

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**

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



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the planet continues to grow. Jakobe was just eight years old when he first visited the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park. Now at age sixteen, he is excited to share with others what he knows about the turtles and trees living in the park. He has learned "how important nature is to the world. We need the trees and to protect the animals. And if someone doesn't know that, maybe I am able to pass it down."

Because of you, a love of nature and care for

Sarah, 2015

when she first visited the UEC

Now and Then

Cover: Sarah and Jakobe visiting the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park with St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee

Jakobe and Sarah first came to the UEC with St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee. As a UEC partner school through the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP), students visit the UEC for outdoor science lessons multiple times a year, year after year. Over time, a sense of place and ownership over the park have developed, as well as meaningful bonds with environmental educators like Tory Bahe who serve as mentors in the natural world.

These bonds have led students to take new risks, like canoeing for the first time! When Sarah first came to Washington Park she was scared of boats, but she trusted Tory and admires her for making the experience feel comfortable and safe. Sarah appreciates that "they always make it so that everyone can join in and everyone can have fun." Today Sarah works for the school and uses her UEC experience to mentor new students.

St. Coletta has been a UEC partner since the Washington Park branch first opened in 2010. School Administrator Bill Koehn credits the partnership with enhancing science programming at the school. "When they can see it, touch it, and feel it, it is so much more meaningful. They remember the concepts they've learned here when reading about them in their school books later on."

Jakobe, 2013

enjoying a day at Washington Park

Koehn also sees the partnership as instrumental in breaking down the barriers that often prevent students from visiting parks in their neighborhoods. "I think it really helps to instill in them that, YES, they can do this. They can take this experience and share it with their families and loved ones." He sees the positive impact on students over time as well as the park itself, reflecting that the park is "cleaner and used more now."

St. Coletta is just one of the 60+ schools that regularly participate in the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP). Each one of these schools is filled with students who return to UEC branches year after year. Just like Sarah and Jakobe, many are now mentors and leaders in the park, excited to introduce new people to the UEC and pass down what they have learned to the next generation.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE Full staff list can be found at urbanecologycenter.org

**Executive Director** Ken Leinbach

**Managing Director Ed Krishok** 

**Head of Human Resources** Amanda Panciera

**Director of Development** Jen (Feltz) Hense

**Director of Marketing** and Communications Jeff McAvoy

**Director of Finance** and Operations Rachel Nielsen

**Director of Education** Meghan Schopp

**Branch Managers -**

**Riverside Park Chris Steinkamp** 

**Menomonee Valley** Angélica Sánchez Mora

**Washington Park Terry Evans** 

> Read more about your impact in our 2020-2021 Annual Report



Ken Leinbach, Executive Director Thanks to you, people of all ages were connected to nature and each other through in-person and virtual programs. Let's explore some of the exciting impacts from this past year.

Number of plants planted:

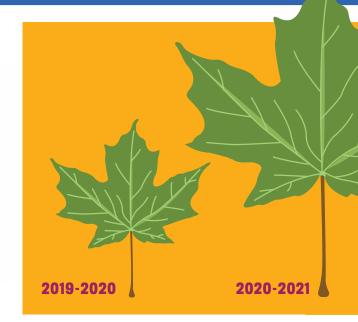
1257

11,267 native plants were planted and protected in the three parks and public greenspaces the UEC manages.

"Being involved for many years, it's wonderful to observe the connections students are making in their community and developing a solid sense of place."

-Nikolai Gurda, Neighborhood Environmental Education Project Partner Teacher from Fernwood Montessori





60%
GROWTH IN
MEMBERSHIP

at the Urban Ecology Center, providing access to nature at a critical time



Number of wildlife surveys:

The Urban Ecology Center's Research and Community Science Program serves as a meaningful bridge between academic research and the community-at-large. This past year, 246 wildlife surveys were conducted to monitor the health of birds, bees, bats and other important species.





# RIVERLAND DEVELOPMENT:

# A GATEWAY TO NATURE WITH A NEIGHBORHOOD FEEL

Located to the West of our current Riverside Park branch, the Riverland property will feature a unique, eco-friendly event hall and an engaging environment for the community to enjoy greenspace. This inviting property will be a destination for neighbors near and far to connect to each other and to nature while supporting program expansion and operational needs.

# **ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE:**

#### **EXPANDING IMPACT**

Investment in our growing organization will allow for needed technology upgrades including new security systems, a website redesign, financial management tools and important capacity building for our team - allowing the UEC to continue to improve efficiencies and expand our impact while retaining and developing staff.



# WASHINGTON PARK:

# SPARKING THE WONDER OF NATURE IN THE HEART OF A NEIGHBORHOOD

Updating and expanding the current Washington
Park UEC building will create a new community
gathering and education center with surrounding
greenspace to double our current programming
and launch early childhood education
programming reaching more kids and adults
from across the city.





# **ENDOWMENT:**

# FOR A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Support of the Urban Ecology Center's endowment today will have a profound impact on our ability to remain relevant, vibrant, financially strong and effective in the future. By strengthening the endowment fund, we aim to ensure a healthy organization that can respond to changing community needs well into the future.



# THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Christine Donahoe



The Urban Ecology Center thanks you, our amazing volunteers, for your work in the 20-21 fiscal year.

Thank you to the following volunteers who contributed 10 or more hours of service to the Urban Ecology Center between September 1, 2020 and

August 31, 2021. We are grateful for your gift of time and commitment to our mission.

Suzy C. Holstein

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Dean Muller

Callan Schoonenberg

# FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Urban Ecology Center successfully navigated another unusual financial year in 20-21. Due to the continued impacts of COVID-19, programs began the year virtually and transitioned back to in-person by the fiscal year-end. Financial stability was maintained through a combination of disciplined spending and significant backing from a dedicated community of supporters, as well as COVID-19 related government support. The Center focused on keeping staff healthy, working and paid throughout the pandemic. No layoffs or furloughs occurred, enabling the Center to achieve near-normal programming levels by year-end. The Center remains committed to ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability through a focus on both immediate fiscal needs and strategic planning for the future.

The Center carries no long-term debt. It only enters into agreements supported by existing pledges and donor contributions. The Board of Directors and Finance Committee maintain an intense focus on the adequacy of cash and oversight for all material financial aspects of the organization. The Center has a positive ratio of assets to liabilities and a broad donor base, ensuring a solid financial foundation for future growth. Its 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 2020-21 OPERATING REVENUES**

#### \$4,844,712



33% Individual Contribution 32% Grants 6%Fundraising Events 3% Government Grants

#### ■ **9% Earned Income** 8% Program Service Fees

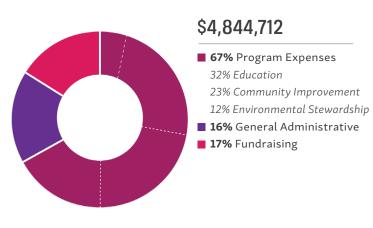
1% Other Earned Income

17% Other

14% COVID Support

2% Endowments
1% Capital Campaign Support

#### FY 2020-21 OPERATING EXPENSES



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!

1,258 volunteers dedicated
8,069 hours to the Urban Ecology Center

That's \$217,540 of contributed labor!\*

\*Based on a \$26.96 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 2020-21 fiscal year.

As an organization that started small, the Urban Ecology Center understands that something small can make a big impact. As we've grown over the years, we've depended on donations - both large and small – to support our mission of connecting people in cities to nature and each other. For that reason, our Annual Report lists supporters alphabetically rather than by giving level. We are pleased to acknowledge the following donors for their generosity and support. A full list of donors is available on our website.

Every effort was made to ensure that this list of donors is accurate. If you made a gift between September 2020 and August 2021 and your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please contact the Center's Development Office at (414) 964-8505.

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# **LEGACY SOCIETY**

help ensure that the UEC's mission and your values continue into the future. We are pleased to recognize the following

Nancy Aten and Dan Collins Cheri and Thomas Briscoe Dave Glenn Kat Grinker

Richard and Ann Spalding

Carolyn and Timothy Spath

Speaker Family Foundation

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Lindsey Tauber and Sam Leichtling Chris von Briesen Jane Waldbaum and Steve Morse Bruce and Theresa Wiggins

We are grateful for the following legacy estate gifts we received between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021

> Joan M Dahlke Estate Bequest from Sally Tolan

#### Interested in becoming a Legacy Society Member?

Please contact Jen Hense at jhense@urbanecologycenter.org or 414-626-8544 for more details.





### **Corporations & Foundations**

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#### Thank you to our volunteers!

\*Indicates a volunteer service group

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The Cara Foundation, Inc. The Ceres Foundation Fund

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The Home Depot Foundation The King Cruse Bitter Group

The ROS Foundation

Tower View Investment Management

Townsend Foundation

U.S. Bank Foundation

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Urban Ecology Center Photo Club VJS Construction Services, Inc. \*

Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church We Energies Foundation

Weiss Family Foundation

Weyco Group Charitable Trust Whole Foods

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# **GIFTS** IN MEMORY OF

Gifts given September 2020-August 2021 in memory of an individual.

Every effort was made to ensure that this list of donors is accurate. If you made a gift between September 2020 and August 2021 and your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please contact the Center's Development Office at (414) 964-8505.

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Earth Day

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Eva Eiseman's 85th Birthday All of the ducks on the river Kim Lamers Aryeh Ronay wedding The amazing staff at UEC Riverside Elijah's Birthday Ken Leinbach Meg and Dick Sibbernsen's 50th wedding Meredith Emshoff Lila, Liesel, and Ellie! Lyn Slater Cathy Arney's birthday Mark & Margaret Fairbanks Lily Lodl and Oliver Lodl Brent Suter Emma Barger Chad Thomack Pete Brand Chuck Hays Lotus Water Shirin Cabraal Jen Hense Gabirel Meirose's 2nd Birthday Benji, Corey and Ivy Timm Chad the Nature Dad & Kendall (2) **UEC Research Science Team** Pam Miller Dave Herrewig Penny and Chuck Cruse's Birthdays Mike Holloway Trish Miller Vic and Carolyn Vargo Glenna Holstein Penny Cruse (4) Gaylord Nelson Jo Westervelt Mahmuda Hogue

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Marsha Kademian Addy and Sydney Paunan





# URBAN CANDLELIGHT HIKE

February 26, 2022 Menomonee Valley

Bundle up and join us in the heart of the City: Menomonee Valley to Hike the Hank Aaron State Trail including over 500 lit candles and activites along the way!



#### **EARTH WEEK 2022**

April 23-30, 2022
All three UEC branches

Join us for our kick off Spring River Cleanup in partnership with Milwaukee Riverkeeper on April 23rd or join one of our many projects during the week!

# SUMMER SOLSTICE SOIRÉE

June 17, 2022 Riverside Park



Join us as we celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Solstice Soirée, a unique gala-style evening in celebration and support of the Urban Ecology Center.



# 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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