

NEWS FROM THE

NATUREHOOD



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



**Together, we
are empowering
the next
generation of
environmental
stewards**

Your support turns nature- curious kids into environmental leaders!

Keirah is your average pre-teen: she attends school, does her homework, and hangs out with friends - except that she gets to hang out with her friends while kayaking on the Milwaukee River! Keirah is one of the Urban Ecology Center's summer campers, attending week-long experiences that teach important life skills to the next generation of environmental stewards.

Keirah's dad, Cameron, appreciates the hands-on approach of the UEC's programs, led by our award winning staff: **"We love the teachers, they have passion - it's more than a job to them, and they feed that passion to the kids."** Keirah agrees, adding that she feels "really welcomed here. The people bring life to the programs. Everyone is happy to be doing what they do, which is helping kids learn more and enjoy life!" What has Keirah enjoyed most this summer at the UEC's Summer Camps? "Being able to go paddling and swimming and learning more about nature while making really good friends. I get to learn so much here, I get experience with lifelong skills."

Cameron has noticed changes in Keirah: **"[The UEC] has brought enthusiasm and a hunger for learning for my daughter. She has grown more knowledgeable and confident. She wants to be a leader and get involved in the environment and make an impact."**

Throughout the years, Keirah has enjoyed participating in the UEC's after school nature club and summer camps. As Keirah prepares to



enter high school, she isn't sure what she wants to do professionally, but she's looking forward to participating in the Urban Ecology Center's Outdoor Leaders Green Careers Pathway Internship program.

Keirah, like hundreds of other young adults in Milwaukee, receive guidance, leadership training, and team building experiences in nature each summer at the UEC. There is programming for every stage of life at the Urban Ecology Center, **ensuring a community of caring environmental protectors in Milwaukee and beyond!**

Give Today at

urbanecologycenter.org/donate

Your support helps provide a summer full of hands-on, outdoor exploration cherished by children like Keirah!

Caring for our corner of the Earth

We would like to extend a **heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful individuals who joined us for our Earth Week celebrations** at the Urban Ecology Center! Every day is a good day to celebrate the planet, which is why we extend Earth Day to Earth Week with a full week of fun and impactful events.

From April 22nd, which marked Earth Day, to April 29th, **our community came together to make a difference**. We pulled invasive garlic mustard from natural areas, swapped clothing to reduce waste, picked up trash to keep our environment clean, built a natural play area to connect children to nature, and learned about the impacts of climate change on our planet. We were thrilled to see so many people of all ages and backgrounds participating in these events - doing their part to protect and care for the planet we call home.

Your advocacy and care for the environment inspires us every day. **We are honored to work alongside you in our mission to connect people to nature and each other!**



CELEBRATE KEN'S LEGACY AT THE UEC

No one does transitions quite like Mother Nature. Sunsets that switch day to night and back again at sunrise; seasons that flux from falling snow to blooming flowers; and life cycles that transform crawling caterpillars into flying butterflies. Change can be a beautiful thing.

Leadership at the Urban Ecology Center is undergoing its own beautiful transition. After 25 years of visionary leadership, Ken Leinbach will be stepping down as Executive Director, passing the baton to Jen Hense. We invite you to celebrate Ken's amazing contributions to the UEC as he visits each location via bicycle. On August 5th, journey with Ken to Washington Park, Menomonee Valley and Riverside Park via bicycle or meet him at a planned stop.

Check out our Facebook page for more details.

Canoeing during Grown up Summer Camp at Riverside Park

JOIN THE FUN! VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR ONLINE

Urban Ecology Center's
SUMMER
Solstice
SOIRÉE

June 16 | Riverside Park

From sunrise to sunset, help us celebrate the beauty of transitions - in nature and at the UEC. As day turns to night, we'll enjoy delicious food, crafted beverages, auction bidding, and a program highlighting UEC's work made possible by you!

Get your tickets at
urbanecologycenter.org/solstice

Can't make it? You can still support the UEC mission by participating in the online auction or making an online gift!



Party in the Park

June 3 | Menomonee Valley

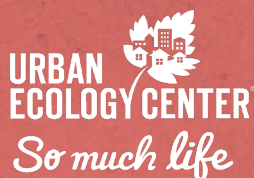
Join us to celebrate 10 amazing years of growth and life in Three Bridges Park! A day filled with family-friendly activities, including guided hikes, music, dance performances, animal encounters, and more!

Learn how this former railyard has transformed into a stunning green space, boasting 24 acres of lush nature and two miles of trails. Come for the fun, stay for the food, music, and community spirit!

Grown Up Summer Camp

July 23 | Riverside Park

Save the date for Grown-Up Summer Camp! Unwind and connect with nature right in the heart of the city while making new friends and creating lasting memories.



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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