

# NEWS FROM THE NATUREHOOD


SEE HOW YOU'RE CONNECTING PEOPLE IN CITIES TO NATURE AND EACH OTHER | SUMMER 2022

***Together, we are  
inspiring lifelong  
environmental curiosity  
in our community!***

*Read about Miran and  
Erin's summer camp  
experiences inside!  
Photo by Maris Dishno.*







Three summer campers discover something new during Naturalist Camp at Washington Park.

# Beyond Summer Camp

AT UEC SUMMER CAMP, CHILDREN ENJOY EXPERIENCES THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE UNAVAILABLE TO THEM – SHAPING THEIR VIEW OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE AS ADULTS.

Growing up, Erin attended field trips and summer camps at the Urban Ecology Center. This early exposure to environmental education gave her the confidence to pursue a career in the field. “I feel very privileged that I got to go to summer camp as a kid. So many children do not have that opportunity.” After completing a Summer Camp internship, Erin is now a fulltime UEC Environmental Educator teaching campers like Miran.

Miran has been coming to the UEC since his toddler years. Miran’s favorite thing about the UEC is that he “gets to be outside without having to drive far away.”

Erin hopes all campers and their families will feel this familiarity with our urban parks. ***“Because campers are doing outdoor exploration in the area that they live, they can come back to the park with their family or friends to experience it again and again.”*** For example, Miran shared that the coolest thing he learned at camp was “where to find a toad home” The next day, he came back to the UEC to show it to his mom and dad.

We know that when children, like Miran, can play, explore, and wonder in a safe, outdoor environment, they will grow into adults, like Erin, who seek opportunities where they can lead, inspire, and positively impact their

communities. Erin laughed, “Kids will say, ‘Wait, you do this for money?’ and I tell them, ‘Yes and you can too!’” Miran dreams of becoming a firefighter plane pilot, a train engineer, AND a park ranger.

Through our summer camp scholarship program, your support helps families in need who didn’t know this was a possibility for them. We give children a safe space to be curious about nature. It sparks their desire to learn more. Research shows that positive and frequent experiences in nature during childhood influence environmental concern, curiosity, and career choices in adulthood.

Erin sees the impact of UEC summer camp firsthand. “We let children explore then ask questions; this is when true learning happens. When kids have time to discover what they are interested in, instead of being prompted, they are the most engaged. They will remember what they learned for a long time.” Miran will always remember where to find a toad home. 🌿

Your support helps provide a summer full of hands-on, outdoor exploration and experiences cherished by children like Miran and those pictured above! Give online at [urbanecologycenter.org/donate](https://urbanecologycenter.org/donate)



# VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATE RESTORATION SUCCESS

After nearly a decade, restored Jack-in-the-pulpit is surviving and thriving on its own.

*Along the bike path near the North Oak Grove in Riverside Park, you'll find a wonder of a plant blooming in May and June. A tubular structure with a hooded leaf makes the Jack-in-the-pulpit an easy plant to identify and a lovely surprise to find in the shade of a forest. In 2014, a group of volunteers planted 25 corms of Jack-in-the-pulpit. Eight years later, the native perennial has finally begun to reproduce on its own - proving it is easy to spot but, without patience and dedication, hard to restore.*



Patience and dedication are something our land stewardship volunteers have in abundance. Some of our volunteers, like Susan Weistrop, have been with us ten or more years: “One lesson learned from 12 years as a ROOT volunteer is—if you are looking for instant gratification, chose another job. However, if you stick with it long enough, the results are heartwarming and amazing. After pulling garlic mustard for 6 years in the same spot, the garlic mustard disappeared and in its place spring ephemerals and other native woodland plants emerged. One of the most breathtaking moments was when clumps of Jack-in-the-pulpit appeared amid fallen tree trunks where, for years, pesky invasives ruled.”

The Jack-in-the-pulpit is an excellent example of the land stewardship timeline. Don't lose heart if your own restoration efforts are taking longer than expected—that's normal! And if you need more assurance, we welcome you to any of our parks for a hands-on lesson in patience and dedication. 🌿

## **Interested in becoming a ROOT volunteer?**

Help improve our parks by removing invasive species, maintaining trails, and planting native species. Join us for Restoring Our Outdoor Treasures listed on the events calendar– [calendar.urbanecologycenter.org](http://calendar.urbanecologycenter.org)



## **GET INVOLVED & GIVE BACK STRENGTHEN YOUR TEAM AND YOUR COMMUNITY!**

We offer a number of corporate volunteer opportunities for businesses looking to boost morale and wellness, increase engagement & learn something new as a team—all while supporting the mission of the UEC! For more information on group volunteer opportunities, contact Davita at [dflowersshanklin@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:dflowersshanklin@urbanecologycenter.org) 🌿





# JOIN THE FUN! VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR ONLINE

## Grown Up Summer Camp

Summer Camp isn't just for kids! Join the UEC and New Belgium Brewing Company on Sunday, July 17 for an afternoon of rock climbing, paddling, games, beer tasting and more. Bring your friends or make new ones! Must be 21+. Find out more at [calendar.urbanecologycenter.org](http://calendar.urbanecologycenter.org)

## Summer Camp

*Summer camp registration is open* at all three branches. Camps run from June 20 to Aug. 26 for kids in preschool through 8th Grade. Camp capacities are limited. Register today at [urbanecologycenter.org/summercamp](http://urbanecologycenter.org/summercamp)



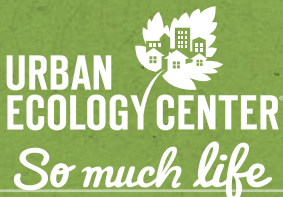
### THANK YOU FOR PLANNING NOW TO GIVE LATER!

Thank you for considering including the Urban Ecology Center as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, insurance, or retirement plan. For more information on how you can have a lasting impact, please contact Jen Hense at [jhense@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jhense@urbanecologycenter.org).



### Friday, June 17 5:30-8PM | Urban Ecology Center—Riverside Park

The annual Summer Solstice Soirée is a unique, outdoor event to celebrate and raise funds for the Urban Ecology Center! Join us for a picnic style gathering with delicious food, crafted beverages, amazing auction items and a program highlighting the important work you support at the UEC. For registration info, visit [urbanecologycenter.org/solstice](http://urbanecologycenter.org/solstice)



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

**Washington Park**  
1859 N. 40th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
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**Menomonee Valley**  
3700 W. Pierce Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
(414) 431-2940