



NEWS FROM THE

# NATUREHOOD

SEE HOW YOU'RE CONNECTING PEOPLE IN CITIES TO NATURE AND EACH OTHER | SUMMER 2019



***YOU*** teach kids  
to value nature!

Read about the positive impact of  
nature through UEC Summer Camp



# EXPLORING THE NATURAL WORLD

BECAUSE OF YOU, THE WONDERS  
OF NATURE ARE RIGHT IN THE  
HEART OF THE CITY.

*The excitement is contagious as Solomon, age 8, shares what he's learning in day camp at the Urban Ecology Center.*

*"We learn about animals, reptiles..." His younger brother, Omar, age 5, eagerly interrupts, "And snakes!" Solomon rolls his eyes, "Snakes are reptiles! And we learn about amphibians too!"*

The joy of these boys isn't lost on their mother, Areej, who greets them at the end of each day. "Omar is happier, he wants to bring gifts for his teacher and he's so excited about his day at camp." She appreciates that the boys spend a lot of time outdoors where children are allowed to be themselves, actively observing, learning, and designing imaginative play with the guidance of a mentor.

"They have more knowledge now about plants and animals, so it's exciting when we go on our own hikes, that they are teaching me about things now. I feel happy when I hear that, because they are actually learning something while they are having fun and being away from home."

Lynn Anders, UEC Environmental Education Manager, says "A connection to nature in childhood not only shapes

values and identity, but kids who have the opportunity to explore and play outdoors with the guidance of a mentor—even in the city or their own backyard—develop trust, confidence, and security in who they are. They learn to care for human and animal communities. This is why access to nature is one of the greatest gifts a child can receive."

Areej agrees completely. "It's important for kids to be involved with our urban natural areas. It helps create a sense of community. Now the boys are learning the *why*, the deeper reasons we take care of nature."

As another summer of active learning approaches, Omar and Solomon look forward to stepping back into their living classroom where the snakes and amphibians dwell. We look forward to seeing how your support continues to build the next generation of environmental stewards! 🌿

**Thanks to friends like you, more children can experience the wonder of summer camp at UEC.**

Give today to connect more kids to the joy of urban nature!

# SHARING TALENT MAKES AN IMPACT

## JEFF IMPROVES RIVERSIDE PARK'S FACILITIES

*If the lighting seems a little better, if the doors close a more smoothly, if the paint looks a little nicer at our Riverside Park branch, you have Jeff Bussanich, facility volunteer, to thank! Jeff is using his carpentry experience to help with our facilities projects. Since February 2017 he has volunteered over 300 hours!*

Alex Konkol, Facilities Coordinator, says, "Jeff has been a mentor and friend for the past of couple years. The skills he has shared and hours he has volunteered with me and the facilities staff are irreplaceable. The projects we have worked on are directly tied to the operations of our buildings and grounds. His attention to detail when working is incredibly professional and nothing short of amazing."

Jeff is an amazing example of how volunteering for the UEC can positively affect the staff, facility, and the thousands of visitors that enjoy our spaces. Thanks, Jeff, for sharing your talents with the UEC community! 🌱



*Doing what he does best, Jeff has an enormous positive impact.*

### **Have a special gift or talent you'd like to share?**

We often have projects that require someone with a particular skill set. Learn more about volunteering at UEC by visiting [urbanecologycenter.org/volunteer](http://urbanecologycenter.org/volunteer)

## SMALL CHANGE, BIG CHANGES

### YOUR EVERYDAY PURCHASES CAN SUPPORT THE UEC!

Did you know that you can help connect people in cities to nature and each other by making a few simple changes to your shopping habits?

#### **AmazonSmile: You shop, Amazon gives.**

Support the Urban Ecology Center by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Urban Ecology Center. Same products, same prices, same service.

#### **RoundUp App: A little round up goes a long way.**

By downloading the RoundUp App, you can literally "round up" and donate the change from your credit and debit card purchases. Make every coin count by selecting the UEC as your organization of choice and get started today! 🌱



Look for this icon in the App Store!

Summer Campers and  
a UEC intern canoe the  
Washington Park lagoon



# PROGRAM PREVIEW

VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR ONLINE

SUMMER  
*Solstice*  
SOIRÉE

Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>  
at Washington Park

Buy tickets today & check out the online auction in early June!  
[urbanecologycenter.org/solstice](http://urbanecologycenter.org/solstice)

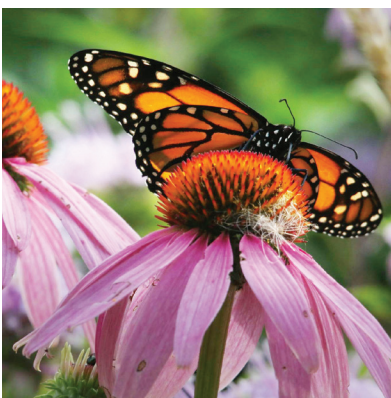
## GROWN UP SUMMER CAMP

July 12, 2019 | 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Riverside Park

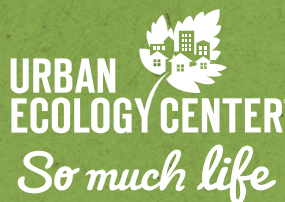
Adults | Register online

Summer camp isn't just for kids. Join us for a fun evening of canoeing, campfires, climbing, beer tasting, and more!



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

If you are considering your own gift for the future, please connect with Jen Hense at (414) 964-8505 or [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

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