

MISSION • VISION • VALUES • INITIATIVES

Dodge Nature Center and Preschool



MISSION

Providing exceptional experiences in nature through environmental education.

VALUES

Dodge Nature Center and Preschool:

- Provides joyful, inclusive, and collaborative experiences
- Nurtures relationships with people and the environment
- Acts as responsible stewards of the natural world
- Inspires curiosity and wonder

VISION

We envision a future where everyone inspired by Dodge intentionally cares for nature.



Nourish Your Need
FOR NATURE™

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION



Dodge Nature Center and Preschool is for everyone.

As stewards of the land, we create and foster a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment where all can nourish their need for nature. We listen to, honor, and learn from the lived experiences and feedback of all to create a space where everyone feels welcome.

Providing access to environmental education and experiences in nature is essential to Dodge Nature Center and Preschool's mission, vision, and values. As educators, we are committed to staying curious, challenging our status quo, and changing in ways that facilitate greater diversity, equity, and inclusion.

INITIATIVE: SUSTAINABILITY

We take care of our resources today and into the future.



GOALS

Successfully complete the Nourishing Everyone's Need for Nature Comprehensive Campaign.

- Secure \$750k for new Education Center at Shepard Farm
- Secure \$500k for Annual Operating Fund
- Secure \$3.75M for Endowment with planned gifts

Secure our sources by diversifying revenue streams.

Develop plans for restoration and land use that care for the land.

- Redesign Preschool playscape
- Develop land management plan

TIMELINE

DUE

BEGIN

BEGAN



ONGOING THROUGH 2025

2023

2024

2025

APR

SEPT

DEC

JAN

APR

Redesign Preschool playscape

Secure \$750k for new Education Center at Shepard Farm

Secure \$500k for Annual Operating Fund

Secure \$3.75M for Endowment

Diversify revenue streams

Build Preschool playscape

Develop land management plan

INITIATIVE: ACCESS

We identify, reduce, and remove barriers so that everybody has access to the nourishing power of nature.



GOALS

Grow into Shepard Farm Property in Cottage Grove and serve more through intentional outreach.

- Expand family and community programs
- Develop new collaborative programs
- Cultivate partnerships with schools, parents, and owners with LCCMR grant support

Foster diversity, equity, and inclusivity at Dodge

Rework the DEI Taskforce, conduct DEI audit to identify barriers, increase staff and Board DEI competencies, communicate DEI initiatives to the community, and continue to be welcoming and inclusive.

TIMELINE

DUE

BEGIN

BEGAN

 ONGOING THROUGH 2025

2023


MAR


APR


MAY


SEPT

Cultivate partnerships with support from LCCMR grant

Expand family programs at Shepard Farm 

Expand community programs at Shepard Farm 

Tackle DEI priorities 

Develop new collaborative programs at Shepard Farm 

INITIATIVE: LEGACY

We build on our legacy of environmental education across all Dodge properties and programs.



GOALS

Develop master plan to grow, manage, and ensure quality operations across multiple properties.

Define and deliver exceptional experiences in nature for everyone.

- Improve self-led experiences for visitors
- Collect data on visitor experience

Cultivate and manage Dodge's brand and reputation.

Be known for living our values, delivering our mission, and inspiring care for nature.

TIMELINE

DUE

BEGIN

BEGAN

 ONGOING THROUGH 2025

2023


2025


AUG

SEPT


NOV

JAN

Develop draft master plan for multiple properties 

Improve self-led experiences for visitors 

Collect data on visitor experience 

Cultivate and manage Dodge's brand and reputation 

INITIATIVE: RELATIONSHIPS

We build relationships that reflect our values, meet our mission, and inspire the intentional care for nature.



GOALS

Explore the connection between environmental education and intentionally caring for nature and define components.

Invest in HR research and standardization
Foster a thriving workplace environment and be known as a great place to work.

Build and deepen relationships with schools, parents, students, vendors, volunteers, and community partners that positively impact Dodge's mission.

Grow our reach into the South Washington County School District.

TIMELINE

DUE

BEGIN

BEGAN

 ONGOING THROUGH 2025

2023


2025

FEB

MAR

JAN

HR research and standardization

Build and deepen community relationships 

Explore the connection between environmental education and intentionally caring for nature

Dodge Nature Center and Preschool

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