



## Okehocking Nature Center Program Statement



### 1. Vision Statement:

- The future of conservation, environmental stewardship and environmental recreation depends on those who provide a place for people in nature. This place will create a sense of community and benefit the individuals of that community by greatly enhancing their spiritual, emotional and physical well being through their interactions, connections and affinity with nature and each other. People, through their experiences, will carry a love of nature and an understanding of its care to their own properties, resulting in wide-reaching natural resource improvement.

### 2. Mission:

- Connecting people to nature for the benefit of both.  
(Enhance people's relationships with nature, sense of community and knowledge of natural resource management and stewardship, thus improving their life experiences and creating life-long advocates and practitioners.)

### 3. Purposes:

- Ignite public interest in the environment by encouraging positive relationships between people and nature through recreation, environmental education and stewardship.
- Encourage community "ownership" of Okehocking Preserve, establishing a strong volunteer base and programs that will ensure the Preserve's long-term ecologic, educational, and recreational successes and its public benefits.
- Provide a balanced mix of environmental education and recreation to assure an overall improvement in the Preserve's ecological health while enriching the lives of its visitors. (Provide programs designed not so much to attract the greatest number of participants as to assure that such educational and recreational experiences do not expose the property to overuse.)
- Create and promote a community where shared interests, concerns, and activities are cultivated and sustained by the energy and commitment of its members.
- Promote and implement conservation and natural resource management now to insure their future.
- Provide a model for private and public land management, environmental education and recreation, and conservation.
- Promote the use of green technology.
- Provide an indoor educational/meeting/gathering space and an outdoor classroom and laboratory-the Preserve itself-to community organizations.