



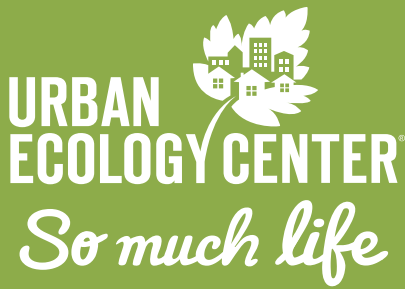
So much life



ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2017 - AUGUST 2018

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



MISSION

We connect people in cities to nature and each other.

VISION

Our vision is to inspire generations to build environmental curiosity, understanding, and respect. We restore hope and heal our urban natural world, neighborhood by neighborhood.

BRANCHES

Riverside Park

1500 E. Park Pl.
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 964-8505

Menomonee Valley

3700 W. Pierce St.
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 431-2940

Washington Park

1859 N. 40th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 344-5460

Cover photo:

UEC Outdoor Leader Camoya near the lagoon at Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park.

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and Strategic Planning**
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Director of Development
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**Director of Marketing and
Communications**
Jeff McAvoy

**Director of Finance and
Operations**

Thank you Judy Krause for your incredible service September 2000 through December 2018. The UEC community wishes you all the best!

Camoya takes care of native
wildlife in Washington Park's
Camoya and other animal room.
Outdoor Leader

FROM VOLUNTEER TO VET SCHOOL

As a volunteer, Camoya remembers, "The first thing they had us do was canoe...and I've never canoed before. I was really nervous and it was completely out of my comfort zone. But they were like 'you can do it, you can do it!'"

"The staff were very encouraging. So we got in the canoe and we canoed the lagoon. It was one of the best days I've ever had here." From Camoya's first introduction to the Washington Park Urban Ecology Center as a youth volunteer in 2014 to her years in the High School Outdoor Leader program and then acceptance to college in the fall of 2018, we've loved being a part of this amazing young woman's journey!

Terry Evans, Branch Manager at Washington Park UEC says, "Camoya's hard work, commitment, and leadership throughout her time here have really impacted the Center, staff, and other Outdoor Leaders. We have seen Camoya blossom from a 12-year-old that wanted to just hang out at the Center to a teenager eager to learn and have new experiences that included

college. Camoya has been an inspiration to everyone that she comes in contact with."

Being surrounded and supported by the UEC High School Outdoor Leader program, Camoya noted, "It's nice to have that experience, because working there they were constantly pushing you out of your comfort zone. You learn a lot and you learn about yourself and your community. I think that's one of the main reasons why I just loved being there."

Now a freshman at UW-LaCrosse, Camoya has found her first year as a biology major on the pre-veterinarian track to be challenging and fun at the same time. When Ken Leinbach, UEC Executive Director, recently spoke at UW-L Camoya was glad to see him. "I didn't realize the UEC had such an impact on my campus."

Camoya's story is just one of many journeys that you have been a part of through your support of the Urban Ecology Center. Read on to learn about more amazing work you made possible in our community!

[Read our 2017-18 Annual Report](#)

THANK YOU.

YOU ARE CONNECTING PEOPLE IN CITIES TO NATURE AND EACH OTHER!

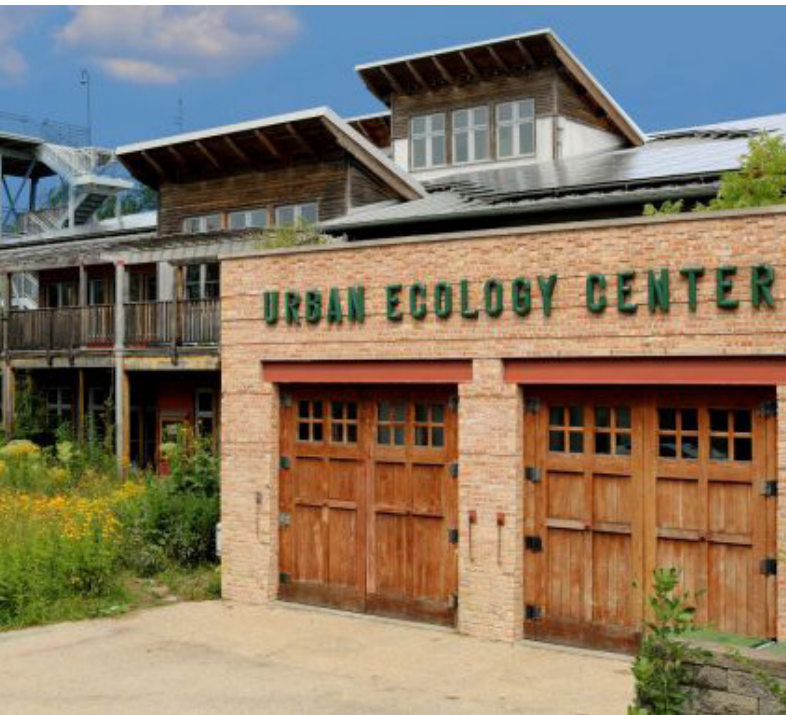
Dear Friends,

As I reflect back on this, my 20th year as Executive Director of the Urban Ecology Center, I am greatly honored by all that your support and partnership have enabled us to accomplish. As I look forward to the continued good work and exciting vision that lies ahead, I am in awe of the talent and generosity that you continue to share as it propels us into the future.

I am especially excited to share the progress on two major projects below and, on the following page, the incredible impact you made possible.

Congratulations on all we have accomplished together, and let's continue to restore hope and heal our urban natural world, neighborhood by neighborhood.

— Ken Ken Leinbach, Executive Director



THE INSTITUTE SHARING THE UEC MODEL

The Institute encompasses all our work to share the UEC model with other cities and organizations that have expressed interest.

Our book *Urban Ecology: A Natural Way to Transform Kids, Parks, Cities, and the World* was the basis of the curriculum for our inaugural 4-day UEC Intensive workshop, with topics ranging from Leadership for Change to Community Empowerment.





"The immense exposure [to the UEC] during the Intensive gets you thinking about how to do something similar while still fitting to the needs of your home community. Once you can touch it, smell it, walk on it, and see it firsthand, it's a totally different experience."

- Yael Eran, Tiberias, Israel

23 people attended, including representatives from Tiberias, Israel, Medellín, Columbia, and McAllen, Texas. A second Intensive workshop will be held in July 2019, in addition to two-day focus workshops throughout the year.



Institute participants from Monterrey, Mexico and Wildwood, Missouri canoe on the Washington Park lagoon.



WASHINGTON PARK PLANNING PROGRESSES

Washington Park planning has made great progress this year. A concept plan has been developed for a beautiful new green building that will allow us to double our current programming!

We have carefully created a Restoration Plan for 20 acres surrounding our current building, studying the rich history of the park and holding community input meetings.

We are excited to continue to partner with Milwaukee County Parks and the community to turn these plans into reality over the next few years.

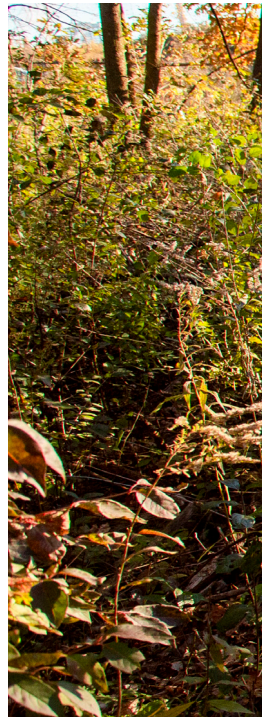


34,546

**HANDS-ON, NATURE-BASED
SCIENCE EXPERIENCES
FOR STUDENTS FROM 63 SCHOOLS**

“Without realizing it, children are learning to be responsible citizens of our planet. Of course, they think they are just having fun!”

- Partner school teacher after environmental education field experience



10,425+

**NATIVE PLANTS AND TREES PLANTED BY OUR
LAND STEWARDSHIP STAFF & THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS!**

563 CAMPER

PARTICIPATED IN
SUMMER CAMPS IN 2018

47% RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS



100%

*of teachers strongly agreed that **nature is an ideal setting** for lessons that support early childhood development*



THE CITRINE FORKTAIL,

a rare damselfly species in our state, was documented in **Three Bridges Park** in September 2018! This represents the first time a rare odonate species has been documented in our shared green spaces.

*Volunteers of all ages helped
plant native species during
Community Planting Day at
Three Bridges Park.*



FISCAL YEAR 2017-18 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Urban Ecology Center experienced a successful financial year thanks to continued generous community support and the dedication of volunteers and staff. Our 2017-18 operating expenses were managed well to ensure a small surplus at year end, thanks to increased earned and contributed revenue. We successfully paid off short term financing ahead of schedule and continued planning for the future.

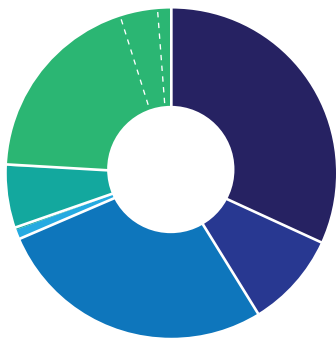
The Urban Ecology Center carries no long-term debt and enters only into agreements that are supported by existing pledges and contributions from our donors. The Board of

Directors and Finance Committee maintain a keen focus on the adequacy of cash, while also providing oversight for all material financial aspects of the organization. The Center has a positive ratio of assets to liabilities and a robust donor base, ensuring a solid financial foundation from which to cultivate future growth. Our annual financial statements are audited by the Milwaukee based accountants of Scribner Cohen & Co.

Please visit our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org for additional information, including the IRS Form 990 and audit report.

FY 2017-18 OPERATING REVENUES

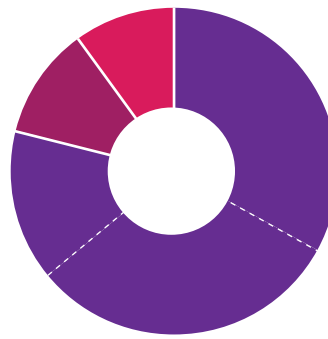
\$4,417,556



- 32% Individual Contributions
- 9% Corporate Grants
- 27% Private Grants
- 1% Government Grants
- 6% Fundraising Events
- 24% Earned Income
- 19% Program Service Fees
- 3% Facility Rental Income
- 2% Other Revenues

FY 2017-18 OPERATING EXPENSES

\$4,398,966



- 79% Program Services
- 33% Education
- 31% Community Improvement
- 15% Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability
- 11% Fundraising
- 10% General Administrative

The charts above represent operational revenue and expenses and are derived from Urban Ecology Center cash-basis financial statements. This statement is not required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and is not part of the audited financial statements.

**Volunteers are at the core of the UEC's operations.
Their contributions of time and expertise are vital to our mission!**

4,728 volunteers dedicated

25,185 hours to the Urban Ecology Center.

That's **\$580,755** of contributed labor!*

**Based on a \$24.00 per hour value determined by Independent Sector for the state of Wisconsin.*

HERE'S TO YOU

The Urban Ecology Center thanks you, our generous donors, for your support in the 2017-18 fiscal year.

We are grateful for the support of the following foundations, corporations, and individuals who made a contribution to support our mission, programs, or operations. Donor levels reflect total giving for the year, including gifts-in-kind. A full listing of donors can be found on our website.

Symbols next to a donor's name reflect that either a portion of their gift or their entire gift supported one of the following: the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum (*); Riverland Property Acquisition (†); Menomonee Valley – From the Ground Up (‡)

\$25,000 and Up

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\$10,000 - \$24,999

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United Way of Greater Milwaukee
Weiss Family Foundation
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation



Exploring Washington Park with students from Story Elementary, looking for evidence of animal homes and making guesses about who might live in this big old oak tree.

UEC Land Stewards and volunteers plant butterfly milkweed, a native species, to help attract Monarch butterflies to our parks.



\$2,500 - \$4,999

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This Eco Kid is all smiles while learning about plants and animals at Summer Camp in the Menomonee Valley!



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Every effort was made to ensure that this list of donors is accurate. If you made a gift between September 2017 and August 2018 and your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please contact UEC's Development Office at (414) 964-8505.



UEC summer interns spending an afternoon on the Milwaukee River collecting and observing aquatic macroinvertebrates with our Community Science team.

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Gifts given September 2017-August 2018 in honor or memory of an individual that are not designated to a specific fund support the Urban Ecology Center's Endowment. Donor name appears below the person being recognized.

§ - Either a portion of gift or entire gift supported the Deep Roots Native Tree & Plant Program

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- Tanya Fonseca and Lian Markovich

Sharon Anglea

- Mike Anglea
- Kirstin Anglea and Elizabeth Gies

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- Philip Ankel and Alberta Ashbrook-Ankel
- Felix Ankel and Lisa Holter-Ankel
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- Aaron and Aune Hardt
- Jonathan and Willette Knopp
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- Ann Graf

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- Patricia Shires

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- Sally Edgett

Peter Yellen

- Robin Yellen

Mrs. Rosie Young

- Rebecca Lundh

Lucille Zager

- Karen Lemke

Delores Zautner

- Blackboard Inc.



A monarch butterfly lands on a native pale purple coneflower in Riverside Park. Monarchs provide many research and educational opportunities at the UEC.

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

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Aubrey and Dave Cook <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leslie Cook	Sue Inbusch <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maureen McClone• Kristie Minnickle	Cheryl and Blake Moret <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kate and Ken Muth	Alex Strong <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Karen Dompke
The Cosmos <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anonymous	Lorraine Jacobs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Janine Arseneau	My mother <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judy Knight and Al Rank	Carolyn J. Sweers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mary Ellen Winter
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JOIN THE FUN!

VIEW OUR FULL PROGRAM & EVENTS CALENDAR ONLINE

EARTH DAY OF SERVICE

Saturday, April 27
All three UEC branches
All ages | Register online

Let's have a working celebration of the Earth! Bring your friends and spend a morning helping in our parks. Meet new people and have fun making a difference!

SUMMER SOLSTICE SOIRÉE

Saturday, June 15
Washington Park

Join us as we celebrate the 12th Annual Summer Solstice Soirée, a unique gala-style evening in celebration and support of the Urban Ecology Center.



HKE MKE 2019

October 2019
Riverside Park

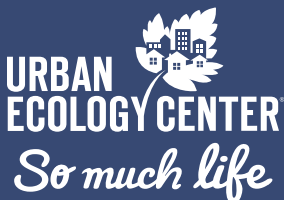
Let's hike Milwaukee! Our annual fall fundraiser takes you on a scenic hike through the heart of the city — with lots of fun stops along the way!



***You can connect more people
in cities to nature and each other.***

Volunteer. Give. Participate.

Learn more at www.urbanecologycenter.org!



Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 964-8505

Washington Park
1859 N. 40th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 344-5460

Menomonee Valley
3700 W. Pierce Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 431-2940

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