IMAGO
IN 2022

A YEAR IN REVIEW
YOUTH EDUCATION

Another Banner Year of Hands-On Nature Exploration and Education

Branching Out
The Branching Out program is Imago's regular Outdoor Education program with Pleasant Ridge Montessori school. Each student in grades K-3 learns with Imago at their school garden. This kind of deep and regular programming is incredibly unique and impactful.

Last year alone, nearly 400 students spent 26 hours outside learning new skills and reinforcing lessons they learned in the classrooms. Our units included themes like Gardening Skills, Naturalist Skills, Ecology and Ecosystems, and Botany.

Summer Camp
Last summer, 147 campers participated in camp. Campers came from all over Cincinnati, including campers from our partner Cincinnati Public Schools. Thanks to generous donations, we were able to provide over $4,000 in scholarships, making camp available to 20 families. Last summer also featured the return of Adventure Camp, back from a COVID hiatus. This unique camp for preteens and teens took campers hiking, swimming, camping, and orienteering in beautiful natural areas in Southwest Ohio.

Outdoor Explorers Afterschool
Afterschool programs are a special opportunity for students to spend time outside. At the end of a long school day, our students are ready to move their bodies and the outdoors is a great place for that energy. Each week of Outdoor Explorers is like a day of summer camp with rambles, outdoor games, art-making, and fun. What’s best, each one takes place at the school – so our explorers just have to step outside their classroom door to connect with nature.

Each Imago student participates in 22 hours of Imago guided outdoor learning.

That's 22 hours of exploring, learning, playing, discovering and making lifelong memories.

Our programs are fostering the next generation of nature enthusiasts and green champions.
Imago’s 37 acre nature preserve is free and open to the public. Sitting just 4 miles from downtown Cincinnati and located within a block from public transportation, it’s easily accessible to city residents. It’s a special place, free and open to all.

Art in Nature
At Imago, we recognize that a visit to nature can be much more than just hiking. It can be an opportunity to be inspired and moved. In 2022, we continued our Art in Nature project with 3 new installations. Visitors can now see 7 pieces of original, natural, sustainable art.

The Labyrinth
The Imago labyrinth is a unique opportunity to commune with nature. A labyrinth is a walking meditation with a tradition that spans centuries. Imago’s labyrinth was started by many of Imago’s founding members and in 2022, we honored its tradition with some improvements to make visiting the labyrinth an even more special experience.

Volunteers
For anyone who’s had a backyard, you know that keeping up with it can be daunting, now imagine having 37 acres! Our amazing volunteers help us be good stewards of our nature preserve. 300 volunteers give nearly 1400 hours to make Imago a beautiful space. Not only are our volunteers maintaining gardens and trails, they also are working diligently on habitat restoration, the aforementioned labyrinth, and other great improvements.
COMMUNITY + SUSTAINABILITY

It IS easy being green; when you are green with others.

2nd Repair Fair
The Repair Fair pairs volunteer experts in areas like carpentry, sewing, electronics, and more with members of the community who have items that need fixing. Each repair is an opportunity for a community member to learn more about basic repairs and maintenance and to keep a beloved item out of the landfill. At the 2022 Repair Fair, hosted by our friends at West Side Brewing, many items were fixed! From bikes, to lamps, to chairs - all kept from getting tossed.

Queen City Thingery
The Thingery is Cincinnati’s first Library of Things. Why buy a wheelbarrow, a tent, or a sleeping bag that you only plan on using once. Borrow ours instead! In 2022, we lent 113 items including tables, rakes, bug boxes, trail cameras and more!

8th Annual Plaid Friday Hike
This long tradition takes place on "Black Friday". Instead of a day of shopping at the mall, we offer an alternative to the trappings of consumerism. We led two hikes in 2022. One along the Ohio River and one in Price Hill that featured the Incline Run and little-known Price Hill overlooks.

The 20th Year of Music in the Woods
This year we celebrated our 20th anniversary of Music in the Woods (MITW). MITW has grown exponentially over those 20 years. Even as it has grown it remains at its core an event for community members to celebrate summer, the outdoors, and all things local! This year’s MITW featured a great silent auction, locally-sourced food and beverages and 11 performers on two stages!