



Introducing a Walk of 3 Billion Years

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Studying nature is a great way to feel young...comparatively speaking, that is. There are trees that are hundreds of years old as well as turtle and bird species that can easily outlive the humans who care for them. The entire human race is like a newborn when compared to billion-year-old rocks. It's mind blowing!



Thanks to a generous gift from the Franke family, we've created a way to explore this concept of time through nature. We're proud to introduce a new treasure, a 3 Billion Year Walk through the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. It's really cool, and I can't wait for you to check it out!

The 3 Billion Year Walk* is a new path of rock sculptures or cairns, some as high as seven feet tall, leading people from our Riverside Park branch to the canoe launch on the Milwaukee River. Starting at the building, head west until you see the first cairn made from of 340-million-year-old stone at the gravel drive that leads to the warehouse. Follow the winding path until you find the ninth and final stone structure that's made from rock over 3 billion years old. Together, they are a visual story of the vastness of time.

Not only are these rock cairns a geological story of Wisconsin's past, but they are also a story of our present. Devonian Dolomite supports the oldest and iconic buildings of Milwaukee and Red Granite is part of their walls.

Nic Tompkins, the stone mason who built the entrance arch to the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum, is the creator of these cairns.

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CRIKT

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

It is the season of showy butterflies, buzzing cicadas, crackling grass hopper wings and CRIKT research. Nope, that is not a typo. CRIKT stands for "Citizens Researching Invertebrate Kritters Together" and this research team at the Urban Ecology Center is leading the nation in its approach to field ecological research. "Invertebrate Kritters" refers to the vast array of animals found in the insect, spider and mite categories. Because invertebrates impact people in a variety of ways: pollinating crops, decimating crops and invoking some of our greatest fears or senses of awe, they have been studied quite a bit over the years. So what sets CRIKT apart? It is WHO is involved and WHERE they work.

Who: Well, it could be you! CRIKT is a group of non-professional scientists engaged in professional level research and monitoring. Science inquiry is led by people like you, community members who follow tight research protocols. As with all scientific research, they start with the development of a research question, move to experimental design, then data collection and analysis and finally disseminate their findings. They ask questions that are personally meaningful, study the question with intentionality and then share their findings with others. In other words, they are fully involved throughout the data cycle.

And – they laugh and have fun while they're at it! According to Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science, "In addition to helping put together a monitoring plan, members are becoming our local experts. For example, Jon Bales likes to bring insect nets on bird walks and then he goes home with a handful of tiny beetles to which most people wouldn't give a second thought – to identify them with a microscope". It is extremely rare to find this kind of holistic community engagement in scientific research.

One critical question that this group is exploring is: Can insects be an effective indicator of the resilience and sustainability of the restoration work we do in our urban parks?" Which gets us to the

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Branch Highlights



RIVERSIDE PARK

Looking for something to do? Come out with us! You can Bird at Cedarburg Bog, try your hand at archery or climb the climbing wall. Are you a member? Borrow some of our equipment and make your own adventure. Be sure to join us as at all three branches for a "thank you" Member Appreciation event on August 11th.



WASHINGTON PARK

Get out and get fit this summer! We have Zumba classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays, Yoga In The Parks every Saturday starting July 9 and you can Make Your Own Kombucha on August 31. Be sure to come to Holistic Wellness on July 14 for a sample of different wellness and fitness routines.



MENOMONEE VALLEY

Come explore Milwaukee by bike! We're very excited to be offering many biking tours this summer. We invite you to join us to discover new places in the city or to learn more about some of your old favorites! You can bring your own bike or borrow ours. See you on the trail!



Walking in Washington Park

by Martha Sudermann, Community Program Educator

"Good morning pretty lady!" exclaimed a Neighborhood Environmental Education Project student a few weeks ago, as I passed her class walking near the lagoon. I never quite know what to expect, as I head to work each morning. Her inviting smile and her silly demeanor were a welcome surprise. I knew I was going to have a good day.

I am an educator with our ever-growing after school program and my morning walks have offered me time to reflect on my work with youth and community members. I am often struck by the brilliance of children and youth. Their questions easily spark my own curiosity (and also make me recognize my own ignorance about a lot of things)! I am learning how to reciprocate the uninhibited friendliness and joy that many of the youth we work with share.

I have come to appreciate my daily ritual of watching birds in flight, observing the changing color palette in the park and passing gleeful students who are making new discoveries. I watch the rhythms with reverence.

If you know a curious elementary school-aged student, consider checking out the Young Scientist Club. Tuesdays through Fridays from 4-6pm we garden, cook, canoe, create, learn and experiment. On Saturdays, we go on field trips to surrounding parks for hiking, fishing and play. All with a smile.

I encourage you to take a walk in Washington Park. Enjoying the excitement of our youth, taking a class or learning to fish, canoe or kayak can be a great way to spend a summer day. 🍁



DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE



The Urban Ecology Center is on Snapchat! Feel free to add us!



Thank You to the Sponsors of the 2016 Summer Solstice Soirée

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Saturday, August 13

The Brewers Community Foundation has selected the Urban Ecology Center as one of four nonprofits for their 2nd Annual Hitting 4 the Cycle benefit bike ride! This is the second time we have been honored at the ride!

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

The ride features four different route options which begin and end at Miller Park.

Participants receive a T-shirt, a ticket to that evening's game vs. the Cincinnati Reds and an invitation to the post-ride tailgate party.

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

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



100,000
gallons of water collected

Every choice we make about the form and function of our buildings is made with the environment in mind. From energy sources to recycled materials, Urban Ecology Center facilities provide real life examples of green building practices and management.

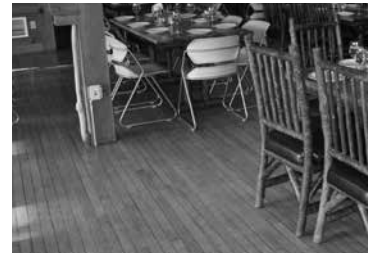
Visit us and see all the smart ways you can make your home and business greener.

over
150 recycled and reclaimed materials and fixtures

From hardwood floors from schools to leaded glass from a bar to mirrors from an old factory, all of our branches are filled with reused items.



The rainwater collection system at our Riverside Park branch (see the cisterns above) covers ½ of our toilet flushing needs. Using rainwater helps us conserve 100,000 gallons of clean, filtered water per year.



 **44,000**
watts annually

The solar array at our Riverside Park branch produces 44,000 watts (44 kilowatts) of power annually. This covers roughly one-third of our annual energy use at that branch. Our Menomonee Valley and Washington Park branches use solar arrays for hot water.



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

CRIKT

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second attribute that makes the CRIKT group unique —where they conduct their research.

Where: Urban parks — Riverside, Washington and Three Bridges to name a few. The CRIKT group conducts their research projects in areas specifically managed through adaptive restoration approaches.

Most field research stations are careful to exclude people and dogs from research sites and have limited exposure to the types of containments and hardscapes found in cities. But, CRIKT not only works toward publishable research led by community members, they also conduct their studies in an urban setting using methods that respond to these variables. This group is well positioned to measure

the resilience of restored landscapes within the context of ongoing urban impacts.

The CRIKT approach has shown to have more in-depth participation in the scientific process and the building of an invertebrate enthusiast community for the Urban Ecology Center. In a post-project evaluation, 60% of respondents indicated they were novices and 100% were satisfied with their participation. Community scientists contributed over 250 hours to the creation of the plan.

Through this process of science inquiry, the group is making and documenting important discoveries. According to Tim, “If they weren’t looking, we wouldn’t be building up our species list and finding dragonflies that haven’t been

recorded in the Milwaukee County in over 100 years! And another exciting thing about being in this group — just about anything you find is new to our lists and might be new to the County or Wisconsin. Who knows, someone might describe a species new to science – if it’s going to happen it will happen with invertebrates!

Interested in learning more about CRIKT or invertebrates? Please contact Jennifer Callaghan at jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org or Tim Vargo at tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org. Keep up to date with current CRIKT opportunities through the Weekly Research and Restoration email. Visit urbanecologycenter.org to sign up. 🍄

Billions of Years Old

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He hunted all over Wisconsin for these rocks so that you can experience a unique version of Wisconsin’s history. Many thanks go out to Nic as well as the committee of volunteers who helped over four years ago to complete this project.

Below are the cairns to look for:

Devonian Dolomite — 390 million years old — Devonian Period. The youngest bedrock in Wisconsin. This limestone, great for building, was once quarried near what is now the UWM parking lot on Capitol Drive.

Silurian Dolomite — 420 million years old — Silurian Period. Formed from coral reefs and shells of sea animals this rock runs along the eastern edge of Wisconsin then dips below Lake Michigan to rise all the way over in Niagara Falls!

Cambrian Sandstone — 510-520 million years old — Cambrian Period. Wisconsin once lay near the equator, covered by shallow tropical seas. Rock from this period is in the gorges and cliffs of Wisconsin Dells.

Basalt — 1.1 billion years ago — Middle Proterozoic Eon. When the earth’s crust in

northwestern Wisconsin began to tear apart it threatened to tear North America in half and basaltic lavas erupted. Basalt is used for building railway lines and road bases or, when cut and polished, for floor tiles.

Red Sandstone — 1.1 billion years old — Middle Proterozoic Eon. Pre-dating any evidence of fossils, it’s tinted by iron oxide from the first rising of oxygen in ancient seas. It’s known as the Keweenaw Sandstone and was quarried during the 1800’s “brownstone” era of architecture.

Baraboo Quartzite — 1.7 billion years old — Lower Proterozoic Eon. This started as pure quartz sand and after hardening into sandstones, it then was changed by pressure and heat to pink, maroon and purple by iron particles. Smoothed, rounded monadnocks of quartzite as much as 4000 feet thick are in Rib Mountain.

Red Granite — 1.8 billion years ago — Lower Proterozoic Eon. Granite gneisses formed the beginning of North America. When Wisconsin was covered by a sea and a chain of volcanic islands, the islands

collided with the old continent, causing Penokee Range of north-central Wisconsin. Red granite is the Wisconsin state rock.

Banded Iron Formation — 1.9 billion years ago — Lower Proterozoic. Formed in lagoons or shallow coastal waters where dissolved iron in sea water interacts with free oxygen and magnetite (iron oxide) mixes with chert (silica) to settle to the sea floor in layers of hard sedimentary rock. You can see this formation along Lake Superior.

Nephrite Jade — Precambrian Eon. Jade is Precambrian as is the banded iron on this cairn. This is from the oldest era of Wisconsin, perhaps as old as 3 billion years!

The Walk is nearing completion with eight of the nine cairns installed so come take a look! It is sure to put your lifespan on earth into perspective.

**The trail has not officially been named as of yet, so let us know if you have an idea at kleinbach@urbanecologycenter.org. 🍄*

GROWN UP SUMMER CAMP

with  **Friday July 15**
6-8:30pm
\$25 (\$20 for members)

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Rock climbing, paddling, campfire and beer tasting with New Belgium Slowride beer — this is summer camp with a twist!

Enter to win a New Belgium prize package. Please register for a "session" or starting time by July 14. See our website for details. **Must be age 21 and over.**

Are you an Urban Ecology Center member? Join us as we celebrate the most vibrant part of our community — YOU! Grab a friend and head to your local branch for ice cream, outdoor games, music and crafts. Let us say "thank you" for being a part of the Urban Ecology Center community.

**Member
Appreciation
Ice Cream
Social**

Thursday, August 11
4-7pm | Free!

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Summertime Encounters with Nature

Learn insect and plant identification and more! Registration required.

Sat., Jul. 16 | 10:00 AM - noon
Wed., Jul. 20 | 5 - 7:00 PM
For adults and kids ages 5-8 |
\$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Animal Feeding

Help feed our resident animals!
Every Sat. | 1PM
For everyone | Free

Saturday Preschool Series

Bring your youngsters and enjoy exploring nature together.

Summer Frolic:

Sat., Jul. 30 | 10:30 - 11:30AM

Bugs: Sat., Aug. 20 | 10:30 - 11:30AM
For children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult | Adults: \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Children: \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

Nature Rangers

Sign up for either Monday or Tuesday.
Every Mon. except July 4 or every Tue. | 4 - 5:30PM
For children ages 5 and older |
\$10 (Nonmember: \$15)

Girl Scout Programs

Introduction to Archery

At Kletzsch Park archery range
Thu., Jul. 28 | 4 - 6PM

At Warnimont Park archery range
Thu., Aug. 25 | 4 - 6:00 PM

For Girl Scouts ages 10 years and older | \$8

River Connections

Dress for getting a little wet. Meet at Hubbard Park in Shorewood.

Sat., Jul. 30 & Aug. 27 | 10 - 11:30AM
For Girl Scouts ages 7-12 years | \$8

Insect Studies

Dress for being active outside.
Sun., Jul. 24 or Aug. 21 | 1:30 - 3PM
For Girl Scouts ages 5-8 years old | \$8

Beginning Bike Maintenance

Tue., Aug. 16 & Aug. 23 | 4:30 - 6PM
For Girl Scouts ages 10 years and older | \$8

Boy Scout Programs

Climbing

Mon., Aug. 15 | 4:30 - 6:30PM
For Boy Scouts ages 7-10 years old | \$8 per scout

Canoeing

Sun., Aug. 7 | 2 - 5PM
For Boy Scouts ages 10 years and older | \$10 per scout

Grow Your Knowledge with Plant ID

Sat., Jul. 9 | 2 - 4PM
For Boy Scouts ages 7-10 years old | \$8

Know Your Nature

Wed., Aug. 3 | 4 - 6PM
For Boy Scouts ages 5-7 years old | \$8

ADULT PROGRAMS

Summer Tree Identification

Dress for the weather. Register for each class separately.

Learn the Basics! Thu.,
Jul. 14 | 5 - 7PM

The Oaks Thu., Jul. 21 | 5 - 7PM

The Maples and Ashes

Thu., Jul. 28 | 5 - 7PM

**The Walnuts, Hickories,
Beech, and Sycamore**

Thu., Aug. 4 | 5 - 7PM

The Birch Family, The Elms

Thu., Aug. 11 | 5 - 7PM

**The Cherries, Hawthornes,
Crabapples, and Witchhazel**

Thu., Aug. 25 | 5 - 7PM

For adults | \$7/class (Nonmembers: \$10/class) Stewardship volunteers: \$5/class

Birding the Cedarburg Bog

Hike in an amazing habitat typical to Northern Canada! Fee includes a donation to Friends of Cedarburg Bog.

Sat., Jul. 2 | 8AM - NOON
For adults | \$30 (Nonmembers: \$35)

From Beak to Tail:

All About the Life of Birds

Take an in-depth look into bird ecology, conservation and behavior.

Sat., Jul. 2 | 3 - 4:30PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Sustainable Coffee Tasting

Join coffee experts from the Pendulum Coffee and taste locally-roasted coffee from around the world.

Sat., Jul. 9 & Aug. 13 | 10 - 11AM
For adults | \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Summer Naturalist Workshop

Learn insect classification, identifying plant families and biological diversity. Registration required.

Wed., Jul. 13 | 5 - 7:30PM
Sat., Jul. 23 | 10AM - 12:30PM
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Beginning Ballet For Adults

Join former professional dancer, Jennifer Callaghan, for this 8-week course. Sign up for the course or drop-in for a class. No experience necessary.

Every Thu. | 5:45 - 7PM
For adults | \$50 for the series or \$8 per class (Nonmembers: \$60 for the series or \$10/class)

Art Opening Reception - *Discovered While Paying Attention*, Thomas Gaudynski and James Steeno

Thomas Gaudynski's drawings grow out of his practice of backyard gardening. James Steeno paints local landscapes and wildlife. Artists speak at 6pm. Refreshments provided.

Tue., Jul. 12 | 5 - 7PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Walk and Talk

Explore the arboretum on a guided tour. Registration required by 5pm the day before tour.

Sat., Jul. 30 & Aug. 27 | 10 - 11AM
For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Free with New Member Certificate!



RIVERSIDE PARK

Programs and Events

JULY & AUGUST

URBAN ADVENTURES

Canoe and Kayak Shuttles

Downtown Excursion

Enjoy paddling the river without hauling equipment. Launch from the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse. Boats, paddles, PFDs included. Nonrefundable registration and completion of Water Safety required. *No kayaks on Aug. 5th or 13th.*

Every Fri., | 10AM - 5PM

Every Sat., Jul. 2 | 10AM - 5PM

For Urban Ecology Center members only | \$15 per boat

Village Park Excursion

We will provide boats, paddles, PFDs and a ride to and from Village Park in Thiensville. Registration required.

Sun., Jul. 24 or Aug. 28 | 11AM - 4PM

For Urban Ecology Center members only | \$30 per boat.

Archery

Beginning Target Archery

Learn archery! Equipment provided.

At Kletsch Park Registration required by July 7th

Sat., Jul. 9 | 10AM - 12:30PM

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

At Warnimont Park Registration required by August 4th

Sat., Aug. 6 | 10AM - 12:30PM

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

Canoeing/Kayaking

Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St.) unless otherwise noted

Water Safety Course

Borrow our boats for free! Become a member, then take this on-land course. Meet at Riverside Park.

Every Sun. | 1 - 1:45PM

Every Mon. except

July 4 | 6 - 6:45PM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated | Membership required to borrow boats

River Rhythms Paddle

Canoe to River Rhythms concert series. Equipment provided. Registration required. To register non-paddling kids, contact Lesley at (414) 964-8505.

Weds., Jul. 13, 27 & Aug. 10 |

6:30 - 10PM

For adults and families | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15) Paddling kids: \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Kids under 10 who do not paddle: Free - donations appreciated

History of Milwaukee by Canoe

Discover the history of downtown and the ecological issues of today. Registration required.

Sun., Jul. 17 or Aug. 14 | 9AM - NOON

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

Full Moon Canoe

See the full moon as you never have before! Registration and non-refundable payment required.

Tue., Jul. 19 or Thu., Aug.

18 | 7:30 - 10PM

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

Kayak Downtown Milwaukee

Equipment provided. Registration required.

Mon., Jul. 25 | 6:30 - 8:30PM

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

Kayak Outing to Village Park

Hit the river at Village Park in Thiensville. Transportation from Riverside Park and equipment provided. Registration required.

Sat., Aug. 13 | 9AM - 1PM

For adults and teens | \$25 (Nonmembers: \$30)

Fox River Moonlight Paddle

Paddle outside the city! Equipment and transportation from Riverside Park provided. Registration required.

Sat., Aug. 20 | 5:30 - 10:30PM

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

Climbing

Free Open Climb

You will receive one free climb, more if time allows. First come, first served.

Sun., Jul. 3 & Aug. 7 | 2 - 4PM

For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated

Open Climb

Every Sun. starting July 10 | 2 - 4PM

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

Climbing Games Night

No experience necessary. Equipment is provided.

Mon., Jul. 11 & Tue., Aug. 9 |

5:30 - 7:30PM

For ages 8 and above | Game night discount! Adults: \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$6)

Open Climb for Women

No experience necessary. Equipment is provided.

Tue., Jul. 26 & Aug. 30 | 6 - 7:30PM

For women | Ladies night discount! \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Orientation

Fri., Jul. 1 | 3 - 4:30PM

Sat., Jul. 16 | 10:30AM - NOON

Mon., Jul. 25 | 5:30 - 7PM

Fri., Aug. 5 | 3 - 4:30PM

Sat., Aug. 20 | 10:30AM - NOON

Mon., Aug. 29 | 5:30 - 7PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Volunteer Belay Training

Learn belayer procedure and safety, then help our participants climb!

Wed., Jul. 6 | 6 - 8:30PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

ROOT Riverside Park

Every Tue. | 9 - 11AM & 2 - 4PM

Every Fri. May 21 | 2 - 4PM

Every 1st and 3rd Sat. | 9:30 - 11AM

For adults, families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Fixin' Facilities

Come help maintain our building, vehicles, park and playground! Help with anything from construction and painting, to repair and upkeep projects.

Every Wed., | 3 - 5PM

For adults, families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

INTEREST GROUPS

Ojibwe Language Study

Every Mon. except Jul. 4 | 6 - 8PM

Early Morning Bird Walk

Every Thu. | 8 - 10:30AM

Community Vegan Potluck

Tue., Jul. 5 & Aug. 2 | 6:30 - 8PM

Photo Club

Thu., Jul. 7 & Aug. 4 | 6:30 - 9PM

350.org General Meeting

Tue., Jul. 12 & Aug. 9 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Echo Poets

Thu., Jul. 14 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Stargazers

Thu., Jul. 14 | 7 - 8:30PM

Faith and Ecology

Tue., Jul. 19 & Aug. 16 | 7 - 8:30PM

Friends of Real Food:

Potluck Dinner and Program

Thu., July 21 | 6 - 8PM

Friends of Real Food Book Club: *Potluck and Discussion*

Thu., Aug. 18 | 6 - 8PM

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 964-8505

3 IN PERSON:
Just stop by! 1500 E. Park Pl.

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS



Member Appreciation Ice Cream Social

Thursday, August 11
4-7pm | Free!

Are you an Urban Ecology Center member? Join us as we celebrate the most vibrant part of our community — YOU! Grab a friend and head to your local branch for ice cream, outdoor games, music and crafts. Let us say “thank you” for being a part of the Urban Ecology Center community.

Washington & Sherman Park Neighbors Bike Ride

*Cosponsored by Boys & Girls Clubs
of Greater Milwaukee*

Tour the Washington and Sherman Park neighborhoods on this noncompetitive, five-mile ride. Meet at the Center and head north to the BGC BIKE Shop in Sherman Park and a celebration!

Sat., Aug. 13 | 10am - 1pm

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Washington Park's 125th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrate 125 years of Washington Park! Join us at the band shell for local music, kid's activities, pie and fun for all ages.

Wed., Aug. 24 | 6 - 8:30 PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Girl Scout Programs

Hop, Crawl, Fly

Join an entomologist for an active morning chasing, catching and studying insects. Plus, you can earn your Bugs Badge!

Sat., Jul. 9 | 9AM - NOON

For children in grades 2-3 | \$8 per scout | Parents are welcome at no additional cost

Introduction to Canoeing

Paddle a canoe under bridges, around an island and across the lagoon. Learn basic safety and canoeing skills.

Sat., Aug. 6 | 9AM - NOON

For children in grades 4-5 | \$10 per scout | Parents welcome at no additional charge

Wednesday Fishing Club

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

Every Wed., Jul. 6 - Aug.

3 | 4 - 5:30PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Food Fridays

Tend our Learning Gardens and prepare healthy meals.

Every Fri. | 4 - 6PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Exploring Nature Through Literature

Join us for a science and nature lesson at the Washington Park Library, then head over to the park to explore.

Wed., Jul. 6, Jul. 20 & Aug. 3 | 1 - 3PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Family Fishing Adventure - Scout Lake

Take a trip to Scout Lake Park for a guided fishing lesson on their accessible fishing pier. Register by July 14.

Sat., Jul. 16 | 10AM - 1PM

For adults and accompanied children ages 4 and up |

Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12)
Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Music and Nature Exploration with the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music

Nature-themed musical activities at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music in the morning with explorations on Milwaukee's lakefront in the afternoon. No musical experience required.

Daily, Aug. 15 - 19 | 9AM - 4PM

For grades K-2 and 3-5 | To register, please visit www.wcmusic.org/

Animal Feeding

Help feed our resident animals!

Every Sat. | 1PM

For everyone | Free

Young Scientists Club Family Dinner

Our Young Scientists Club members are thrilled to prepare a healthy meal for friends and family. All family members of Club members are welcome. Please register by August 17.

Fri., Aug. 19 | 4 - 6PM

For family members of Young Scientists Club members | Free - donations appreciated

Young Scientists Club

Interested in science and nature? Come to Washington Park!

Every Tue. - Fri. | 4 - 6PM

and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM

For kids ages 7-12 | \$10 annual membership

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) 344-5460

3 IN PERSON:
Just stop by! 1859 N. 40th St.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Learn to Bake with Community Pie

Making a Perfect Crust

Learn the basics of crust making or bring your knowledge to help teach others. Join our Young Scientists Club and volunteers from Community Pie in preparing pies from scratch that will be served at the Washington Park 125th Anniversary Celebration!

Sat., Aug. 20 | 1 - 4PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Local and Fresh Pie Filling

Learn the basics of pie filling or bring your knowledge to help teach others. Join our Young Scientists Club and volunteers from Community Pie as they prepare pies using locally grown fruit that will be served at the Washington Park 125th Anniversary Celebration!

Tue., Aug. 23 | 4 - 6PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Fit 4 You Group Fitness Sessions

Hosted by Fit 4 You Traveling Trainer

Every Tue. | 6 - 7:30PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

Early Morning Bird Walks

Washington Park is a fabulous oasis for urban birds. We will walk through the different habitats looking for birds, mammals, butterflies and other natural denizens. Binoculars available.

Every Wed. | 8 - 10AM
For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5 suggested donation)

Zumba Fitness

Zumba Fitness is a cardio-dance workout that uses music and choreographed steps to form a party atmosphere. Dance to great music and burn a ton of calories without even realizing it. Bring your dancing feet, gyrating hips and a desire to move! These classes are open to all ages and skill levels. Not sure if this is for you? Try Zumba for free on June 29 and July 6.

Every Wed. | 6:45 PM - 07:45 PM
For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Yoga In The Parks

Presented by omTown Yogis

Enjoy guided yoga outside in our beautiful park! All ages and skill levels welcome.

Every Sat. starting Jul. 9 | 9 - 10AM
For adults and accompanied children | \$10 suggested donation per person.

African Drumming for Adults

Presented by The Village Drum Sales and Repairs

Come learn the basics of African Drumming from Ryan Washington, Musical Director of the Ina Onilu African Drum and Dance Ensemble.

Thu., Jul. 14, 21 & 28 | 5:30 - 6:45PM
For adults. \$18 per session (\$20 nonmembers)

Walk & Talk

Join our Branch Manager, Terry, to explore both our building and Washington Park.

Wed., Jul. 20 & Aug. 17 |
4:30 - 5:30PM
For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)
Free with New Member Certificate!

Holistic Wellness

Wellness is a whole-body, life-long endeavor. We will help you explore ways to improve your physical and mental wellness. Join experts for interactive fun sessions for all ages. Learn about healthy eating from a nutritional expert! Get the latest moves from a Zumba instructor! Learn about the power of meditation from a meditation guru! Express yourself through art therapy! Refreshments provided.

Thu., Jul. 14 | 5:30 - 7:30PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Make Your Own Kombucha

You may have heard this tea's strange name before, but did you know you can make it at home? Kombucha is a fermented tea that has many health benefits, is fun to make and tastes great! Learn the many histories and process of making this ancient drink, taste-test some infusions and take home your very own SCOBY (Symbiotic Culture of Bacteria and Yeast) to start your brew. Please register by Monday, August 29.

Wed., Aug. 31 | 6 - 8PM
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

URBAN ADVENTURES

Water Safety Course

Did you know that our contributing members can borrow our canoes and kayaks for free? To take advantage of this unique benefit, become a contributing member, then take this 45-minute, on land, water safety course. This training, or training through one of our scheduled trips, is a requirement of our canoe/kayak lending benefit.

Every Sat. | 10 - 10:30AM
For adults | Free - donations appreciated | Membership required to borrow boats

Canoeing for Beginners

The Washington Park Lagoon is a beautiful, calm and spacious body of water - a great spot to learn the basics of paddling! Learn how to choose the right equipment, boating safety and paddling technique, then practice with guidance from one of our trained educators. Perfect for those who are new to paddling or just want to practice.

Sat., Jul. 30 & Aug. 20 | 10:30AM - NOON
For adults and accompanied children age 6 and up |
Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9)
Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Orientation

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

Sat., Jul. 9 | 10:30 - 11:30AM
Wed., Jul. 20 | 5:30 - 6:30PM
Sat., Aug. 6 | 10:30 - 11:30AM
Wed., Aug. 17 | 5:30 - 6:30PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

ROOT Washington Park

Join us as we work to improve natural habitat for native plants and wildlife.

Every Wed. | 9 - 11AM, Every Thu. |
3:30 - 5:30PM and Every Fri. | 9 - 11AM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Fixin' Facilities at Washington Park

Come help maintain our building, vehicles and playground!

Every Thu. | 10AM - NOON
Every 1st and 4th Sat. | 1 - 3PM
For everyone, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult | Free - donations appreciated

Park Ranger Crew

Dress for the weather and join other volunteers as we walk through the park picking up trash and noting any maintenance needs.

Every Sat. | 10AM - NOON
For everyone, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult | Free - donations appreciated

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



3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 344-5460

3 IN PERSON:
Just stop by! 1859 N. 40th St.

Member Appreciation Ice Cream Social

Thursday, August 11
4-7pm | Free!

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAM

Are you an Urban Ecology Center member? Join us as we celebrate the most vibrant part of our community — YOU! Grab a friend and head to your local branch for ice cream, outdoor games, music and crafts. Let us say “thank you” for being a part of the Urban Ecology Center community.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Girl Scout Programs

Mapping Pieces of the Past at Menomonee Valley

We'll search for geocaches in the Menomonee Valley while we learn about the history of the land. GPS units are provided. Visit gswise.org to register.

Sat., Jul. 9 | 9AM - NOON
For Juniors, grades 4-5

Biking the Valley

Have adventures all around Menomonee Valley. Learn bicycle safety for riding on streets and bike trails, then travel to intriguing destinations. We will provide bikes and helmets or you can bring your own. Please visit www.gswise.org to register.

Sat., Jul. 23 | 9AM - NOON
For Juniors and Cadettes, grades 5-8

Life in the Menomonee River

Focusing on animal observation and identification, we'll collect organisms from the river and discuss their adaptation. Visit gswise.org to register.

Sat., Aug. 6 | 9AM - NOON
For Brownies, grades 2-3

Vocal Music

with Above the Clouds

Learn the best way to get the most from your vocal cords, understand the movement of music, breathe, vocal exercise and foods to avoid before singing. Stop by our Menomonee Valley branch for a registration form or visit abovethecloudsmilwaukee.com

Every Wed in Jul. | 3:30 - 4:30PM
For ages 7-10 | Free - donations appreciated

Family Hike

Explore the trails with us on a guided hike through Three Bridges Park. This is a perfect way to see the park as seasons change. We'll conclude with story time by the fire.

Thu., Jul. 7 | 4:30 - 6PM
Tue., Aug. 16 | 4:30 - 6PM
For families with children | Free - donations appreciated

Photo Phenology

Get your cameras and watch the Valley change over the seasons! No photography experience necessary.

Sat., Jul. 23 & Aug. 27 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated

Little Explorers: Friday Morning Playgroup

We have activities (including our secret slide) specifically designed for children ages 4 and under.

Fri., Jul. 8 & Aug. 12 | 11AM - NOON
For children ages 4 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

Busy Bees

Become a bee detective and practice your bee identifications skills. Learn about our busy pollinators, their life cycle, anatomy and place in our urban environment. Honey samples included!

Fri., Jul. 29 | 1 - 2:30PM
Sat., Aug. 20 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults and children | \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

Compass Reading

Find your way with a compass! Our experts will teach you the science of directions using this age old method.

Sat., Jul. 30 | 10 - 11:30AM
Wed., Aug. 17 | 5 - 6:30PM
For families with children ages 7 and up | Free - donations appreciated

Skulls, Skins, and Bones

Learn how skull, skin and bone structures differ in carnivores, omnivores and herbivores and meet some live animals in our Native Wisconsin Animal Room!

Sat., Aug. 13 | 9:30 - 10:30AM
For children between the ages of 7-12 | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12) | Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Animal Feeding

Help feed our resident animals!
Every Sat. | 1PM
For everyone | Free

Three Bridges Park Scavenger Hunt

There are twelve objects hidden all over Three Bridges Park. Can you find them all? An engaging scavenger hunt for kids and adults!

Sat., Aug. 13 | 10:30AM - 12:30PM
For adults and children ages 5 and older | Free - donations appreciated

Geocaching in the Valley

Be a part of a world-wide treasure hunt! We'll search for geocaches in the Menomonee Valley while we learn about the history of the land. GPS units are provided.

Sat., Aug. 13 | 2 - 3:30PM
For adults, teens, and children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) | Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Young Scientists Club

From hiking to gardening to helping with research to caring for our Center's animals, every day in the Young Scientists Club is a new adventure.

Topics:
July: Insects
August: Plants

Every Tue. & Thu. | 4 - 6PM
and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM
For ages 5-12 | \$10 annual membership

Friday Fishing Club

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

Every Fri. in Jul. | 4 - 5:30PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated



MENOMONEE VALLEY

Programs and Events

JULY & AUGUST

ADULT PROGRAMS

Saturday Sunshine Yoga on The Trail

Angela Smith of Zen Dragonfly will teach you the basics of yoga for every body type! If you are new to yoga and want to explore the benefits of a nourishing and easy to follow flow this is for you! We will get out into nature to enjoy the health benefits of the outdoors and of yoga practice. You will walk about peaceful and ready to enjoy the weekend. Meet at the Center and we'll walk out to the park. Bring your own yoga mat.

Sat., Jul. 2, 9 & 16 | 10 - 11:15AM

For adults and teens | \$5 per session (Nonmembers: \$10 per session)

Walk and Talk

Join Branch Manager Glenna and explore our building and Three Bridges Park.

Wed., Jul. 13 & Aug. 10 | NOON - 1PM

For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Free with New Member Certificate!

Early Morning Birdwalks

Kick-start your day with fresh air and bird song. Interested bird watchers of all ability levels are invited to explore Three Bridges Park for birds with us. Binoculars available.

Every Tue. | 8 - 10AM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

URBAN ADVENTURES

Water Safety Course

Borrow our boats for free! Become a contributing member, then take this on land, water safety course.

Every Fri. | 5 - 5:45PM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated | Membership required to borrow boats

Bicycle Riding for Beginners - Small Group Lessons

This 4-part series is the perfect way to ease back into bicycling. We'll start by working on balance and coordination, then get you riding on your own!

Every Sat., Jul. 2 - 16 | 9:30 - 11AM

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

Private Bicycling Lessons

Need a little help getting back to bicycling? Or are brand new to the sport? We can get you rolling! Work one-on-one with a private instructor and get out on the trails this summer.

Contact at Michael at mespinoza@urbanecologycenter.org or (414) 431-2940 to set up an appointment.

Bike Tours

Hidden History on the Hank Aaron State Trail

Trace the Valley's history on a leisurely bike tour from our branch to the lake. Stops include: Milwaukee Soldiers Home, Miller Park, Three Bridges Park, Lakeshore State Park and Purple Door Ice Cream. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours.

Sat., Jul. 2 | 9:30AM - NOON

Wed., Jul. 27 | 4 - 6:30PM

For adults | \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

Calvary & Forest Home Cemeteries

Take a leisurely bike tour of Calvary and Forest Home cemeteries. We'll stop by the graves of notable Milwaukee families and visit Wild Flour Bakery on our return. Route includes trails and side streets. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours.

Wed., Jul. 13 | 12:30 - 3PM

For adults | \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

Food and Drink on the Hank Aaron State Trail

Join for a tasty tour through Rishi Tea, The Twisted Fisherman, Purple Door Ice Cream, and Great Lakes Distillery. Fee covers tea tasting, seafood sample, alcohol samples, and a scoop of ice cream. This tour travels on trails and side streets. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours.

Fri., Jul. 22 | 12:30 - 4PM

For adults ages 21 and older

| \$15 (Nonmembers: \$20)

Mountain Biking Trails of Wauwatosa

Journey with us to Wauwatosa and visit "hidden" mountain biking trails. We'll round out our trip with a stop at Colectivo Coffee. This tour travels through trails and side streets. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours.

Wed., Aug. 3 | 4 - 6:30PM

For adults | \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Menomonee Valley Volunteer Orientation

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

Wed., Jul. 6 | 5 - 6:30PM

Wed., Jul. 27 | 4:30 - 6PM

Wed., Aug. 10 | 4:30 - 6PM

Thu., Aug. 25 | 5:30 - 7PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

ROOT Menomonee Valley

Come help us plant, weed and water Three Bridges Park and the green space along the Hank Aaron State Trail and around the Center.

Every Wed. | 9 - 11AM & 2:30 - 4:30PM

Every Thu. | 9 - 11AM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Fixin' Facilities

Help maintain our building, vehicles, equipment and park. There are a variety of projects from construction and painting, to repair and upkeep.

Every Thu. | 3 - 5PM

For everyone, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult | Free - donations appreciated

Youth Project Squad

Do upkeep projects with our staff.

Every Sat. | NOON - 2PM

For families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Park Ranger Crew

Every Sat. | 11AM - NOON

For everyone, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult | Free - donations appreciated

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 431-2940

3 IN PERSON:
Just stop by! 3700 W. Pierce St.



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.

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, Twitter and Instagram!

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 Join.

**GROWN UP
SUMMER
CAMP**

with

**Friday July 15
6-8:30pm
\$25 (\$20 for members)
at Riverside**



**Member
Appreciation
Ice Cream Social**
at all branches

FSC logo

IN THIS ISSUE

INTRODUCING A WALK OF 3 BILLION YEARS

by Ken Leinbach,

Studying nature is a great way to feel young...comparatively speaking, that is. The entire human race is like a newborn when compared to billion-year-old rocks. Thanks to a generous gift from the Franke family, we've created a way to explore this concept of time through nature. We're proud to introduce a new treasure, a 3 Billion Year Walk through the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum.

CRIKT

by Beth Heller

It is the season of showy butterflies, buzzing cicadas, crackling grass hopper wings and CRIKT research. Nope, that is not a typo. CRIKT stands for "Citizens Researching Invertebrate Kritters Together" and this research team at the Urban Ecology Center is leading the nation in its approach to field ecological research.

WALKING IN WASHINGTON PARK

by Martha Sudermann

"Good morning pretty lady!" exclaimed a Neighborhood Environmental Education Project student a few weeks ago, as I passed her class walking near the lagoon. I never quite know what to expect, as I head to work each morning. Her inviting smile and her silly demeanor were a welcome surprise. I knew I was going to have a good day.

Save the Date!



a benefit hike for the
Urban Ecology Center



Enjoy our 2nd annual leisurely hike
through scenic Milwaukee while
supporting the Center!

 **Family Friendly!** 

 **Create or Join a Team!** 

 **Explore Urban Nature!** 

**Sunday,
September 18th
2016**

(Don't worry, the Packers don't play until 7:30pm!)

MORE INFORMATION AT
urbanecologycenter.org/hkemke