

Form **990-EZ**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

# Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

▶ Sponsoring organizations of donor advised funds and controlling organizations as defined in section 512(b)(13) must file Form 990. All other organizations with gross receipts less than \$1,000,000 and total assets less than \$2,500,000 at the end of the year may use this form.  
▶ The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

OMB No. 1545-1150

# 2008

Open to Public  
Inspection

**A** For the **2008** calendar year, or tax year beginning **MAY 1, 2008** and ending **APR 30, 2009**

<p><b>B</b> Check if applicable:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Termination <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	<p>Please use IRS label or print or type. See Specific Instructions.</p>	<p><b>C</b> Name of organization <b>THE CHICAGO WILDERNESS TRUST</b></p> <p>Number and street (or P.O. box, if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite <b>8 S. MICHIGAN AVENUE 900</b></p> <p>City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4 <b>CHICAGO, IL 60603</b></p>	<p><b>D</b> Employer identification number <b>36-4479642</b></p> <p><b>E</b> Telephone number <b>312-346-5606</b></p> <p><b>F</b> Group Exemption Number ▶</p>
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• Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ). **G** Accounting method:  Cash  Accrual Other (specify) ▶

**I** Website: ▶ **WWW.CHICAGOWILDERNESS.ORG**

**J** Organization type (check only one) —  501(c) ( **3** ) ◀ (insert no.)  4947(a)(1) or  527

**H** Check  if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

**K** Check  if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization and its gross receipts are normally not more than \$25,000. A return is not required, but if the organization chooses to file a return, be sure to file a complete return.

**L** Add lines 5b, 6b, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts; if \$1,000,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ. ▶ \$ **904,202.**

**Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances** (See the instructions for Part I.)

	Description	Code	Amount
<b>Revenue</b>	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	540,098.
	2 Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	116,086.
	3 Membership dues and assessments	3	158,565.
	4 Investment income	4	1,066.
	5a Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	
	c Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a) (attach schedule)	5c	
	6 Special events and activities (complete applicable parts of Schedule G). If any amount is from gaming, check here <input type="checkbox"/>		
	a Gross revenue (not including \$ <u>10,853.</u> of contributions reported on line 1)	6a	81,444.
	b Less: direct expenses other than fundraising expenses	6b	84,693.
c Net income or (loss) from special events and activities (Subtract line 6b from line 6a)	6c	<3,249.>	
7a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a		
b Less: cost of goods sold	7b		
c Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c		
8 Other revenue (describe ▶ <b>OTHER INCOME</b> )	8	6,943.	
9 <b>Total revenue.</b> Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c, and 8	9	819,509.	
<b>Expenses</b>	10 Grants and similar amounts paid (attach schedule) <b>STMT 5</b>	10	90,125.
	11 Benefits paid to or for members	11	
	12 Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	375,236.
	13 Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	
	14 Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	10,214.
	15 Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	229,920.
	16 Other expenses (describe ▶ <b>SEE STATEMENT 1</b> )	16	284,883.
	17 <b>Total expenses.</b> Add lines 10 through 16	17	990,378.
<b>Net Assets</b>	18 Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	<170,869.>
	19 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	519,202.
	20 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (attach explanation) <b>SEE STATEMENT 4</b>	20	<98,799.>
	21 <b>Net assets or fund balances at end of year.</b> Combine lines 18 through 20	21	249,534.

**Part II Balance Sheets.** If Total assets on line 25, column (B) are \$2,500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ. (See the instructions for Part II.)

	Description	(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22	Cash, savings, and investments	426,708.	428,163.
23	Land and buildings		
24	Other assets (describe ▶ <b>SEE STATEMENT 2</b> )	272,690.	165,347.
25	<b>Total assets</b>	699,398.	593,510.
26	<b>Total liabilities</b> (describe ▶ <b>SEE STATEMENT 3</b> )	180,196.	343,976.
27	<b>Net assets or fund balances</b> (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	519,202.	249,534.



Part V Other Information (Note the statement requirements in the instructions for Part VI.)

		Yes	No
33	Did the organization engage in any activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," attach a detailed description of each activity		X
34	Were any changes made to the organizing or governing documents but not reported to the IRS? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the changes		X
35	If the organization had income from business activities, such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a (among others), but not reported on Form 990-T, attach a statement explaining your reason for not reporting the income on Form 990-T.		
a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more or section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements?	X	
b	If "Yes," has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?	X	
36	Was there a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or substantial contraction during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Sch. N		X
37a	Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions. <span style="float:right">37a 0.</span>		
b	Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?		X
38a	Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still unpaid at the start of the period covered by this return?		X
b	If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved <span style="float:right">38b N/A</span>		
39	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9 <span style="float:right">39a N/A</span>		
b	Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities <span style="float:right">39b N/A</span>		
40a	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 <span style="float:right">0.</span> ; section 4912 <span style="float:right">0.</span> ; section 4955 <span style="float:right">0.</span>		
b	Section 501(c)(3) and (4) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year or did it become aware of an excess benefit transaction from a prior year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		X
c	Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958 <span style="float:right">0.</span>		
d	Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization <span style="float:right">0.</span>		
e	All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T		X
41	List the states with which a copy of this return is filed. <span style="float:right">IL</span>		
42a	The books are in care of <span style="float:right">MELINDA PRUETT-JONES</span> Telephone no. <span style="float:right">312-580-2137</span> Located at <span style="float:right">8 S. MICHIGAN AVE., CHICAGO, IL</span> ZIP + 4 <span style="float:right">60603</span>		
b	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?		X
	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: _____ See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.		
c	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside of the U.S.?		X
	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: _____		
43	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041 - Check here <input type="checkbox"/> and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year <span style="float:right">43 N/A</span>		
44	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ		X
45	Is any related organization a controlled entity of the organization within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ.		X

**Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations only.** All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 46-49 and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

	Yes	No
46 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
48 Is the organization operating a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b If "Yes," was the related organization(s) a section 527 organization?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

50 Complete this table for the five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$100,000	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(D) Contributions to employee benefit plans & deferred compensation	(E) Expense account and other allowances
NONE				

Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000

51 Complete this table for the five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than \$100,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
NONE		

Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here: *Melinda Pruitt Jones* Signature of officer Date: July 6, 2010  
 Type or print name and title: Melinda Pruitt Jones, Executive Director

Paid Preparer's Use Only: Preparer's signature: LU ANN TRAPP Date: 03/09/10 Check if self-employed:  Preparer's Identifying Number (See instr.):  
 Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4: BLACKMAN KALLICK, LLP 10 S. RIVERSIDE PLAZA, 9TH FLOOR CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606 EIN: Phone no. (312) 207-1040

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions  Yes  No



**Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I.)

**Section A. Public Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
<b>1</b> Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	951,077.	316,486.	355,822.	666,885.	698,663.	2988933.
<b>2</b> Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
<b>3</b> The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
<b>4 Total.</b> Add lines 1 - 3	951,077.	316,486.	355,822.	666,885.	698,663.	2988933.
<b>5</b> The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						609,048.
<b>6 Public Support.</b> Subtract line 5 from line 4.						2379885.

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
<b>7</b> Amounts from line 4	951,077.	316,486.	355,822.	666,885.	698,663.	2988933.
<b>8</b> Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	4,324.	10,759.	18,039.	17,403.	1,066.	51,591.
<b>9</b> Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
<b>10</b> Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)	8,250.	3,552.	7,821.	2,127.	6,943.	28,693.
<b>11 Total support.</b> Add lines 7 through 10						3069217.
<b>12</b> Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	116,086.
<b>13 First five years.</b> If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here <input type="checkbox"/>						

**Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage**

<b>14</b> Public support percentage for 2008 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	<b>14</b>	77.54 %
<b>15</b> Public support percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 26f	<b>15</b>	77.85 %
<b>16a 33 1/3% support test - 2008.</b> If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>b 33 1/3% support test - 2007.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>17a 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2008.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>b 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2007.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>18 Private foundation.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions <input type="checkbox"/>		

**Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)** (Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I.)

**Section A. Public Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
<b>1</b> Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.") .....						
<b>2</b> Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose .....						
<b>3</b> Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513 .....						
<b>4</b> Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf .....						
<b>5</b> The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge .....						
<b>6 Total.</b> Add lines 1 - 5 .....						
<b>7a</b> Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons .....						
<b>b</b> Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of 1% of the total of lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12 for the year or \$5,000 .....						
<b>c</b> Add lines 7a and 7b .....						
<b>8 Public support</b> (Subtract line 7c from line 6.) .....						

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
<b>9</b> Amounts from line 6 .....						
<b>10a</b> Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources .....						
<b>b</b> Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975 .....						
<b>c</b> Add lines 10a and 10b .....						
<b>11</b> Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on .....						
<b>12</b> Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.) .....						
<b>13 Total support</b> (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.) .....						

**14 First five years.** If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here**

**Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage**

<b>15</b> Public support percentage for 2008 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f)) .....	<b>15</b>	%
<b>16</b> Public support percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 27g .....	<b>16</b>	%

**Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage**

<b>17</b> Investment income percentage for 2008 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f)) .....	<b>17</b>	%
<b>18</b> Investment income percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 27h .....	<b>18</b>	%

**19a 33 1/3% support tests - 2008.** If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

**b 33 1/3% support tests - 2007.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

**20 Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions

FORM 990-EZ	OTHER EXPENSES	STATEMENT	1
DESCRIPTION			AMOUNT
OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS			53,594.
COMPUTER EXPENSE			6,142.
TRAINING FEES & MATERIALS			1,949.
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS			433.
INSURANCE			1,891.
BANK & CREDIT CARD FEES			2,779.
MISCELLANEOUS			5,768.
TRAVEL			19,035.
OTHER PROGRAM EXPENSES			193,292.
TOTAL TO FORM 990-EZ, LINE 16			284,883.

FORM 990-EZ	OTHER ASSETS	STATEMENT	2
DESCRIPTION		BEG. OF YEAR	END OF YEAR
PREPAID CONTRACT COMMITMENTS		41,006.	5,879.
GRANTS RECEIVABLE		231,684.	159,468.
TOTAL TO FORM 990-EZ, LINE 24		272,690.	165,347.

FORM 990-EZ	OTHER LIABILITIES	STATEMENT	3
DESCRIPTION		BEG. OF YEAR	END OF YEAR
CONTRACT COMMITMENTS PAYABLE		5,161.	95,851.
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES		16,019.	31,137.
GRANTS PAYABLE		159,016.	78,084.
DEFERRED REVENUE		0.	138,904.
TOTAL TO FORM 990-EZ, LINE 26		180,196.	343,976.

FORM 990-EZ OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES STATEMENT 4

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
CHICAGO WILDERNESS MAGAZINE NET ASSETS	<98,799.>
TOTAL TO FORM 990-EZ, LINE 20	<98,799.>

FORM 990-EZ CASH GRANTS AND ALLOCATIONS STATEMENT 5

CLASS OF ACTIVITY/DONEE'S NAME AND ADDRESS	DONEE'S RELATIONSHIP	AMOUNT
EDUCATION QUERCUS CONSULTING 820 N. ORLEANS, STE 206 CHICAGO, IL 60610	NONE	10,887.
EDUCATION CHICAGO CULTURAL ALLIANCE 5211 N. CLARK ST. CHICAGO, IL 60640	NONE	8,910.
EDUCATION PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS, INC. 35 EAST WACKER DR. CHICAGO, IL 60601	NONE	31,326.
EDUCATION DUNES LEARNING CENTER 700 HOWE RD CHESTERTON, IN 46304	NONE	5,402.
EDUCATION CAROL FIALKOWSKI 110 WATERSIDE PLACE BURR RIDGE, IL 60527	NONE	9,600.
EDUCATION FISHIN' BUDDIES 9946 S. HALSTED ST. CHICAGO, IL 60628	NONE	24,000.
TOTAL INCLUDED ON FORM 990-EZ, LINE 10		90,125.

FORM 990-EZ

INFORMATION REGARDING TRANSFERS  
ASSOCIATED WITH PERSONAL BENEFIT CONTRACTS

STATEMENT 6

A) DID THE ORGANIZATION, DURING THE YEAR, RECEIVE ANY FUNDS,  
DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO PAY PREMIUMS ON A PERSONAL  
BENEFIT CONTRACT? . . . . . [ ] YES [X] NO

B) DID THE ORGANIZATION, DURING THE YEAR, PAY PREMIUMS,  
DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ON A PERSONAL BENEFIT CONTRACT? . . [ ] YES [X] NO

CHICAGO WILDERNESS IS A REGIONAL ALLIANCE THAT CONNECTS PEOPLE AND NATURE. IN 2008-09 THE MEMBERSHIP WAS COMPRISED OF 240 DIVERSE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TOGETHER TO RESTORE LOCAL NATURE AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL WHO LIVE HERE, BY PROTECTING THE LANDS AND WATERS ON WHICH WE ALL DEPEND. CHICAGO WILDERNESS WORKED TO ADVANCE ITS FOUR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES: TO RESTORE THE HEALTH OF LOCAL NATURE, PROMOTE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, DEVELOP A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR NATURE, AND LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE. CHICAGO WILDERNESS' PROGRAMS REFLECT ITS COMMITMENT TO USING SCIENCE AND EMERGING KNOWLEDGE, AS WELL AS A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO CONSERVATION, TO BENEFIT ALL OF THE REGION'S RESIDENTS. THROUGH THE CHICAGO WILDERNESS TRUST, THE ALLIANCE SUPPORTED PRIORITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS INVOLVING MYRIAD GROUPS OF MEMBERS COLLABORATING TO ADVANCE THE ALLIANCE'S MISSION.

TO PROMOTE, RESTORE, AND STEWARD THE NATURAL COMMUNITIES NATIVE TO THE CHICAGO REGION.