

Beginning in early 2014, Irvine's Board of Directors, Executive Director and other members of its Staff launched a 12+ month strategic planning process. Their key aim was to identify the strategic goals and objectives that would carry the organization, and its core message of environmental stewardship, successfully forward into the next 40 years – continuing in the fine tradition set forth by Irvine's visionary founder, the Dodge family, and local passionate volunteers and supporters.

Our Vision

Children and adults are engaged and passionate stewards of our environment.

Our Mission

We educate and inspire current and future generations to explore, respect and protect nature.

At Irvine, we guide learning. We live green. We foster respect. And we thrive outdoors.



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BRANCHING OUT: IRVINE NATURE CENTER'S STRATEGIC PLAN

2015-2020 SUMMARY



Strategic Next Steps

Establish Irvine as a leader in nature-based environmental education.

- ☘ Evaluate and refine Irvine's suite of nature education programs to ensure wider use of the Irvine campus by all age groups, more extensive outreach to schools, with attention devoted to traditionally under-served communities, and effective adult programming.
- ☘ Expand model professional development opportunities and curricula to serve Maryland educators, enabling them to meet the requirements of the new science standards.
- ☘ Gain state approval of The Nature Preschool curriculum, and evaluate alternatives for enabling more children to experience nature-based education, both on the Irvine campus and in other venues.
- ☘ Ensure Irvine continues to engage individuals representing diverse backgrounds.



Maintain and expand the use of Irvine's campus.

- ☘ Develop comprehensive land maintenance and stewardship plan.
- ☘ Develop comprehensive building maintenance and operating plan.
- ☘ Complete wetland restoration project.



Ensure Irvine's financial sustainability and growth.

- ☘ Broaden and enhance current sources of support to help identify and build new funding opportunities.
- ☘ Protect, preserve and grow the Endowment long-term.
- ☘ Improve reporting, communications and organizational financial literacy overall.
- ☘ Create 3-year financial plan and model.



Located just northwest of Baltimore, Maryland, Irvine Nature Center is a leading environmental education center visited by more than 70,000 families, children, students and educators each year. Irvine's visitors enjoy and benefit from more than 116 acres of protected forests, wetlands and meadows, as well as our state-of-the-art green building, all surrounded by an additional 1,500 acres of land protected by conservation easements.

Our History

Irvine Nature Center was founded in 1975 at St. Timothy's School in Stevenson, Maryland. Today, having relocated to our new home in Owings Mills, Maryland, Irvine is the only private, non-profit nature center in the region. We owe our success to Olivia Irvine Dodge, Irvine's generous founder, who recognized the importance of preserving ecologically significant places and providing environmental education for children.

The first 40 years of Irvine's history saw steady growth from its humble beginnings in a small barn to today's Irvine that provides 700 educational programs annually to more than 70,000 children and adults; pioneered the largest watershed cleanup in the region; and draws nearly 3,000 volunteers each year.