

NEWS FROM THE NATUREHOOD

SEE HOW YOU'RE CONNECTING PEOPLE IN CITIES TO NATURE AND EACH OTHER | SUMMER 2021

You give children
a safe place to
enjoy summer camps





SUMMER FUN UNPLUGGED

YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES SAFE SUMMER CAMP OPTIONS!

“She’s lighter...She’s better...She’s been more inquisitive when it comes to being outside, it’s not all about her phone, she would rather be outside than be inside now, and I owe that to you.”

Lattwanda speaks warmly about the changes in her daughter, Amerianna, after her experience last summer with the Urban Ecology Center’s Summer Camp.

Amerianna, like most children these days, has been attending school virtually since Spring 2020. During an unconventional year and a summer filled with quarantining and social distancing; ***“It was really beneficial for her to be able to come last year and be outside, because kids need to be outside, they need that peer interaction.”***

Her mother is extremely thankful for all of the friends her daughter has been able to make at camp, especially given that Amerianna “was an only child for a very long time, so that helped her be able to get out and interact with other kids.”

Lattwanda laughs recalling Amerianna asking to be signed up for various UEC programs, “She went to every last camp I could get her in!” From Discovery Quest and Eco Art to Little Minnows and Outdoor Detectives, Amerianna learned all about the outdoors and how important it is to everyone - no matter where you live.

Summer Camp not only helped Amerianna socially, but academically, too. Lattwanda marvels at the way camp has helped her. “When it comes to school, she gets all A’s when it comes to nature and botany.”

Outside of the classroom, Lattwanda is still pleasantly surprised. “Even now, we can be somewhere and she’ll see a particular plant and she’ll tell me a little bit about the plant. I can’t even remember half of the stuff she’s told me because it’s been so much! She learns so much when she’s able to come to the Urban Ecology Center.”

Your support helps to provide children like Amerianna a summer full of hands-on learning in the outdoors. You can learn more about supporting the UEC’s Summer Camp programs at urbanecologycenter.org

VOLUNTEERS TRANSFORM **GREEN SPACES** & **BUILD COMMUNITY**

Milwaukee Rotarians' land stewardship efforts have big impact.

The partnership between the Rotary Club of Milwaukee and the Urban Ecology Center first developed as the two organizations collaborated to create the magnificent Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum, which opened in 2013. Mary McCormick, Executive Director, says since then Rotarians have continued to build relationships and community through volunteering.

“Working alongside our fellow Rotarians, the amazing Urban Ecology Center staff and community members, we have planted and protected hundreds and hundreds of trees --all the while deepening our connection to nature and to one another.”

The Rotary Club's impact on the Center can be seen through multiple connection points. From the years that went into the creation of the Arboretum to the many donated hours of land stewardship work and Rotarians enthusiastic support of the UEC's annual HKE MKE, their effect can be seen in many ways across the organization.

With over 70 acres of land to manage within the three parks the UEC operates in, efforts like the Rotary Club of Milwaukee are essential to maintaining our urban green spaces. Volunteering at the Arboretum offers the opportunity to include family members across generations –from kids to grandparents. In a typical year, land stewardship volunteers donate over 8,500 hrs to support this work! Kim Forbeck, Land Stewardship manager says,

“Volunteers are vital to our Land Stewardship work! Not only do they provide community, they are the primary way we work to improve the ecological integrity and biodiversity of the land in our urban parks. This improvement in habitat means a greater diversity of butterflies, birds and bumblebees.”



Rotarians Steve Chevalier and Amy Jensen participate in a volunteer project.

Thank you Rotary Club of Milwaukee and the thousands of volunteers who help connect people in cities to nature and each other!



FRIDAY, JUNE 18 - 5-7 PM

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER - RIVERSIDE PARK

Join us for an evening of celebrating & supporting the Urban Ecology Center's mission and work! We look forward to safely welcoming guests back to our green spaces with an outdoor Summer Solstice Soirée at Riverside Park. Guests will enjoy an al fresco evening complete with food, drinks, an amazing auction and a program highlighting all the important work you support at the UEC.

For information and tickets, visit urbanecologycenter.org/solstice.

Summer Camp Trailblazers at Riverside Park in 2020. Photo credit: Maris Dishno



JOIN THE FUN!

VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR ONLINE

POP-UP EXCURSIONS

Join a spontaneous Pop-Up Excursion with a small group of people exploring the urban ecosystems of Milwaukee! Tickets can be purchased in advance and redeemed for any excursion. To register/learn more please visit www.urbanecologycenter.org/popupexcursions

SUMMER CAMPS

Registration is open for summer camps at all three of Urban Ecology Center branches. Camps are running from June 14 to August 20 and are available for kids in preschool through 4th Grade. Camp capacities are limited. To register/learn more please visit www.urbanecologycenter.org/summercamp



If you have named the UEC in your will or trust, thank you!

Thank you for considering including the Urban Ecology Center as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, insurance, or retirement plan. For more information, please contact Jen Hense at jhense@urbanecologycenter.org



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1500 E. Park Place
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