

NEWS FROM THE

# NATUREHOOD

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

***Together, we are  
helping youth look to  
the future with hope  
and wonder!***





# What do you want to be when you grow up?

## YOUR SUPPORT TURNS A PASSION FOR NATURE INTO A GREEN CAREER PATHWAY!

What do you want to be when you grow up? When we were young, this question prompted endless possibilities - An astronaut! A doctor! A lawyer! But as we started growing up, this question quickly became more of a daunting task to figure out... Luckily for Milwaukee students, the Urban Ecology Center is on a mission to keep this question full of hope and wonder.

Zoe and Jasmine are two of our Outdoor Leaders - high school students completing a hands-on paid internship with green career exploration and professional development built right in. When asked the dreaded “what do you want to be when you grow up?” question, their answers would surprise most - Zoe would like to become an environmental engineer while Jasmine is considering environmental education.

Jasmine explained, “The UEC helped me realize that I can really love my job. I was doing a job for money that I didn’t have a passion for but I have a passion for teaching others. When we worked with community programs, I led a dip netting program. My friends and family came and I actually got to teach everyone about my work”.

Another perk they mentioned a lot was the confidence and independence they gained since starting at the UEC:

“We’ve done a lot of things that pushed our limits and it was so cool to feel that sense of accomplishment at the end. **You see all these people that climb up mountains and stuff. That can actually be you if you put your mind to it” (Jasmine).**



“Don’t shy away from things that make you nervous. Nervousness is not a fun feeling but it’s good. It can help you learn more about yourself” (Zoe).

Both young women expressed a lot of gratitude for this opportunity. **Zoe commented that everyone at the Urban Ecology Center - from our staff to volunteers and supporters to participants - “are all eager to help people and the environment”.** ❄️

Not ready for a career change but have a passion for the environment? We’ve got you covered! With a gift of \$42, you can give kids like Zoe and Jasmine more opportunities to connect to nature and each other!



# Cattail Cutting and Wild Parsnip Avoiding

## GROUP VOLUNTEERING Q&A

### ***Why did your group choose to volunteer at the UEC?***

When Hydrite looks for organizations to support, we focus on finding well-run nonprofits that punch well above their weight in terms of community impact. The UEC fits that bill, with both its obvious impact on the children and community members who learn about nature through high-quality outdoor experiences, and the less obvious impact of the UEC's presence improving neighborhood safety. Additionally, the UEC staff does a fantastic job making volunteer opportunities fun!

### ***What has been the most memorable project to date?***

Probably when we spent an afternoon removing invasive cattails from the Washington Park lagoon. An afternoon in waders and kayaks was a great experience, even if some of our people may have gotten a bit wetter than intended. It was great for building relationships with people from different functional areas of the company who might not otherwise cross paths frequently.

### ***Anything else you'd like to share?***

Thanks to Caitlin from the Land Stewardship Department! My kids know to stay the heck away from wild parsnips when we're doing family hikes!

A note from Caitlin: "Brushing against or breaking wild parsnip releases sap that, combined with sunlight, can cause a severe burn within 24 to 48 hours." ❄️



## ***Interested in group volunteering?***

Email Davita Flowers Shanklin, Volunteer Program Manager, at [dflowersshanklin@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:dflowersshanklin@urbanecologycenter.org)



## **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY GIVING FIRST ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22!**

Giving Tuesday comes after Black Friday and Cyber-Monday. Giving First Day flips that script in support of organizations that depend on gifts during this season! Giving First is a collaboration of more than 50 non-profit organizations, each determined to address the difficult and complex issues in our community.

By giving to the Urban Ecology Center before consuming, you are putting your Giving First.



The easiest way to have the biggest impact? Text UEC to 50155 to donate.





# JOIN THE FUN! VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR ONLINE

## CANDLELIGHT WALK

December 10 (for kids) & December 13 (for adults) | Riverside Park

Join us for a magical evening as we illuminate the trails with hundreds of candles. Children will enjoy the wonders of the night with stories followed by campfires and crafts. Adults will experience the peacefulness of the walk and also find cozy fires to warm up and roast marshmallows.



## WINTERFEST

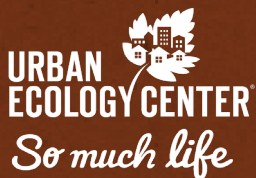
February 4 | Washington Park

Mark your calendars and come on out for some winter fun at our annual Winterfest at the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park. Enjoy sledding, cross country skiing, ice skating, food, Camp Town S'mores, face painting, and much more!



### Planning for the future?

When you include the Urban Ecology Center as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, insurance, or retirement plan you help ensure that the UEC's mission and your values continue into the future. Please contact Jen Hense at [jhense@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jhense@urbanecologycenter.org) or 414-626-8544 for more details.



### 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