



NEWS FROM THE NATUREHOOD

SEE HOW YOU'RE CONNECTING PEOPLE IN CITIES TO NATURE AND EACH OTHER | AUTUMN 2023

***Together,
we create bonds
with nature
that last for
generations.***





Maggie trying a crab apple for the first time

GROWING UP UEC: YOUR SUPPORT GIVES FAMILIES MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN FROM NATURE AND EACH OTHER.

In the heart of the city, where towering buildings and bustling streets dominate the landscape, the Urban Ecology Center provides opportunities for everyone to connect to nature and each other. For six-year-old Maggie and her mother Brooke, “their Urban Ecology Center” is more than just a place - ***it is where their connection to the natural world intensifies and their mother-daughter bond strengthens as Maggie grows.***

Maggie’s eyes light up as she talks about her favorite activity at the UEC, “Going by the water is mostly my favorite thing to do here.” Maggie’s summer camp and school year program (NEEP) adventures have taken her from “Pebble Beach” along the Menomonee River to Lake Michigan and many places in between.

For Brooke, it is a relief that her family can have these experiences and learn about nature so close to home. “We don’t have to go really far for it,” Brooke explains, loving the convenience of being able to bike to each of the UEC’s three locations. “We biked here every day this week.” Their shared bike rides have not only become a mode of environmentally-friendly transportation, but also a bonding experience that links them to the beauty of the outdoors.

Maggie remembered the time she sampled crab apples with Mr. Flower, “they tasted very sour.” When asked if she tried crab apples too, Brooke laughs, “Absolutely

not, but I like that there are knowledgeable and engaging staff, because I enjoy going for hikes, but I don’t really have a whole lot of outdoor or nature knowledge.” So in a delightful twist, Maggie often becomes her mother’s teacher. This reversal of roles empowers children to share their discoveries and passions with others.

Brooke cherishes the impact the UEC has on her daughter, “She spends so much time indoors during the school year that I love that when she’s at the UEC she still has a chance to get dirty and explore. ***This is the second day this week she’s come home with visible dirt on her face. I love it!*** She always comes home in a great mood.”

Maggie declares, “If the UEC didn’t exist, I would be missing out on FUN! If it wasn’t here that would be so BOOOO”, with a dramatic thumbs down.

Maggie’s strong emotional connection to the UEC is evident as she reminisces, ***“One time at Washington Park, I literally cried when I had to leave!”*** This emphasizes the vital role the UEC has in shaping the way families connect with the natural world...all because of your support!

As students like Maggie head back to school, will you give them multiple opportunities to share their newfound love of nature with their own families?”

Give the gift of nature knowledge today.

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER VALUES IN PRACTICE



Our staff has an internal communications channel devoted to “quotes from the UEC community.” This is a place for us to share what we’ve heard, read, seen or experienced. Your words lift our spirits, make us laugh and validate our work. Thank you for being a part of our community - here are some of our favorite quotes that embody our shared values to:

Practice Kindness | Nurture Communities of Belonging | Care for Nature | Seek Knowledge & Inspire Learning | Find Fun & Share it



“If you’re ever having a bad day... remember T-rexes turned into chickens” - Summer Camper

“My son LOVES it here, I mean he really loves it. He’s been to other camps but has never enjoyed it as much as this one. I’ve been trying to think about why and really think it’s the culture!” - Summer Camp Parent

“The UEC has welcomed us with open arms and tonight Maxwell attended his volunteer orientation and is going to start working with the Monarch monitoring program. He was the youngest human in orientation.” - Mother of a Young Volunteer



“...how over-the-top wonderful the fishing program at Washington Park was.... sharing in the excitement of being outdoors and fishing with people of all ages brought me such joy and truly made me feel present.” - Program Participant

“Volunteering with UEC brings out everyone’s personal passion for our environment and the laughter and fun we all have helps to enrich our days!” - Corporate Volunteer Group



SHARE YOUR VALUES WITH GENERATIONS TO COME

Leaving a legacy isn’t about the past - it’s about the future. What will the UEC’s future look like with your commitment backing us? How will your values inspire future generations? How will your love of the outdoors nurture urban nature?

When you include the Urban Ecology Center as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, insurance or retirement plan, your values will continue to shape a greener future.

Contact Gillian Spence at gspence@urbanecologycenter.org or 414-626-8554 for more details on planned giving through the UEC’s Legacy Society.





Save the Date

VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR ONLINE



Sunday, October 8
Noon-3pm | All ages
Riverside Park

Put on your hiking shoes and explore urban nature at HKE MKE presented by the Rotary Club of Milwaukee. HKE MKE is a family friendly 2.5 mile community hike on beautiful nature trails along the Milwaukee River through Riverside Park and the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum.

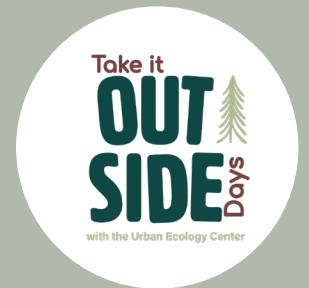
The hike ends with interactive stations, food vendors and fun activities! Learn more at urbanecologycenter.org/HKEMKE

Take It Outside Days

Biking at Menomonee Valley
Saturday, September 30
11am-2pm | Free

Canoeing at Riverside Park
Saturday, October 7
10am-2pm | Free

Let us help you feel comfortable using outdoor equipment, expand your Milwaukee urban nature knowledge and meet other outdoor enthusiasts!



Autumn Celebration

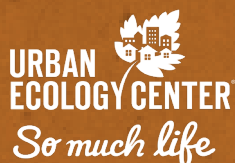
Saturday, October 21st | 11am-2pm | Free

Celebrate autumn in Washington Park! Enjoy hikes, games, food, and more. Jump in leaves and drink in the sights, sounds, and cool breezes of fall. Bring your family and all your friends!

All ages are welcome!



To make way for our **NEW Washington Park branch**, we will temporarily be located at 40th and Galena in the pool house!



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