



Outdoor Spaces & Experiences That Help People & Nature Thrive

Integrating nature-based design, habitat restoration, and educational programming to deliver results for school districts, businesses, and communities.



ODC Network is a trusted, hands-on partner to lead you through the full spectrum of nature-based engagement opportunities.

Our programs and services improve wellbeing, spark curiosity, strengthen focus, and foster belonging—in school, at work, and in our neighborhoods.

That includes:

- Experience-driven education models that integrate seamlessly into school curriculum and learning spaces
- Design and construction of nature-rich spaces, including natural playscapes, outdoor learning environments, and trail systems
- Ecological restoration and habitat design that improves ecosystem health while reducing long-term maintenance costs



Why ODC Network Is Different

An Integrated Approach

We're a centralized solution for ecological services, nature-rich programming, and outdoor engagement design & construction. As the only organization in the state—if not the country—bringing those three pillars together under one roof, we offer a deeply integrated approach that drives meaningful environmental and social outcomes.

Unified expertise: ecological health, educational impact, and exceptional design all in one partner

One coordinated team: no juggling multiple vendors or specialists

Custom solutions: designed uniquely for your site, your people, and your goals

Lower long-term costs: restored natural landscapes require significantly less maintenance than conventional alternatives

Proven regional leadership: 25 years of impact, 1.5 million+ people served

What Our Work Delivers

Across every project—from school campuses to corporate grounds to community parks—our clients experience a consistent set of benefits:

- Outdoor spaces that people love to gather, learn, and move in
- Healthier land with restored ecosystems and improved habitat
- Reduced maintenance burden over time, compared to traditional lawns and playgrounds
- Stronger community connection and a sense of place
- Measurable improvements in wellbeing, focus, and engagement for those who use these spaces



For Educators & School Districts

Building Nature-Based School Environments That Help Students Thrive

Experiential Curriculum Partnerships

We're redefining education across West Michigan, partnering with school systems to advance an outdoor learning model that strengthens academic performance and engagement. Nature-based learning boosts focus, improves mental health, and increases participation for students of all ages.

We provide:

- Fully-planned outdoor enrichment experiences aligned to curriculum
- Nature-based ambassadors who co-plan and co-teach alongside classroom educators
- Systems-level implementation support, from campus design to district-wide planning
- Professional development for teachers and administrators

Proven results:

Reimagining Education partners have seen a 27% increase in student literacy skills, an 80% reduction in absences, and a 54% reduction in behavioral referrals compared to years prior to nature-based learning.

Natural Playscapes

ODC Nature Design Studio develops nature-rich play-and-learn spaces tailored to your school's needs. For younger children, spaces often include natural climbing structures, sensory exploration areas, and loose materials that invite open-ended discovery. For older students, gathering circles, hammock areas, and flexible outdoor seating provide space to connect, reflect, and collaborate.

Unlike traditional playgrounds with fixed structures, natural play environments encourage imaginative problem-solving and are significantly less expensive to maintain over time.

Research shows natural play environments:

- Enhance cognitive abilities and academic performance
- Reduce stress and support emotional regulation
- Improve cooperation and imaginative play
- Support intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development

Living Classrooms & Ecological Campus Features

School campuses are ideal settings for ecological restoration that benefits both students and the broader environment. We create immersive learning environments and give students direct connection to the natural systems around them, while reducing maintenance costs and boosting biodiversity in the long term.

- Rain gardens and stormwater bioswales
- Wildlife and pollinator habitats
- Restoration and management of prairies, wetlands, and woodlands





For Business Leaders & Corporations

Restoring Sustainable, Cost-Effective Landscapes That Inspire Innovation

Resilient Land Management

In 2025, ODC managed more than 2,500 acres of natural areas for client- and ODC-owned properties, while restoring over 35 acres of native grassland habitat. Our natural area management and restoration practices sustain ecosystems and conserve resources.

Services include:

- Sustainability consulting and long-term land stewardship planning
- Stormwater consulting and nature-based drainage solutions
- Invasive species control and native habitat restoration
- Prairie, wetland, and shoreline restoration

Lower Maintenance Costs:

Ecological restoration can significantly reduce long-term maintenance expenses and increase land resilience to climate variability.



Employee Wellness Spaces

Employees feel more connected, engaged, and supported when nature is woven into daily life. Research consistently links access to green space with improved focus, reduced stress, and stronger morale.

Our team can support the design and construction of:

- Campus trail systems and multi-use pathways
- Outdoor seating, gathering, and lunch areas integrated into natural landscapes

Community & Workforce Connection

Investing in nature-rich spaces with ODC signals a commitment to the community—driving talent attraction, supporting employee retention, and anchoring your workforce to a larger, regional mission.

We offer:

- Meaningful volunteer opportunities to build connection
- Planned excursions to facilitate access to nature
- Workshops & speaker series' to spur lifelong learning

Interested in Tri-Share?

ODC is committed to supporting working families by providing access to high-quality, affordable childcare. In addition to running GSRP preschool programs, we offer consulting services on Michigan's Tri-Share Child Care Program, which splits the cost of care between the state, employee, and employer.



Designing Nature-Rich Communities That Support Public Connection and Thriving Economies

Natural Recreational Spaces for All Ages

Communities with accessible green space and nature-rich recreation areas attract residents, support wellbeing, and strengthen local identity.

Access to natural play-and-learn spaces can:

- Reduce stress and improve mental health across age groups
- Deepen social connection and community belonging
- Support healthy movement and physical development in children
- Increase property values and make communities more attractive to families and employers



Long-Term Value:

Natural playscapes are significantly less expensive to maintain over 20 years compared to traditional playgrounds—making them a smarter investment for community budgets.

Ecological Services

Healthy ecosystems build healthy communities. Through ecological restoration, invasive species management, and habitat improvement, ODC transforms underutilized land into thriving ecosystems that support biodiversity and strengthen environmental resilience.

Across the region, ODC partners with municipalities, developers, and private landowners to restore biodiversity, improve water quality and soil health, and reduce long-term maintenance costs.

Projects include:

- Restoring prairies, wetlands, and woodland areas
- Stabilizing shorelines and streambanks
- Nature-based stormwater solutions
- Invasive species control
- Sustainability consulting and long-term planning

Community Educational Programming

Nature-based learning isn't just for classrooms. ODC delivers programming for schools, families, homeschool groups, and lifelong learners—creating pathways for all community members to connect with the outdoors.

We also work with parks and municipalities to expand community access to nature-based experiences on public lands.

We provide:

- Educational programs for schools, families, and community groups
- Professional development for educators and community staff
- Outdoor learning design and consulting for parks and public spaces



Building a Nature-rich Community Is a Group Effort

The outcomes we pursue—thriving ecosystems, curious learners, connected communities—are too important and interconnected to achieve alone. We actively seek partnerships with parks departments, adjacent nonprofits, foundations, and mission-aligned organizations who share a commitment to a healthier, more nature-connected West Michigan.

Whether you're looking to co-design a program, share resources, expand access, or advance shared goals, we'd love to talk about what's possible.

Let's design what's possible, together.

Interested in connecting with our team?

Scan the QR code or email
services@outdoordiscovery.org to get started



Case Studies

From Bond Investment to Outdoor Learning Impact

In 2025, Fennville Public Schools partnered with ODC Network to reimagine its campuses as vibrant, interconnected learning landscapes. Together, we helped shape a voter-approved bond vision grounded in four priorities: strengthening campus and community connectivity, integrating outdoor learning into daily experiences, promoting student wellness, and advancing long-term land stewardship. Through a collaborative design-build process, this work will extend classrooms into restored prairies, trail systems, gathering spaces, and immersive outdoor learning environments across all school campuses. The design will connect school grounds to the broader Fennville community while restoring native habitat and supporting movement, reflection, collaboration, and hands-on discovery. This partnership represents more than site improvement. It reflects a shared commitment to a connected, sustainable campus where education, conservation, and community identity reinforce one another, advancing a future of thriving people, nature, and communities.



A Community Partnership, Designed for Impact

Designed and installed in partnership with People Helping People, this 2025 project expanded access to nature-based play in Pullman, creating a durable, inviting space where children and families can explore, move, and gather outdoors. ODC's team worked hand-in-hand to restore the surrounding landscape, adding a bioswale and rain garden with over 500 native plants to manage stormwater and support biodiversity. Together, these efforts create a thriving ecosystem that shows how thoughtfully designed outdoor spaces can support both healthy environments and meaningful connections with nature.

Duneside Discovery Center

In 2025, ODC Network's Early Childhood Network expanded its impact beyond our own classrooms by partnering with Grand Haven Area Public Schools to integrate nature-based learning into a district-operated preschool campus. Through consulting, coaching, and collaborative lesson planning, our team worked alongside district educators to embed outdoor exploration into daily instruction for children ages 3–5. Designed to increase capacity and reduce barriers for families, Duneside Discovery Center supports young learners across income levels and developmental needs, strengthening kindergarten readiness and long-term educational outcomes.





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