

**Aullwood inspires, teaches and involves children and adults in the stewardship of our Earth.**

**Vision Statement (1/09)**

Within the next 7 years Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm will –

- Engage people in conservation actions at home, in schools, businesses and communities through education and modeling of best practices.
- Provide premiere facilities, programs and land stewardship activities that teach and demonstrate for children and adults environmental and agricultural sustainability.
- Use state-of-the art technology and communication methods to facilitate external interaction and enhance internal operations.
- Increase outreach programs and activities to bring nature and farming experiences to underserved children and adults within the Miami Valley.

**Mission (1/2011)**

“Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, an Audubon Center of the National Audubon Society for environmental education and sustainable agriculture, provides activities that increase understanding and preservation of the planet by children and adults through education, research and recreation.”

**Beliefs and Values (1/97)**

Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm conducts business according to our beliefs in education, stewardship, scientific study and people. We value and believe in . . .

the inquiring minds of children and their innate desire to learn.

natural history learning through hands-on and field experiences.

the idea that everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner.

enhancing lives by developing a sense of wonder and providing close contact with nature.

empowering experiences which foster appreciation, understanding and stewardship of the Earth.

environmental education promoting lifelong behaviors which protect the natural environment.

teaching stewardship by example.

respecting and protecting the Earth’s diversity.

the intrinsic value of green space, agricultural land, and wilderness.

sound scientific principles underlying quality environmental education.

the importance of understanding ecological concepts and processes.

advancing our mission by maintaining a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

strengthening team work through respect, honesty and open communication.

## Goals

- Develop exhibits and the technological resources that stimulate interest, convey information, develop understanding and encourage positive action about the natural, agricultural and social environments.
- Offer guided and outreach programs for youth, adults and families incorporating a variety of hands-on experiences as well as information and concept development relating to natural history, conservation and agriculture.
- Provide educational self-guided programs for youth and adults that offer sensory and discovery experiences in natural and agricultural environments.
- Offer teacher workshops which provide resources and techniques in environmental education for educators to incorporate in the classroom.
- Through Aullwood's *Center for Lifelong Learning* provide workshops for adults and children that increase awareness, understanding and stewardship of the natural world, agriculture and conservation.
- Create and offer a variety of public events that provide unique educational and conservation opportunities which ensure public interest and financial support of Aullwood.
- Provide regional outreach programs and consulting services to Audubon chapters, schools, and other organizations (Association of Nature Center Administrators, etc.) which facilitate sound land use planning, environmental programming and environmental action.
- Assist in the coordination of the environmental education and issue activities in the Miami Valley, Ohio, and the United States by staff members serving on a variety of board of directors.
- Develop marketing strategies that encourages diverse audiences (visitors, volunteers and donors).
- Manage Aullwood's 200-acre wildlife sanctuary to show representative and diverse ecosystems native to southwestern Ohio.
- Manage a working farm to provide locally grown natural food and to demonstrate sustainable agricultural practices.
- Recruit, train and nurture sufficient volunteers on an ongoing basis whose support and commitment enables Aullwood to improve the current level of operations and program offerings.
- Promote university and citizen science research activities aimed at increasing understanding of conservation and maintenance of land resources.
- Provide opportunities for interns to assist staff in offering quality programs for the community while developing the understanding and skills which will enable interns to succeed in future natural resource or agricultural careers.
- Operate a nature store that offers the best conservation and eco-friendly products available.