

*A Recreation-Education Partnership for Generations to Come*

# Johnson Nature Center



## Johnson Nature Center Overview

- 40-acre environmental education and nature destination
- Trails, pond, wildlife enclosures, sugar bush
- Rich stewardship history (Olsen Family)
- Expanded public access and ecological management under OCP



## OCP Commitment to JNC

Capital & operating investment for:

- Trail/boardwalk upgrades
- Play-based learning areas
- Signage, amenities, ADA accessibility
- Habitat restoration and pond enhancement
- Sustainability features
- Ongoing Operations & Maintenance Funding



## Expanded Recreation Programs (Oakland County Parks)

- Nature walking trails and wildlife encounters
- Seasonal festivals and heritage events
- Evening/weekend family recreation
- Wellness classes (yoga, fitness)
- Specialty volunteer programs
- Farm-to-table culinary workshops & dinners



## Partnership Benefits

- Preserve public ownership
- Guarantee BHS priority access
- Maintain K–12 environmental education
- Expand programs and volunteer engagement
- Add MSU Extension conservation initiatives
- Involve community in planning



## Why It Matters

- Addresses outdoor learning demand
- Regional model for inclusive, hands-on environmental education
- Strengthens habitat restoration and stewardship capacity
- Offers year-round programs and citizen science opportunities



## Looking Ahead

- Hub for environmental stewardship and learning
- Teacher development and curriculum integration
- Early childhood nature education
- New hands-on interpretive features
- Public Park with mutually agreed upon name