experience within the women’s music industry and within festival culture. They stepped up early on and agreed to support the We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) effort to secure The Land, and to offer their leadership, expertise, and advice as we move forward with this massive endeavor.
○ The Advisory Board members are Toni Armstrong Jr., Ruth Barrett, C.C. Carter, Judith Casselberry, Juanita Colon, Laurie Fuchs, Terry Grant, Ubaka Hill, Nedra Johnson, Lola Lai Jong, Bonnie Morris, Sasha Goldberg, and Rhiannon.
HOW ARE MICHFEST WORKER AND FESTIE VOICES REPRESENTED IN WW TLC’s EFFORTS? (back to top)

- WW TLC continues to invite questions, concerns, and suggestions from women who represent all skill levels, various sides of every issue, and the full spectrum of MichFest experience.
- All of the women who are contributing their expertise to the effort are former attendees (Festies) or workers at the Michigan Women’s Music Festival. Before becoming workers, many were long-time Festies.
- All six board members are former Michigan Women’s Music Festival workers of varying tenure, work crew experiences and/or camper-come-early work shifters. All were festival participants at some point, as well – in some cases, for several years.
- Six of the thirteen Advisory Board members were workers or craftswomen, and many are performers.

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED? (back to top)

- We appreciate your interest and are grateful that you’re part of the WW TLC Community!
- There will be ongoing opportunities for community members to be involved; our long-term success will depend upon continued support and service from our vast community. If you are interested in volunteering on a working committee, please e-mail us at info@wwtlc.org.
- Other ways to support WW TLC’s efforts to preserve The Land for women and girls forever:
  - Help get the word out! We have created a pamphlet that we’re be happy to send to you by e-mail so that you can print/copy them. Send us an e-mail at info@wwtlc.org if you’d like us to send you this file.
  - Organize a local fundraising event (e.g., a house concert, silent auction, microfundraiser house party, or other gathering) and donate the proceeds to WW TLC.
  - Volunteer to serve as a Land Host (overnight primitive camping during the summer months to greet day-visitors), or as a Land Watch volunteer (day trips to observe and report). If you’re interested in serving as a Land Host or Land Watch volunteer, e-mail us at info@wwtlc.org.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO CONNECT WITH WW TLC? (back to top)

- Visit our website: www.WWTLC.org.
- Join our email list! Email mailinglist@wwtlc.org to be added.
- Send us an e-mail: info@wwtlc.org. Or visit wwtlc.org/connect, where you’ll find a convenient e-mail form.
- Find and join our Facebook Community group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/WW TLC.community/
● Our mailing address:
We Want the Land Coalition
PO Box 11
Arlington Heights IL 60006-0011

● If I’m not on Facebook, can I still be on the email or snail mail list?
Yes! Our email list is growing. In fact, our email distribution list will eventually be our primary means of communicating important information and updates. Please sign up by sending an email to mailinglist@wwtlc.org and our Communications and Outreach team will make sure you’re added. You can also drop us a note to our mailing address (see above).

● Does WWTLC have a website? Yes! Visit us at www.WWTLC.org.

● Can WWTLC Facebook community group members add women to the group?
Yes! Members of the community may add other women to the Facebook WWTLC Community group. Permissions are set up so that an admin must approve the addition.

● Why do you limit posts of community members? If I am unable to create a post on WWTLC’s Facebook group, what is the best way to submit questions or concerns?
We have set the permissions in the WWTLC Community group so that one of the group admins must approve them before they are actually posted and visible to the community. In this way, we are able to limit posts to those directly related to the work of the organization. Our intent is to keep the group easy to navigate and focused, so you can easily find the information you seek. There are exceptions to this policy, like Facebook fundraisers and events that benefit WWTLC, or photos from The Land.

We want to hear from you. We do read every post that comes in, even if not approved by an admin. We typically respond to submitted posts 1-1, and work to incorporate answers to common questions into our communications (like this FAQ). Group members are able to post comments and questions in response to WWTLC posts in the group. And as always, group members are welcome to message us using Facebook Messenger (or e-mail us at info@wwtlc.org). Look for FAQ and other documents under the Files tab at the left of the group page.

● Can I help spread the word about WWTLC? Yes! Please share our website address, invite women to our Facebook community, and share the links to our fundraising sites.
  ○ Let us know of any publications or event programs where we could submit materials to help increase awareness. Our advertising budget is limited, but we are definitely interested in placing ads in publications which will help us reach our intended audience – women and girls and the organizations that support them.
  ○ We have designed informational materials that we are happy to make available by e-mail by request, for those who wish to hand them out at various events they attend.
WILL MEMBERS OF WWTLC BE AT VARIOUS WOMEN’S EVENTS, SUCH AS THE OHIO LESBIAN FESTIVAL OR THE NATIONAL WOMEN’S MUSIC FESTIVAL? (back to top)

- Yes! Members of WWTLC attend many different events in the community. We look forward to connecting with you at events like the National Women’s Music Festival in July; the Michigan Framily Reunion in August; and Ohio Lesbian Festival in September.
- If you know of other events that we should attend, or where you would like to hand out literature for us e-mail us at info@wwtlc.org.