



Take a Hike, Milwaukee!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

One of my favorite things to do is be fully immersed in nature while hiking in the middle of the city. The fact that you can walk from a street full of houses into a beautiful green haven in a matter of moments is so amazing!

I love watching people's faces their first time out hiking in one of the parks at our branches, especially those who have lived in Milwaukee all their lives but have never seen this natural side of their city. It's great.

I'd like to invite you to take part in an urban nature hike with me!

On Sunday, September 20th we're having our first ever benefit hike called HKE MKE. Thanks to a partnership with the Bartolotta Restaurants, who have chosen us as their 2015 Project Spot-On partner, you'll be able to join in this favorite urban-nature experience of ours while helping to support the mission of the Center. The Bartolotta Restaurant group is helping us organize this event as well as promote participation among their employees. We are inviting many of our other business and organizational partners to do the same.

Now, you may be thinking, "September? That seems so far away! Why are you telling us about it now?" Well it is early, that's true, but we're excited and we wanted to let you know about HKE MKE as soon as possible for a few reasons.

First, like other walks, HKE MKE is a benefit event. When registration launches in July, you'll have the opportunity to create your own fundraising page that you can easily share through email and your social media networks. You can also create a team with a shared fundraising goal, perhaps even inspiring a little friendly competition to see who can raise the most.

Second, we want to give enough time for the word to spread. Invite

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A Bigger Place

by Omar Bonilla-Ortiz, Visitor Services Specialist

A little more than two and half years ago, when I first started working at the Center, I was given the opportunity to speak at the groundbreaking ceremony for Three Bridges Park. In the weeks leading up to the ceremony I wracked my brain for something meaningful to say. I shared a story about a time in high school when, after walking by Miller Park, I got lost on the north side of the Menomonee River and had to wade across, then traipse through the rail yard beneath 35th Street to get home.

My story was about overcoming the disconnect and isolation I'd experienced in my own neighborhood. It ended with my sentiment that we as a community would work together to make the neighborhood a "bigger" place.

There are metrics to suggest that we are indeed well on our way; 24-acres of native habitat, new paths along the river and over forty newly constructed garden plots for gardeners all attest to our expanding physical space. Likewise, our community of participants grows daily as scores of adults and children come through the Valley Passage at Pierce Street to work, learn and perhaps most importantly to play, in those long unused spaces of the Valley.

Then there are the intangibles. No less important, but definitely harder to measure. On the nights I've walked home or waited for the bus, I come across familiar faces. Children and parents who might still be strangers if not for our shared time at the Center. With little more than a knowing smile and nod, or a brief chat to see

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Branch Highlights

RIVERSIDE PARK

Over the past ten months the Riverland Property has gone from having a building standing on its west end, to a pile of gravel, to a gently sloping hill. The hillside has been planted with native seed and you can expect to find seedlings popping up throughout the summer. Come check out this new prairie!

WASHINGTON PARK

New and returning summer fun! Visit the new Community Green Market on Saturday mornings. Enjoy the tunes at Saturday mornings. Enjoy the tunes at Milwaukee County Park's "Wednesdays At The Shell" weekly summer concert series. Also, Fit4You Traveling Trainer is leading fitness sessions on Tuesday evenings and every other Saturday morning.

MENOMONEE VALLEY

Summer is here, and we're so excited about it in the Valley that we're going to celebrate! That's why we're having our Summer Celebration Festival. There will be food, music and lots of fun activities out in Three Bridges Park. Plus, it's free. So bring the whole family!



Lake Michigan Lessons

by Katie Wipfli, Environmental Educator

One of my favorite places to take school groups is Lake Michigan. It is such a valuable resource right in the backyard of our city. We use it in many ways to teach lessons to students. One lesson is that our drinking water comes from Lake Michigan.

Another is the rock cycle, during which we collect different rocks at the "skipping stone beach." Recently, my co-teacher Tory and I used the beach to teach 4th graders about glaciers and glacial landforms.

Before we went to the lake, we froze large blocks of ice in cake pans. At the beach, we could push these "glaciers" around in the sand to demonstrate how the glaciers move as well as the landforms they can leave behind after they melt. We talked about moraines, kettles, kames, eskers, erratics and drumlins. After the initial discussion came the fun part. We turned 22 4th graders loose on the beach to recreate the landforms in the sand.

One group was even determined to make a kettle so deep they would hit Australia. Another group made great progress; by the time we left they had a hole that was so deep they had to lie on their stomachs and reach their arms as far as they could go to remove any more



sand. I loved being able to walk around on the beach listening to students working together to build these structures, using the vocabulary they had learned to describe them. After about 30 minutes of making landforms we had to drag them

away from their creations to do one final thing before heading back to the buses.

The very last activity before going back to school was to throw rocks into the lake. The most memorable moment was when a boy who had been running around all day slowed down for just a minute to learn how to skip a rock. We watched as he tried a couple times, then we started walking down the beach to check on other students. We knew he was successful when we heard him scream, "I DID IT! I SKIPPED THAT ROCK!"

Later, I noticed he put a rock in his pocket and asked what he was going to do with it. He told me he was going to go home and show his dad how to skip a rock. It is moments like this I will remember forever. Not only did we learn about glaciers, but the students made a connection to the lake that they wanted to take back home and share with their families. 🌿

A Bigger Place

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how school's going, a deeper message is communicated - we're in this together.

The Center is a new type of space for a community with a new energy and a willingness to reject (and even dismantle) divisions of race and class and fear - divisions that bind

us to certain streets and a narrow collection of city blocks. It's an open and beautiful environment for a community that demands just that, openness and transparency. Keep demanding and let's keep working. 🌿



DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE

- **Eat Local Resource Fair gets a new name!** We're updating the Eat Local Resource Fair and giving it a new name the **Local Food & Wellness Fair**. Come to on September 12 and optimize your good health with local food and natural wellness.
- **Wish List for Summer Camps:**
 - Camping water bladders (3-5 gal)
 - Clear film canisters w/lids
 - Flower stem water vial/holder
 - Inner tubes (big tractor size)
 - Lego blocks/K'Nex building toys
 - Milk jugs (1 gallon)
 - New white t-shirts for kids ages 9ish
 - Picture frame (no bigger than 8x11)
 - Picture mattes, various sizes
 - Water bottles (for kids) (15)
 - Nature magazines
 - Jewelry making material
 - Recycled color paper
 - (2) Tights- Ivory or clear colors
 - Paper to paint with pastel



The Brewers Community Foundation has selected the Urban Ecology Center as one of four nonprofits for their first ever benefit bike ride — Hitting 4 The Cycle.

We thank Milwaukee Brewers Community Foundation for their generosity and encourage you to sign up and ride on the Urban Ecology Center team!

Registration includes a Tailgate Party and one ticket for the Brewers vs. Cardinals game that night.

To learn more and to register visit: brewers.ride-mlb.com

SEE FOR YOURSELF! (No really, see what's happened with your support)

HEALING THE LAND



Protection and restoration of the land is an essential part of what we do. Through hands-on work, our Land Stewardship team and volunteers grow healthy native habitats in which animals and plants can thrive. These areas are also important to our environmental education programs. Plus they are a great place to explore the natural world!



Over **20,000** plants and trees were planted by our team and volunteers in the last three years



We manage over **50 acres** of land in three parks



We protect and enhance **14** plant communities including Oak Woodland, Dry Mesic Prairie and Floodplain Forest. We even have a fruit orchard in Washington Park!

We're busy year round! In winter and early spring our team gathers and "cleans" seeds by hand to remove stems, capsules, leaves and other non-seed components to use in our parks (see photo on left).

If you'd like to support projects like these, consider volunteering or making a donation. Learn how at www.urbanecologycenter.org



The Story of Us

by Jamill "Jimmy" Bradley, community member

*A note from Jamie Ferschinger,
Riverside Park Branch Manger:*

I met Jimmy this past fall when he and his friends started coming to the Urban Ecology Center afterschool. Jimmy shared with me that he was studying writing and that one of his life goals was to see his work in print. We are happy to provide this platform for Jimmy to share his voice with the Urban Ecology Center community.

Jimmy is a recent graduate of Riverside University High School. Thank you for writing this article, Jimmy and congratulations on graduation!

A lot has been said about the youth of today, sparking a long-winded conversation regarding the merit of each generation. Questions of generational inferiority, criminal intentions and crippling apathetic mindsets have all seemed to elicit less than flattering opinions about those of us set to inherit the nation. Conversations like these only rarely involve the subject of the discussion: teenagers. As

an 18 year-old high school senior, I am left to wonder about the accuracy of this conclusion.

The conversation normally begins with a comparison of successor to predecessor; the predecessor being Generation X, the successor being Generation Y. The accepted belief is that Generation X is one prepared to take on the world's evils in order to fulfill a belief in a social obligation to preserve the world's beauty. While, on the contrary, Generation Y has been labeled as being socially problematic, inattentive and apathetic in comparison to our predecessor. This notion ignores the systemic social obstacles and restrictions that limit our capabilities for success.

Take Milwaukee for example. In an effort to lessen teenage involvement in criminal activities, the authorities implemented curfews and rules limiting teenage interaction as a whole. Select malls and stores won't allow patrons under 18 to enter after a certain time without adult supervision. After the arcades, skate parks and record stores start to close, there is nothing left.

The result is a situation that my friends and I found ourselves in two years ago – young, broke and bored. Little did we know our solution was right behind our school, Riverside High School.

The Urban Ecology Center welcomed us with open arms and smiles and gave us a place where we could exist as "just us," for free. After spending no more than 15 minutes there, we knew it was a welcoming place that would be a cornerstone of our friendship. In addition to giving us a place for our lives to happen, it also gave us an opportunity to be active. It is a place where we create while facilitating conversations among ourselves about our place in the city and our connection to it.

Ultimately, the discussion of my generation's merit can be decided only with time and opportunities for us to prove that we aren't apathetic and problematic. The discussion will continue and our story will unfold and just how important the Urban Ecology Center has been as a setting to our lives will become more apparent in the story of us. 🌱



SUMMER
SOLSTICE
SOIRÉE

This newsletter was sent to print before our 2015 Summer Solstice Soiree occurred.

Check our website for a recap of the event and a complete listing of sponsors.

We thank our sponsors and attendees for their committed support of our mission.

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JOYGLOBAL



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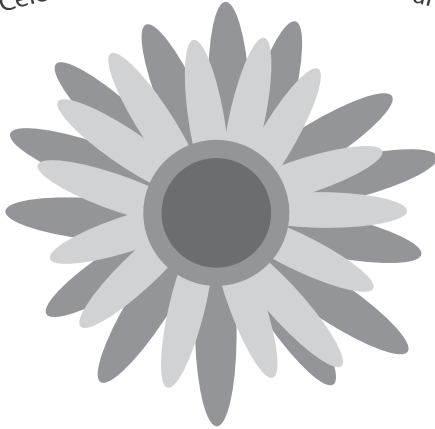
Lunch provided by: Trocadero Gastropub

JULY & AUGUST

Quick Guide

An abbreviated listing of what's happening at the Urban Ecology Center. Find full descriptions and register online at www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

Celebrate summer in Three Bridges Park!



Summer Celebration Festival

Enjoy music, food and activities for the whole family!

Menomonee Valley
Saturday, July 25 | Noon - 4pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated



Riverside Park building 10-year anniversary

Ice Cream Social

We're celebrating 10 years of learning, restoration and community in our first Urban Ecology Center building as we did its Grand Opening - with an ice cream social! Join us for climbing, hikes, games, music, a community art project and of course...ice cream!

Riverside Park
Thursday, August 6 | 4:30- 7:30pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

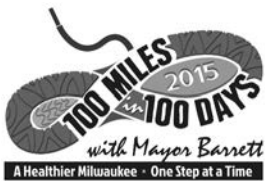
Summer Camp isn't just for kids



We're inviting adults to an evening of summer camp fun...with a twist! Rock climbing, paddling, campfire, plus a beer tasting and education station with New Belgium Slow Ride Session IPA. Participants can enter to win a New Belgium prize package. Come on grown-ups, bring your friends and come to summer camp!

Grown-up Summer Camp with New Belgium Brewing Company

Riverside Park
Friday, August 7 | 6 - 9pm
For adults ages 21 and older
\$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)



Come walk 100 miles in 100 days with the Mayor of Milwaukee! Join us at one or all of our branches. Keep track of your miles at city.milwaukee.gov/Walk100

Menomonee Valley
Wed., Jul. 8 | 6pm
For everyone | Free

Washington Park
Sat. Aug. 1 | 11:30am
For everyone | Free

Riverside Park
Mon., Aug. 3 | 5:30pm
For everyone | Free

All branches will be closed July 4, August 26 & 27. Riverside Park and Menomonee Valley branches will close at 5pm on August 25.

RIVERSIDE PARK



A lot is happening at Riverside Park this summer! Some new programs this summer include: archery programs, an **Ice Cream Social**, **Naturalist Programs**, the **canoe and kayak shuttle service**, **Grown-up Summer Camp** and more. Stop by, get involved and have fun!

— Jamie Ferschinger,
Branch Manager - Riverside Park

WASHINGTON PARK



Summer, Summer, Summer! Vacations and no school. Let us be your drop in for summer activities, programs, or just plain hanging out. Come out and **volunteer**, learn about **planting and gardening**, **fish**, feed the animals, borrow adventure equipment and much, much more. Let Washington Park be your canvas for fun and learning.

— Terry Evans,
Branch Manager - Washington Park

MENOMONEE VALLEY



Get to know the Valley and our surrounding area in a new way this summer! Join us any Friday for **Friday Fishing Club**, or hop on a bike and come explore with us in our **Southside Biking Adventure Club**! And be sure to stop by for our **Summer Celebration Festival**!

— Glenna Holstein,
Branch Manager - Menomonee Valley

This events guide gives you a "snapshot" view of the programs and events happening at the Urban Ecology Center's three branches. Full descriptions and details can be found on our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

Quick Guide

Night at the Shell in Washington Park

Come on out for live music as we celebrate the great outdoors, summer, music and the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park.

(WP) Wed., Aug. 19 | 6:30 - 8:30PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

In Stitches:

A learn-to-Sew Class for Kids

Learn how to use a sewing machine and how to hand stitch, then make a simple, fun project to take home. Taught by sewing instructor, Julie Ruplinger. Sewing machines provided. Fabric generously donated by children's clothier Florence Eiseman.

(RP) Tue., Jul. 7 | 6:30 - 8PM
For kids ages 5 - 8 years | \$15 (Nonmembers: \$20)

Busy Bees

Learn about our busy pollinators and their place in our urban environment. Honey samples included!

(MV) Sat., Jul. 11 &
Aug. 22 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults and children | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Grandkids in the Park

Insects

From grasshoppers to potato bugs, come learn and catch our wonderful insects!

(WP) Fri., Jul. 17 | 11AM - 12:30PM
For grandparents and accompanied grandchildren | Free - donations appreciated

Wildflowers

Identify the native wildflowers around the Washington Park Senior Center and learn about the animals who depend on them.

(WP) Fri., Aug. 21 | 11AM - 12:30PM
For grandparents and accompanied grandchildren | Free - donations appreciated

Some programs fill quickly!
Register today to save your spot!

Girl Scouts: Fantastic Frogs

Discover how frogs grow from eggs to tadpoles to full grown fly-snatchers. Then meet some real live frogs!

(MV) Sat., Jul. 11 | 10 - 11:30AM
For K5 to 1st grade | Please visit www.gswise.org to register

Life in the Lagoon

Join us and handle some pond animals in our Native Wisconsin Animal room and catch some water critters.

(WP) Sat., Jul. 11 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Above the Clouds: Martial Arts

Learn respect, discipline and self-confidence at this martial arts camp, hosted by Above the Clouds.

(MV) Jul. 13 - 17 | 4 - 5PM
For kids ages 8-12 | Free - donations appreciated | To register, visit www.abovethecloudsmilwaukee.com

Saturday Preschool Series: Summer Frolic

We'll play indoors and out, sing songs, read stories and create crafts. Please dress for playing outdoors.

(RP) Sat., Jul. 25 | 10 - 11:30AM
For children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult | Adults: \$5 (Nonmembers \$7) Children: \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

Snakes of the World

Join us for a fun, hands-on snake presentation.

(MV) Sat., Jul. 25 | 2 - 3PM
For all ages | Free - donation appreciated

Girl Scouts: Hop, Crawl or Fly

Join an entomologist for a morning chasing, catching and studying a wide variety of insects living in the city. Earn your Bugs Badge!

(WP) Sat., Aug. 8 | 9AM - NOON
For Brownies, grades 2-3 | To register, visit www.gswise.org

Animal Feeding

Help feed the Center's resident turtles, snakes and more!

(RP) **(WP)** & **(MV)** Every Sat. except Jul. 4 | 1PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Hop, Crawl and Fly! For Families

We'll learn how to identify different kinds of insects, then venture out with nets and see what we can catch!

(WP) Sat., Aug. 15 | 10 - 11:30AM
For families | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Cooking with the Family: Power Bites and Energy Bars

Learn how to make simple, nutritious snacks in this hands-on family class. We'll make gluten-free or grain-free bites as well as baked vs. no-bake bars. Take home recipes and lots of samples. Registration required by Aug 19th.

(RP) Fri., Aug. 21 | 10 - 11:30AM
For everyone | \$10/person (Nonmembers: \$15/person). Kids over 9 years old may attend without an adult; all other children should be accompanied by an adult who has also registered for the class

Driven to Discover: Outdoor Mini-Research Projects for Kids

Discover a different aspect of being a citizen scientist and conduct "mini-inquiry" projects!

(RP) Every Mon. | 4 - 5:30PM
For children ages 8-12 years old | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Wednesday Fishing Club

Guided fishing lessons from expert E.B. Garner or our DNR Angler Educator. Equipment provided. Fishing licenses required for ages 16 and up.

(WP) Every Wed. through Aug. 12 | 4 - 5:30PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Kids Gardening Club

Spend time each week getting your hands dirty as we plant, grow and harvest our garden plot. Whole summer and drop-in rates available.

(RP) Every Thu. except Aug. 27 | 4 - 5PM
For kids ages 6-12 | Whole summer: \$15 (Nonmembers: \$25) Drop-in rate is \$2 per visit

Friday Fishing Club

Guided fishing lessons for kids and families available from our DNR Angler Educator. Equipment provided! Fishing licenses required for ages 16 and up.

(MV) Every Fri. through Aug. 7 | 4 - 5:30PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Young Scientists Club

From hiking to gardening to helping with research to caring for our animals, every day is a new adventure.

(WP) Every Tue. - Fri. except Aug. 26 & 27 | 4 - 6PM
and Every Sat. except Jul. 4 | 1 - 4PM
For kids ages 7-12 | \$10 annual membership

(MV) Every Tue. & Thu. except Aug. 27 | 4 - 6PM

and Every Sat. except Jul. 4 | 1 - 4PM
For ages 5-12 | \$10 annual membership

Science Saturdays and Sundays

Try these self-led activities. The theme for July and August is "Natural Colors."

(RP) Self-led, drop-in program available Every Sat. except

Jul. 4 | 10AM - 4PM
and Every Sun. | 1 - 4PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website
www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 964-8505

3 IN PERSON:
Just stop by!

(RP) = Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Pl.

(WP) = Washington Park
1859 N. 40th St.

(MV) = Menomonee Valley
3700 W. Pierce St.



= Accessible for persons with disabilities
Please call 2 weeks ahead of time

Quick Guide

Introduction to Fly Fishing: 4-part Series

Join Southeastern Wisconsin's Trout Unlimited chapter for a four-part series introducing you to recreational fly-fishing. Indoor and outdoor instruction will cover fly rods, casting, fish species, where to find them and more. Registration required by July 5th.

(RP) Wed., Jul. 8, 15 & 22 | 6 - 8PM
and Sat., Jul. 11 | 10AM - noon
For adults and teens | \$30
(Nonmembers: \$35) for the series

Plein Air "Paint Out" Day

In preparation for their October-December show at the Center, Plein air artists will set up their easels and art umbrellas and paint in Three Bridges Park, on the Hank Aaron State Trail, along the Menomonee River and on the streets near the Center. Come observe and ask questions!

(MV) Sat., Jul. 25 | 9AM - 5PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Photo Phenology

Photograph and draw nature.

(MV) Sats., Jul. 25 & Aug. 22 |
10 - 11:30AM
For adults, teens and families |
Free - donations appreciated

Learning Garden Series:

Get Down to Gardening Basics

Come learn how to get the most out of your gardens throughout the growing season while practicing some basic gardening maintenance in our learning gardens. No green thumb necessary.

(WP) Wed., Aug. 5 | 6 - 7:30PM
For adults | \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Walk and Talk Series

Walk and Talk at Menomonee Valley

Explore both our building and Three Bridges Park on a guided tour with our Branch Manager Glenna Holstein.

(MV) Weds., Jul. 8 & Aug.
19 | NOON - 1PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Walk and Talk at Riverside Park

Explore Riverside Park and the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum on a guided tour with one of our docents.

(RP) Sats., Jul. 11 & Aug. 8 | 10 - 11AM
For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers:
\$7) Registration required by 5pm
the day prior to each tour

Walk and Talk at Washington Park

Explore both our building and Washington Park on a guided tour with our Branch Manager Terry Evans.

(WP) Thus., Jul. 16 & Aug. 20 | 4 - 5PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Wellness programs

Group Fitness Sessions & Summer Boot Camps

Enhance your health and quality of life. Gain physical stamina and nutritional savvy from the Center and Fit4You Traveling Trainer. Get active and learn how to achieve your health goals day by day.

(WP) Every Sat. except
Jul. 4 | 8 - 9:30AM

(WP) Every Tue. | 6 - 8PM
For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Hatha Yoga for All Levels: 6-week series

Join Certified Yoga Teacher Lisa Lewis for a 7-week classical Hatha yoga series. Modifications of poses are offered to address all students' abilities.

(RP) Every Thu., Jul. 16 -
Aug. 20 | 5:30 - 6:45PM
For adults and teens | Members:
\$80 (Nonmembers:\$90)

Yoga on the Tower

Hatha Yoga classes will be taught in an intimate setting on the top of the tower. Bring a yoga mat and dress comfortably for being outside. Please contact instructor Lynn Jack at lynn.jack@froedtert.com with any questions.

(RP) Sats., Jul. 25 & Aug. 29 |
8 - 9:00 AM
For adults and teens | \$10
(Nonmembers: \$12)

Food programs

Campfire Cooking Series

Practice the art of campfire cooking with these simple, yummy meals.

Breakfast

Registration is required by 5pm on July 15th.

(RP) Thu., Jul. 16 | 6 - 7:30PM

Dinner

Registration is required by 5pm on July 29th.

(RP) Thu., Jul. 30 | 6 - 7:30PM

Desserts and Snacks

Registration is required by 5pm on August 12th.

(RP) Thu., Aug. 13 | 6 - 7:30PM

For everyone | Adults: \$7
(Nonmembers: \$10) Children:
\$5 (Nonmembers: \$8)

Healthy Korean Cooking for Everyone!

In this interactive cooking class for kids and families we'll use produce from our gardens to create Rice and Veggie Rolls, Festive Noodles with Vegetables, and a Spicy Cucumber Salad. Please register by July 22nd.

(WP) Thu., Jul. 30 | 6 - 8:00 PM
For adults and accompanied children
| Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9)
Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Food Preservation Classes

Pickling Beyond the Cucumber

There's more to pickles than just cucumbers. Learn the basics of safe pickling, can a batch of non-cucumber pickles and prepare a small batch of refrigerator pickles in this hands-on class. Bring an apron if you wish as well as a small box or basket in which to carry home a few jars of finished product. Registration required by July 19th.

(RP) Tue., Jul. 21 | 7 - 8:30PM
For adults | \$35 (Nonmembers: \$40)

Bloody Mary Essentials

In this hands-on class you'll learn how to preserve your own tomato base and pickled accoutrements for creating a signature Bloody Mary. You'll have a chance to taste these homemade drinks and take home the finished product. Bring an apron and a small box for your canned goods. Registration required by Aug 28th.

(RP) Mon., Aug. 31 | 6 - 8:30PM
For adults | \$40 (Nonmembers: \$45)

Naturalist Series

Invertebrate Investigations

Get up close with a diverse array of spineless critters that crawl, dig, squirm, fly and swim. We will practice sampling techniques, analyze adaptations and examine the contributions invertebrates make toward healthy habitats. Dress for the outdoors.

(RP) Sat., Jul. 11 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Land
Stewardship and Docent Volunteers: \$3

Slimy and Scaly Herptiles

Discover the amazing adaptations of reptiles and amphibians, become familiar with some common species and learn the part they play in native ecosystems. Dress for the outdoors.

(RP) Sun., Aug. 9 | 2 - 3:30PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Land
Stewardship and Docent Volunteers: \$3

Get weekly emails about
our programs!

THE
WEEKLY
GUIDE

Our Main email Newsletter
list of events for the coming week

THE
WEEKLY
&
R&R

Research & Restoration News
native plant and animal of the month

Sign up on our website
www.urbanecologycenter.org

All branches will be
closed July 4, August
26 & 27. Riverside Park
and Menomonee Valley
branches will close at
5pm on August 25.

Quick Guide

New! Canoe Shuttles

Canoe Equipment Shuttles

Enjoy paddling the Milwaukee River without the hassle of staging cars and hauling equipment. **Space on shuttles is limited. Nonrefundable registration and completion of Water Safety Course is required.**

Upriver Canoe and Kayak Shuttle

We'll leave from Riverside Park at 9:30am and drop you off at your choice of Kletzsch, Lincoln or Estabrook Parks. Paddle back to Riverside Park by 4pm and we'll help you take out. Boat(s), paddles and PFDs included.

(RP) Every Fri. or Every Sat. except Jul. 4 | Leave at 9:30AM, take out at 4PM

For Urban Ecology Center members only | \$15/boat | Nonrefundable registration required

Downtown Canoe and Kayak Shuttle - 1pm Pick-up

Launch from Riverside Park at any time and we'll pick you up at 1pm from the Milwaukee Rowing Club. Boat(s), paddles and PFDs included. *Note: there is a 200 yd. portage at North Avenue.*

(RP) Every Fri. or Every Sat. except Jul. 4 | Leave when you choose from Riverside Park, take out at Rowing Club at 1PM

For Urban Ecology Center members only | \$15/boat | Nonrefundable registration required

Downtown Canoe and Kayak Shuttle - 5pm Pick up

Launch from Riverside Park at any time and we'll pick you up at 5pm from the Milwaukee Rowing Club. Boat(s), paddles and PFDs included. *Note: there is a 200 yd. portage at North Avenue.*

(RP) Every Fri. or Every Sat. except Jul. 4 | Leave from Riverside Park when you choose, take out at Rowing Club at 5PM

For Urban Ecology Center members only | \$15/boat | Nonrefundable registration required

Camping

Camping 101

Learn the basics including what to bring, fire starting and tent setup.

(RP) Sat., Jul. 11 | 1:30 - 2:30PM
For adults and teens | \$5
(Nonmembers: \$7)

Archery

Introduction to Basic Target Archery Techniques

Learn archery! Attend any session, registration required 48-hours in advance. Equipment provided. Meet at archery range listed.

Kinnickinnic Park

Thu., Jul. 23 | 4 - 7PM

Warnimont Park

Sat., Aug. 1 | 10AM - 1PM

Thu., Aug. 20 | 4 - 7PM

For adults and kids ages 10 and older | \$15 per session
(Nonmembers: \$20 per session)

Biking

Girls Night Out(doors)

Bike to Estabrook Park for a round of disc golf, stop at the Beer Garden, then bike back. Equipment provided (or bring your own). Bring cash for drinks. Registration required by July 9th.

(RP) Fri., Jul. 10 | 6 - 9PM

For women ages 21 and older | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Southside Biking Adventure Club

Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours. Bring a bag lunch or cash to buy lunch.

(MV) Sats., Jul. 18 & Aug. 15 | 10:30AM - 1PM

For adults, teens and family with children ages 8 and up | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12)
Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Canoeing

Full Moon Canoe

Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse. Nonrefundable payment required by 5pm the day before.

(RP) Thu., Jul. 2 & Fri., Jul. 31 | 7:30 - 10PM

For adults and teens | \$20
(Nonmembers: \$25)

History of Milwaukee by Canoe

Discover Milwaukee's history and the ecological issues of today. Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse.

(RP) Sun., Jul. 12 &

Aug. 16 | 9am - NOON
For adults and families | \$20
(Nonmembers: \$25)

River Rhythms Paddle

Canoe to Pere Marquette Park for River Rhythms. Equipment provided. Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse. Registration required 24-hours in advance of each trip. To register non-paddling kids, contact lsheridan@urbanecologycenter.org.

(RP) Every Wed. through Aug. 19 | 6:30 - 10PM

For adults and families | Adults: \$15 (Nonmembers: \$20) Paddling kids: \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10) Kids under 10 who do not paddle: Free - donations appreciated

Canoeing for Beginners

Learn paddling technique and more through guided instruction.

(WP) Sat., Jul. 18 &

Aug. 8 | 10:30AM - NOON

For adults and accompanied children age 6 and up | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Family Canoe Olympics

Compete in a series of canoeing challenges on the Washington Park lagoon including canoe tug-of-war. All equipment provided.

(WP) Sat., Jul. 25 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults and accompanied children ages 6 and older | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Kayak Downtown Milwaukee

Learn basic paddling techniques and head downtown. Dress in waterproof or quick drying clothing. Equipment provided. Registration is required.

(RP) Tue., Jul. 28 | 6:30 - 8:30PM

For adults and teens | \$20
(Nonmembers: \$25)

Kayak Outing to Village Park

Kayak from Mequon/Thiensville Village Park. Transportation and equipment provided. Registration is required.

(RP) Sat., Aug. 22 | 9AM - 1:00 PM

For adults and teens | \$30
(Nonmembers: \$35)

Fox River Moonlight Paddle

Paddle the Fox River, launching from Mukwonago and ending at Tischigan Lake. Equipment and transportation provided. Bring a snack. Registration required by 10am on August 28th.

(RP) Sat., Aug. 29 | 5:30PM - MIDNIGHT

For adults | \$45 (Nonmembers: \$50)

Climbing

Open Climb

Enjoy climbing our 3-story rock wall. Equipment provided.

(RP) Every Sun. starting Jul. 19 | 2 - 4PM

(RP) Every Wed except Aug. 26 | 4:30 - 6:30PM

For adults, teens, and families | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12) Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10) Climbing passes available for in-person purchase.

Free Open Climb

Curious about rock climbing? Come try it out for free!

(RP) Suns., Jul. 5 & Aug. 2 | 2 - 4PM
For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated

College Open Climb

People ages 18 - 22 years old are invited to this special open climbing session. No experience necessary. Equipment provided.

(RP) Tues., Jul. 7 & Aug. 4 | 6 - 8PM
For adults age 18-22 years | College discount! \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Open Climb for Women

It's Ladies Night on our 3-story outdoor climbing wall. No experience necessary. Equipment provided.

(RP) Tues., Jul. 14 & Aug. 11 | 6 - 8PM
For women | Ladies night discount! \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Introduction to Rock Climbing for Families

Discover the fun of climbing together! No experience necessary. Equipment provided. For families with children ages 7 and older.

(RP) Mon., Jul. 20 | 5:30 - 7:30PM
For families | Adults: \$10
(Nonmembers: \$12) Children: \$7 (Nonmembers: \$9)

Climbing Games Night

Test your climbing skills with fun games. No experience necessary. Equipment provided.

(RP) Tues., Jul. 21 & Aug. 18 | 6 - 8PM
For ages 10 and above | Game night discount! Adults: \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$6)

Quick Guide

Volunteer Orientation

Come find out how you can contribute your time and talents to the Center.

(RP) Fri., Jul. 10 | 3 - 4:30PM

(RP) Sat., Jul. 18 | 10:30AM - NOON

(RP) Wed., Jul. 29 | 5:30 - 7PM

(RP) Fri., Aug. 7 | 3 - 4:30PM

(RP) Sat., Aug. 15 | 10:30AM - NOON

(RP) Mon., Aug. 31 | 5:30 - 7PM

(WP) Tue., Jul. 7 | 4:30 - 5:30PM

(WP) Sat., Jul. 25 | 1 - 2PM

(WP) Tue., Aug. 11 | 5 - 6PM

(WP) Thu., Aug. 20 | 4:30 - 5:30PM

(MV) Thu., Jul. 9 | 5 - 6:30PM

(MV) Tue., Jul. 21 | 5 - 6:30PM

(MV) Sat., Aug. 1 | 10:30AM - NOON

(MV) Thu., Aug. 13 | 5 - 6:30PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Bike Maintenance Workshop

Learn basic bike maintenance skills while also helping keep our fleet rolling by attending one of our workshops! You will learn a specific skill such as replacing brake cables or truing a tire, then practice by fixing our program bikes.

(RP) Sun., Jul. 5, 19, Aug. 2, 16 & 30 | 1 - 3PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Youth Project Squad

Work on equipment repair, plant and animal care, building maintenance and groundskeeping with our staff.

(MV) Thus., Jul. 16 &

Aug. 20 | 4 - 6PM

(MV) Sat., Aug. 1 | NOON - 2PM

For families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey: Run 3

Join us for the third run of Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey Route 412. Example frog calls will be provided. Meet at Riverside Park and we'll head out to our first location at 8pm. For more information, contact Anne Reis at areis@urbanecologycenter.org

(RP) Mon., Jul. 6 | 8 - 10:30PM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

CRIKT: Spider & Moth Monitoring

Join the Citizens Researching Invertebrate Kritters Together (CRIKT) team for an evening of spider and moth monitoring. Learn the types of spiders and moths we're researching, then head into the park to look for these species. For more information, contact Jennifer Callaghan at jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org.

(RP) Mon., Jul. 13 | 7:30 - 10PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

CRIKT: Pollinator Monitoring

Join the Citizens Researching Invertebrate Kritters Together (CRIKT) for an early evening of pollinator monitoring. Learn the types of pollinators we're researching, then head into the park to look for these species. For more information, contact Jennifer Callaghan at jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org.

(RP) Thu., Jul. 23 | 4 - 6PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Weekly volunteer opportunities

Find these weekly events on our website. Weekly events canceled on July 4 and August 26-27.

Fixing Facilities

ROOT (Land Stewardship)

Volunteer Papermaking

Volunteer Park Ranger Crew

TEEN PROGRAMS

Beginning Film Making for Teens

Anybody with a camera and an idea can make their own film. Seventeen year old volunteer Serbata Tarrer produced and filmed his original short, *The Autumn Vignette*, in Washington Park. Come for a screening of the film, followed by a workshop on equipment, tips and techniques to help any teen get started!

(WP) Wed., Aug. 12 | 6 - 8PM

For teens | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Ojibwe Language Study Group

(RP) Every Mon. | 6 - 8PM

Photo Club

(RP) Thus., Jul. 2 & Aug. 6 | 6:30 - 9PM

Community Vegan Potluck

(RP) Tues., | 6:30 - 8PM

350.org General Meeting

(RP) Tues. Jul. 14 & Aug. 11 | 7 - 8:30PM

INTEREST GROUPS

Friends of Real Food: Potluck Dinner and Program

(RP) Weds., Jul. 8 | 6 - 8PM

Good Food Book Club

(RP) Tue., Aug. 18 | 7 - 8PM

Faith and Ecology

(RP) Tues., Jul. 21 & Aug. 18 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Echo Poets

(RP) Thus., Jul. 9 & Aug. 13 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Stargazers

(RP) Thus., Jul. 9 | 7 - 8:30PM

Transition Milwaukee: All City Hub Meeting

(RP) Mons., Jul. 27 & Aug. 24 | 6:30 - 8:30PM

Early Morning Birdwalks

(MV) Every Tue. | 8am 

(WP) Every Wed. except

Aug. 26 | 8am

(RP) Every Thu. except

Aug. 27 | 8am

Some programs fill quickly!
Register today to save your spot!



Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website

www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

3 WAYS TO
REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 964-8505

3 IN PERSON:
Just stop by!

(RP) = Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Pl.

(WP) = Washington Park
1859 N. 40th St.

(MV) = Menomonee Valley
3700 W. Pierce St.



= Accessible for persons with disabilities
Please call 2 weeks ahead of time



Soil Sleuthing

by Jeff Veglahn, Land Steward

You know that old saying: “you can’t judge a book by its cover?” It turns out the same is true of restoration projects like Three Bridges Park. You can’t get the full story just from looking at the “cover” — what’s visible above the surface. What you see above ground doesn’t tell you everything, because the proof is in the pudding ... or in this case, the soil. Three Bridges Park is on the site of a brownfield (a vacant post-industrial parcel of land) in the Menomonee Valley. With every passing year, Three Bridges Park loses its resemblance to a brownfield and gains resemblance to a natural greenspace. We can see how the park is taking shape with the establishment of native plants and trees. More flowers are blooming this year than ever. What we can’t see are the nutrients in the soil that are contributing to this change.

The change from brownfield to greenspace makes Three Bridges Park a perfect spot to examine how changes in nutrients affect native habitats. Healthy soil is essential to having a healthy ecosystem because soil is a living, breathing (yes, breathing) thing that is complex with beneficial microbes, bacteria and fungi associated with the root system of plants and trees.

We are very excited to have begun a unique research project in partnership with Bryant Scharenbroch from the Morton Arboretum that will look at the effect additional nutrients have on the health of Bur Oaks, prairie plants and soil. We will apply four different treatments on 56 plots throughout the park, allowing us to compare different treatments and to get a better understanding of what treatment type works best for each kind of plant.

But Jeff, what are the treatments? Well, I’m glad you asked. The four treatment types are biochar, biosolids, biochar/biosolids combined and the “control”—no treatment. Biochar is wood that has been burned in a low/no oxygen environment, which creates a charcoal-like consistency. It helps to retain water and water-soluble nutrients, increase soil fertility and protect against soil-borne diseases. Biosolids, or Milorganite—made right here in Milwaukee!—is composed of heat-dried microbes that have digested organic material in wastewater. Once applied, it slowly releases nitrogen to be available for plants.

The treatments were applied with the use of an air knife (pictured in next column); which

pressurizes up to 250 psi and directs air. The benefit of using this tool for “tilling” is it doesn’t damage the root system of a tree, therefore reducing the amount of stress.

For the control plots the soil was “tilled” but no treatments were added, to ensure that we have the best scientific comparison.



The long-term plan for this research is to monitor the health of the soil and the growth/health of the above-ground vegetation. We will conduct soil tests to measure levels of nutrients, beneficial microbial fungi, respiration (remember, soil breathes!) and temperature and we will weigh and analyze above-ground plant mass to study correlation between soil health and vegetation health.

Because remediation of soil takes a long time, this research project theoretically will be in the works for over 10 years, and over that time we hope to see the soil health improve. Just like reading a good book, this study is going to take some time, and we’re excited to learn the whole story! 🌱

Take a Hike, Milwaukee!

continued from page 1

your friends and family to hike with you, especially if they haven’t experienced “nature in the city” before. The routes are family-friendly and tailored to different abilities so everyone can participate. The hike will include stretches in beautiful Riverside Park as well as the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. We hope that you will organize a big team for our inaugural HKE MKE. The more the merrier!

Full details about HKE MKE will be coming out soon, but in the meantime you can head to urbanecologycenter.org/hkemke and sign up to get an email when registration opens. Bring your friends and share the experience of Milwaukee’s natural beauty! 🌱



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NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a publication of the Urban Ecology Center, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Thanks to the generous annual contributions of 215 foundations, corporations and organizations, 3300 members and many in-kind donors the Center provides safe parks and programs for over 300,000 people per year.

To make a contribution, please see below for the easy to use form, visit our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org or call the Center at (414) 964-8505.

The Urban Ecology Center fosters ecological understanding as inspiration for change, neighborhood by neighborhood. Our Environmental Community Centers:

- Provide outdoor science education for urban youth.
- Protect and use public natural areas, making them safe, accessible and vibrant.
- Preserve and enhance these natural areas and their surrounding waters.
- Promote community by offering resources that support learning, volunteerism, stewardship, recreation, and camaraderie.
- Practice and model environmentally responsible behaviors.

Credits:

The Urban Ecology Center Newsletter is created and distributed through a team effort by the following people: Carijean Buhk, Maddie Bird, Matthew Gnas, Judy Krause, Jeff McAvoy, Pat Mueller and Jessica St. John.

Contributing writers: Jamill "Jimmy" Bradley, Omar Bonilla-Ortiz, Ken Leinbach, Jeff Veglahn and Katie Wipfli.

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LOCATIONS & HOURS

Riverside Park

1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
(414) 964-8505 Fax: (414) 964-1084
jferschinger@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:
Monday - Thursday: 9am - 7pm
Friday & Saturday: 9am - 5pm
Sunday: Noon - 5pm

Washington Park

1859 N. 40th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(Mailing address: 4145 W. Lisbon Ave., 53208)
(414) 344-5460 Fax: (414) 344-5462
tevens@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Friday: Noon - 6pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm

Menomonee Valley

3700 W. Pierce St.
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 431-2940
gholstein@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Friday: Noon - 7pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

BECOME A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER

By making your gift, you become a contributing member of the Center. Your support provides learning opportunities for thousands of urban youth each year and allows you to enjoy contributing membership benefits at all three of our branches.

Choose a Contributing Member Level:

- Student** - benefits one college student \$30
- Individual** - member plus one guest \$35
- Family** - two adults, and all children or grandchildren under 18 in a household plus one guest. \$45
- Other** - contributions above \$45 receive family level benefits and can help us:
provide a membership for a family in need (\$90)
provide a Summer Camp scholarship (\$200)
restore urban land with native plants (\$500)
Please enter an amount \$_____

Give a gift membership:

Gift memberships are a great way to connect your friends and family to the natural world.

Recipient Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Occasion _____

Deliver by _____

Membership Type: Individual \$35 Family \$45

Send the announcement card to: Me Gift Recipient Card picked up

Total \$ _____

Name I would like to remain anonymous

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Charge my Card

Check enclosed (payable to Urban Ecology Center)

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

3-digit code _____

Signature _____

Everyone is welcome! Thanks to generous donors we are able to offer need-based scholarships for memberships. For more information and to apply, please contact our Membership Staff at (414) 964-8505 or drop into one of our Centers and speak with our Visitor Services staff.

My gift is in honor of or in memory of _____

My employer (list below) has a matching gift program _____

I would like information about estate and planned giving

Please return this form to: Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

Did you know you can become a contributing member securely online? Visit urbanecologycenter.org and click membership.

Celebrate summer in Three Bridges Park!



Summer Celebration Festival!

Menomonee Valley | Saturday, July 25 | Noon - 4pm

FSC logo

IN THIS ISSUE

TAKE A HIKE, MILWAUKEE!

by Ken Leinbach

One of my favorite things to do is be fully immersed in nature while hiking in the middle of the city.

A BIGGER PLACE

by Omar Bonilla-Ortiz

... overcoming the disconnect and isolation I'd experienced in my own neighborhood. It ended with my sentiment that we as a community would work together to make the neighborhood a "bigger" place.

LAKE MICHIGAN LESSONS

by Katie Wipfli

One of my favorite places to take school groups is Lake Michigan. It is such a valuable resource right in the backyard of our city.

THE STORY OF US

by Jamill "Jimmy" Bradley

The Urban Ecology Center welcomed us with open arms and smiles and gave us a place where we could exist as "just us," for free.

SOIL SLEUTHING

by Jeff Veglahn

You know that old saying: "you can't judge a book by its cover?" It turns out the same is true of restoration projects like Three Bridges Park.

SEE FOR YOURSELF! (NO REALLY, SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED WITH YOUR SUPPORT)



Over **20,000 plants and trees** were planted
by our team and volunteers in the last three years