



Our Mission

TO ENRICH LIVES
BY INSPIRING PASSION FOR NATURE
THROUGH EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP



OUR VALUES

What We Believe

Power of **COMMUNITY**--We encourage people to see themselves as part of a community of nature enthusiasts within the community of nature. CNC embraces Aldo Leopold's definition of community, which "enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively the land."

RESPECT for All Life--We show respect for all living things by seeking to understand, by celebrating diverse viewpoints, and by acting with kindness and empathy.

Personal **EXPERIENCE**--There is no substitute for being IN nature. We maintain our lands for maximum biodiversity to provide unique personal experiences and education. Frequent experiences in nature are critical to the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual health of all people.

STEWARDSHIP of the Land--We recognize the interdependence of all living things and strive to maintain the web of life by preserving, restoring, and protecting our land. We embrace Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold 1949.

Commitment to **SUSTAINABILITY**--We make choices that are environmentally responsible, economically viable, and socially equitable for the long-term stability of our organization, our region and the earth.

OUR PRINCIPLES

How We Behave

Provide a Welcoming Atmosphere--We provide the best possible experience for each visitor by creating a welcoming atmosphere, maintaining a safe and natural environment, and respecting the individual's point of view.

Act with Integrity--We maintain the trust of members, donors, and the community by observing the highest ethical standards and being accountable to all constituencies for the achievement of our mission.

Provide Diverse Experiences and Educational Programs--We immerse people in nature through a variety of individual and organized group activities. We engage people in frequent experiences in nature beginning at an early age.

Empower People to Share their Love and Knowledge of Nature--We foster an ethic of influence by providing opportunities for people to act on their conservation values through sharing with others, volunteer service, and financial contributions.

Deliver Science-Based Interpretation--We teach people how to think, not what to think. We provide hands-on, science-based interpretive experiences and utilize the inquiry method in our teaching. We define interpretation as "a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource." National Association for Interpretation 2007.

Collaborate--We seek opportunities to build relationships in order to strengthen our community. Internally, we embrace a spirit of teamwork and mutual support with staff, volunteers, members, and visitors. Externally, we seek to partner with other organizations that have common objectives.

Manage Our Lands--We actively manage our lands to provide and maintain in perpetuity a mosaic of bio-diverse habitats for visitor experience, education, and research. We strive to maintain healthy ecosystems by enhancing, restoring, and preserving native biodiversity.

STORIES OUR LAND TELLS

What We Interpret

Natural History: A Forest over a Sea

Our Lands are part of an eastern deciduous forest which once covered more than 90% of Ohio's landscape. The old growth trees at Rowe Woods have been spared while many forests throughout the state have been destroyed. Forest is still the state's dominant plant community, but other habitats occur, including ponds, fields, streams, and wetlands providing an incredible diversity of habitats and plant and animal species. The fields and pastures at Long Branch Farm & Trails have been managed for food production since the forests were cleared by pioneers. Long before the forests, a shallow ocean covered this land, as evident by fossils found in the Ordovician shale and limestone bedrock. Throughout the long span of history, this area has seen continent shifting, climate change, and geologic change which carved the landscape and influenced species diversity.

Cultural Heritage: People Connected to this Land

Decisions and actions of people in the past have influenced current use of the land, just as our decisions and actions today will influence future use of this land. Through time, humans have depended on and loved this land. Native peoples lived and hunted here, followed by pioneers who cleared the forest for crops and homes. The Krippendorfs and neighboring Groesbecks left a legacy of botanical abundance while welcoming friends and family to experience the restorative powers of nature. At Long Branch Farm & Trails, the McElroy family continued a legacy of agriculture with a desire for people to understand the source of their food and fiber.

Incredible Community in Nature

Common values of love, respect, and hope for the land inspire today's CNC community of volunteers, visitors, and generations of members who have developed spiritual, emotional, and/or intellectual connections to this land. Generosity, in both life and death, characterize the founders and supporters of CNC.

Learning to Live Lightly on the Land: Restoration and Sustainability

The CNC community strives to preserve, protect and restore this land and to educate people about ways to minimize their own ecological footprint on the land. Through environmental education, "leave no trace" trail rules, stream and wetland mitigation, invasive species removal, native plant propagation, green building techniques, and research, CNC seeks to help people enhance and protect the earth's biodiversity for generations to come.

OUR LOCATIONS

Where We Enrich Lives

Rowe Woods in Milford, Ohio

Located in the Eastgate area, just east of Milford, Rowe Woods consists of 1,025 acres of fields, forest, ponds, and streams. This original Cincinnati Nature Center property includes 65 acres of old-growth eastern deciduous forest preserved by Carl and Mary Krippendorf. Since 1967, CNC has offered educational programs in our outdoor classroom, teaching people of all ages the interdependence and diversity of the natural environment. The site now boasts more than 16 miles of hiking trails for visitors to explore and enjoy. The grounds are open year-round.

Long Branch Farm & Trails in Goshen, Ohio

Located in Goshen Township, nine miles northeast of Milford, Long Branch Farm & Trails is 582 acres of scenic pastures, meadows, woodlands, and crop fields. This unique plot of agricultural and natural land was a gift from Neil and Camilla McElroy in 1973. Five miles of hiking trails wind through this unspoiled and peaceful area south of Loveland. Hiking trails are open to CNC members daily. This site is open to the public for CincyNature Camp in the summer and periodic programs throughout the year.



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Cincinnati Nature Center is a private, 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization incorporated in Ohio in 1965. It is owned by the members and governed by a Board of Trustees which is elected annually. Membership is open to all who pay annual dues. EIN: 31-6057978