



URBAN  
ECOLOGY CENTER

NEWS FROM THE

# NATUREHOOD

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



**You are helping  
educate the next  
generation of  
environmental leaders**

Students from Seeds of Health Elementary School learning how animals survive due to their unique adaptations

Photo credit: Peter Matcheck

A group of students is sitting on a grassy field. One student in the foreground is wearing a black gas mask and holding a burrito. Another student next to them is also wearing a mask and holding a burrito. In the background, another student is wearing a blue hoodie and a white face mask, looking down at something in their hands. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day.

# SEEDS OF HEALTH

YOUR SUPPORT IS BRINGING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TO STUDENTS IN MILWAUKEE

As many students and teachers adjusted to virtual learning this past school year, so did the educators at the Urban Ecology Center. The Center's Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP) modified and created additional curriculum so educators could continue to offer valuable environmental education to students in Milwaukee.

One of the classrooms that participated in virtual NEEP lessons this year was Peter Matcheck's fifth-grade class at Seeds of Health Elementary School, a NEEP partner school since 2017. After participating in in-person lessons last year, Mr. Matcheck shared that he was not only impressed by the virtual content that was presented but the way in which it engaged his students.

***"These kids, especially this year, have been so cooped up inside, staring at a screen and these programs encourage them to get outside, explore, make observations and look around at what is out there."***

The students participated in hands-on lessons that helped to support and strengthen science skills that Mr. Matcheck was already teaching like biology, as well as introduced new topics like geology and weather patterns. What he appreciated most about the lessons was not only the focus

on the actual science but the emphasis each lesson had on humans and our impact on the environment. ***"The kids are learning exactly how much of an impact they themselves have on the planet and what they can do to make it a better place."***

Seeds of Health Elementary School serves many bilingual students and Mr. Matcheck is grateful that UEC educators, like Miguel Santos, are able to speak Spanish with students. ***"Some of the kids are typically a lot quieter because they aren't as fluent in English. Miguel picks up on this and starts speaking in Spanish and they perk up and get excited."***

The UEC's NEEP educators are looking forward to once again offering in-person programming during the 2021-2022 school year, both onsite at partner schools and at the three UEC branches.

*Your support helps to provide students like Mr. Matcheck's fifth-grade class hands-on learning in the outdoors. You can learn more about the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP) at [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org)*

# WELCOME BACK **URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER VOLUNTEERS**

*We are excited to safely welcome volunteers back to our green spaces! We have added new volunteer opportunities to our growing list of ways that the community can get involved at the UEC.*

## **PARK RANGERS CREW**

*Help keep our parks clean, safe and accessible. Dress for the weather and join other volunteers as we walk through the park picking up trash and noting any maintenance needs.*



## **FIXIN' FACILITIES**

*Are you handy? Do you want to learn new skills? Lend us a hand to help maintain our building, tools, equipment, and parks. From construction and painting to repairs and upkeep. All experience levels welcome..*

## **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

*Many of our longstanding volunteer opportunities with the UEC's Community Science & Research team as well as our ROOTS, animal room and front desk volunteer opportunities are also back with in-person programming.*

*Interested in volunteering? Our volunteer orientations are available virtually! Learn more by visiting [www.urbanecologycenter.org/volunteer](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/volunteer)*



**SAVE THE DATE...**

## **HKE MKE**

Save the date for this year's HKE MKE fundraiser presented by the Rotary Club of Milwaukee! Pick your own nature experience from a week-long list of opportunities and join us on October 2nd for the HKE MKE celebration at Riverside Park. Stay tuned to see what topics will be highlighted this year.

See you **September 25th-October 2nd** for HKE MKE. Hike YOUR city, connect with nature, and support the mission of Urban Ecology Center!



**SEPT 25 - OCT 2**



# 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](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/popupexcursions)**

## BACKYARD BIRDING BLITZ

Let's get outside to enjoy nature and birds at the Backyard Birding Blitz! On Saturday, September 4th, take to your favorite bird-watching spot and virtually join people from around Milwaukee (and around the world!) as we "compete" to count as many birds as we can. **Watch our Facebook page for details.**



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

If you are considering including the Urban Ecology Center as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, insurance, or retirement plan or would like more information, please contact Jen Hense at [jhense@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jhense@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