



So Much Life!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Can a few words ever capture all that the Urban Ecology Center is? Take this real-life experience on the Milwaukee River, for example:

Full moon. Summer night. A beaver's tail slapped. The river glistened in the light. Baby ducklings twittered, their silhouettes lined up behind their mother. Bats skimmed the water and two bullfrogs competed with a gaa-rumph mating call.

How do you sum up all that? Or how about this memory:

Mid-day sun. Hot. Lunch on the Riverside Park tower to catch the cooling breeze. People loading boats below. Summer campers race each other to the Center from the woods. A family catches tadpoles in the pond. Shouts of accomplishment echo from the climbing wall. A bus unloads laughing students by the front door. Off in the distance moving colors dot the hills of the Arboretum as volunteers in bright T-shirts work with our stewardship team.

And that's just at one branch! Encapsulating all that we are and do seems daunting. But if you look closely there's one thing that weaves through the many threads of our work – life! There's so much life here!

At each branch of the Urban Ecology Center, an amazing amount of life has grown. We, in a robust partnership with nature, provide incredible native plant diversity to remediate Riverside Park, Washington Park and the Menomonee Valley. The plants attract a healthy array of insects, which then feed hundreds of species of birds. Amphibians are coming back. Beavers have come back. Fish not seen in these waters for nearly 100 years are coming back. And this is all happening right here in the most densely human-populated part of the entire state. It's the perfect win-win situation where we help create the conditions for life's abundance by strategically stewarding the land.

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Home Away From Home

by Raina J. Johnson, Community Member

photo credit:
Vogue Dreams LLC

This past summer, the Menomonee Valley Young Scientists Club and their parents took an overnight camping trip to western Wisconsin. Many thanks to Raina J. Johnson for sharing her thoughts on this, her first camping trip!

As a child, my bed was flush up against the window in my bedroom. That window provided me with my first encounters with nature.

In winter, I was so mesmerized by the snow-capped trees and gently covered ground, I would stare out the window for hours. It became a sort of game for me to decipher when the deer would pop out from beyond the trees. In summer, the breeze would come through the open window and at night the crickets would put me to sleep. In the springtime, I'd eagerly await the flowers and the smells that would come from the forest. In the fall, I'd wake up with sunlight peeking through the blinds, and when the blinds were fully opened, the changing of the leaves captured my breath.

Our family home was across the street from Havenwoods State Forest in Milwaukee, but as a child my bedroom window was the closest I'd get to camping.

Twenty years later, I have curiosity and a love of nature that would never go away.

Last month with the help of the Urban Ecology Center, I received the opportunity to go camping, real camping – with tents, sleeping bags and fire – completely immersed in nature that I once looked at only through my bedroom window.



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Branch Highlights

RIVERSIDE PARK

There's something for everyone at Riverside. Gather your friends and family for HKE MKE on September 18. Adults, come back on September 24 for Ferment!Milwaukee. Teens, challenge yourselves at the Teen Survival Challenge on October 14. Kids, enjoy exploring at Enchanted Forest on October 22.

WASHINGTON PARK

Come celebrate the fall at our Autumn Celebration happening on Saturday October 29 from noon - 4pm. Enjoy music, face painting, food, apple cider, and much, much more. Be a part of so much life at the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park.

MENOMONEE VALLEY

We have exciting news in the Valley! We are adding more schools to our Neighborhood Environmental Education Project field trip program. That means you'll see new staff, new buses, and most importantly many more kiddos around. Thanks to your support we're thrilled to connect even more kids with nature!

Home Away From Home

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My 6-year-old son, Elijah has been participating in Menomonee Valley's Young Scientists Club (YSC) for almost a year and it's been a really great experience for both of us. The branch is within walking distance from our home and it's truly become a home away from home and an oasis for us city dwellers.

When the offer to go on an overnight camping trip with the YSC (parents, too), with tents and sleeping bags was presented by the staff, I couldn't resist. The itinerary was beautifully laid out with activities from sweep netting to a campfire, complete with songs, stories, s'mores, a nighttime hike, sharing circles and canoeing.

In the days leading up to our adventure, I couldn't stop thinking about how excited I was to finally experience camping. As we left, I enjoyed talking to the staff about what to expect. We were given tents and my face lit up with excitement. With a few instructions and help from some seasoned camper children, we got our tents up. We put the rain fly on backwards but Mr. Michael came over to help

us and explained the importance of the rain fly.

After we successfully put up our tents, we gathered as a group and made dinner, which included a lesson on how to build a fire. We walked along the trails at the Blue Heron Wildlife Sanctuary and studied the flowers along the way. We ended our one-night camping trip with a roaring fire, classic campfire songs, games, nature poetry and of course s'mores.

Waking up in the tent that I helped set up was a satisfying feeling. The early sun light shined into the dome, making the tent hotter than I anticipated for sleeping outside, but the warmth was welcomed after a cool night.

All in all, the camping experience was a worthwhile learning experience for my entire family. The thoughts I developed outside my bedroom window as a child were fulfilled beyond my wildest dreams and I have the Urban Ecology Center to thank for that. 🍂



presented by



Rotary
Club of Milwaukee

Sunday, September 18th 2016

9AM - 1PM (Don't worry, the Packers don't play until 7:30pm!)

2.5-mile hike begins and ends at Riverside Park

TO REGISTER TODAY OR FOR MORE INFO VISIT urbanecologycenter.org/hkemke

Credits:



Carijean Buhk
Editor

The Urban Ecology Center Newsletter is created and distributed through a team effort by the following people: Carijean Buhk, Matthew Gnas, Judy Krause, Jeff McAvoy and Pat Mueller. Contributing writers: Beth Heller, Raina J. Johnson and Ken Leinbach.

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DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE

- Costa Rica 2017: Cloud Forests, Volcanoes and Waterfalls!** We are excited to offer an eco-travel expedition to the Republic of Costa Rica from February 1st -12th, 2017! The 12-day excursion begins with a visit to Poás Volcano National Park, followed by an exploration of the Sarapaqui region where you can either go white-water rafting or take a leisurely wildlife-watching boat tour. Get an adrenaline rush on a zip-line tour and then relax in the hot springs near Arenal Volcano. During the Rainforest Chocolate Tour we'll make our own chocolate using traditional methods. We'll visit the cloud forests of Monteverde to get an in-depth look at bats and visit the Children's Eternal Rain Forest. Then we head to the Tropical Dry Forests of Guanacaste, home of some of the world's most picturesque waterfalls! The last days of the trip we will relax on the beaches of the Nicoya Peninsula. **Sign-up for this trip at our information session on Monday, September 12th at 5:30pm.**
- Yes, You Can Be a Visionary!** Over the years we've had visionary friends who have wanted to ensure that the work of our organization can continue well into the future. These loyal friends made gifts, of all sizes, to turn this idea into reality and so can you! Your gifts of time, talents and financial resources are vital to programs that change lives every day! We plan and strategize on how we can impact more lives and expand the reach of our programs like the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project, Citizen Science, Summer Camp and Land Stewardship that impact lives throughout our community. What about next year? 10 years from now? 20 years from now? Our endowment at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation that helps us now, with funding for current needs as well as providing for a strong future. We have opportunities for more visionaries, like you! Please contact Jen Hense, Director of Development at jhense@urbanecologycenter.org or 414-964-8505 to learn more about planned giving.



Photo: Maddie Bird

So much life



Photo: Willie Karidis



Photo: Barbara J. Miner



Photo: Mike Fowler



Photo: Eric Marks



Photo: Chris Winters



Photo: Kim Fedrick





Experiencing Nature Without Sight

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Mary (not her real name) was excited. She could smell the earthiness and hear the wind rustling the trees that told her that today's lesson was going to be outdoors. She bounced slightly from foot to foot as her favorite Urban Ecology Center educator, Ms. Regina, described the day's activities.

"Can I run now?" Mary asked her teacher from school.

"Yes, go for it!" her teacher replied. Smiling, Mary ran across the field, exhilarated by the fresh air and the ground pounding beneath her feet. Her teacher was smiling too, grateful that Mary, one of her class of visually impaired and blind students, could explore nature just like any other child.

Students who are blind and visually impaired take part in all of the Urban Ecology Center field trip activities. Shuffling into the river in hip waders to catch bugs and study water quality. Paddling a canoe to become familiar with a pond ecosystem. Pushing and stretching up the tower on our climbing wall to explore risk, team building and balance. Tapping maple trees to examine tree physiology. Snowshoeing on a winter ecology hike. Finding decomposers and learning about nutrient cycles. Everything!

So Much Life!

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then provides the perfect site for education, recreation, reflection and volunteerism.

But where do you even begin when you want to tell someone about all this life? Turns out, like in other "aha" moments we've had at the Center, our answer came from our community.

Last spring, a communications consulting class from Marquette University closely observed the abounding natural and human life that is the Urban Ecology Center. Six teams of students studied our organization and interviewed our staff, members and friends

According to Regina, "So much of teaching is visually centered. Our most challenging aspect of working with students who are blind and visually impaired was learning how to help them create an image of the environment around them via auditory, tactile, and olfactory senses." With some adjustment, she and her colleagues developed safe, hands-on learning opportunities for these students. The result? Big smiles and engagement in the subject matter.

Every day our environmental educators create opportunities for students to tap into their natural sense of awe and transform their heart and minds as they connect to nature. It isn't every day that they are awarded for their work. In a heartfelt ceremony at close of the school year, students with visual impairments from our partnering schools recognized two of our staff, Regina Miller and Matt Flower, with an award from the Wisconsin Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Three different partnering schools (Gaenslen Elementary, Lincoln Middle School and Longfellow Elementary) came together to recommend Matt and Regina for the positive impact they have had with their students. We are honored and share our

in order to gain a deeper insight into who we are as a whole. The students did extensive research of the many parts of each of the three Urban Ecology Center branches. In addition to making formal recommendations, one team offered extra insights outside of their project scope. They made a casual observation: each branch has so much life.

So much life! The words rolled around in our heads. Short and sweet, positive, catchy, honest and to the point. That's it! Urban Ecology Center — So Much Life!

appreciation for Matt and Regina's work with all students from our partnering schools.

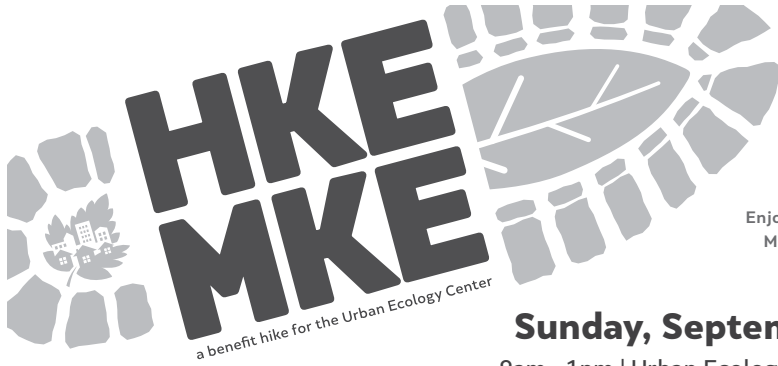
You don't need to be a school student or have strong eyesight to enjoy a visit to the Center. I am pleased to announce that we also now have a "Sensory Kit" at each branch designed to provide a hands-on tour using touch and smell rather than sight as sensory input. The kit combines information about the Center in braille with objects that capture the theme of each part of the tour. This was created by our Visitor Services team after Cheryl Orgas, Director of Audio and Braille Learning Enhancement (ABLE) expressed interest in partnering with us. In working with ABLE, the Visitor Services staff realized that some aspects of our branches were engaging and some were pretty discouraging for visitors who were visually impaired. The team took the feedback to heart, participated in trainings with ABLE and developed this new experience for our visitors. We are delighted to share it with you!

Like the young girl running across the field, we invite you to get outside to smell the sweet, earthy odor of autumn, feel yourself connect to nature and explore Center in this new way. Please join us! 🌿

So Much Life — be it talking about our school programs, our community programs, our restoration work, equipment lending and even our facility rental programs that keep the place hopping with happy occasions like weddings, bar mitzvahs and the like.

Look for the phrase "So Much Life" in our communications and use it with your friends. When they ask why you're a part of the Urban Ecology Center, just say "Because there's So Much Life!" 🌿

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS



presented by



Enjoy a leisurely hike through scenic Milwaukee while supporting the Urban Ecology Center!

Sunday, September 18th 2016

9am - 1pm | Urban Ecology Center - Riverside Park
(Don't worry, the Packers don't play until 7:30pm!)

Registration: Adults: \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25) Children (ages 6 - 17): \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15) Ages 5 or younger are free

TO REGISTER TODAY OR FOR MORE INFO VISIT urbanecologycenter.org/hkemke

FERMENT!MILWAUKEE

Exploring the culinary & health benefits of fermentation

Meet local fermentation experts and vendors who sell fermented food products. We'll have workshops and more!

Saturday, September 24
10am - 3pm

For adults and accompanied teens
Free - donations appreciated

Our Riverside Park branch will be closed on September 5 and from September 21-22. In addition, the branch will be closing at 5pm on September 20.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Enchanted Forest

See Riverside Park come alive at night. Visitors to the Enchanted Forest will meet characters on a guided, candlelit walk through the park. Afterwards, come inside for games, crafts and hot apple cider. Register in advance for a hike time. Costumes encouraged!

Sat. Oct. 22 | 5:30 - 7:30PM
For everyone | Adults: \$6
(Nonmembers: \$9) Children
\$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Autumn Encounters with Nature

Explore seasonal changes including how animals get ready for the cold months ahead, weather science, a study of the abiotic (non-living) environment (like sun, soil and air). Designed for kids ages 5-8 years old.

Sat. Oct. 8 | 10AM - NOON
Wed. Oct. 12 | 5 - 7PM
For adults and kids | \$5
(Nonmembers: \$7)

Girl Scouts: Nature at Night

Discover the cool adaptations that different nocturnal animals use. We'll take a guided night hike to test our own nocturnal abilities!

Wed. Oct. 19 | 6:30 - 8:30PM
For Girl Scouts in 2nd and 3rd grades | \$7 per scout
To register, visit gswise.org

Animal Feeding

Every Sat. except Oct. 24 | 1PM
For everyone | Free

Saturday Preschool Series

Enjoy exploring nature together! We'll have seasonal indoor and outdoor play, songs and stories. Please dress for playing outdoors. Themes are: September - Autumn Ventures, October - Animal Disguises

Sat. Sep. 10 & Oct. 1
| 10:30 - 11:30 AM
For children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult | Adults: \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Children: \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Orientation

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

Sat. Sep. 10 | 10:30AM - NOON
Fri. Sep. 23 | 3 - 4:30PM
Tue. Sep. 27 | 5:30 - 7PM
Fri. Oct. 7 | 3 - 4:30PM
Sat. Oct. 15 | 10:30AM - NOON
Mon. Oct. 24 | 5:30 - 7PM
For adults and teens | Free

ROOT Riverside Park

Every Tue. | 9 - 11AM & 2 - 4PM
Every Fri. | 2 - 4PM
Every 1st and 3rd Sat. | 9:30 - 11AM
For adults, families and teens | Free

Fixin' Facilities

Come help maintain our building, vehicles, park and playground.
New day! Every Thu., | 3 - 5PM
For adults, families and teens | Free

Volunteer Papermaking

Join other volunteers and learn the art of recycled papermaking, then practice your new skill by creating beautiful gifts for our supporters.
New day! Every Mon. starting
Sep. 12 | 4:30 - 6PM
For adults and teens | Free

INTEREST GROUPS

Ojibwe Language Study Group

Every Mon. except Sep. 5 | 6 - 8PM

Photo Club

Thu. Sep. 1 & Oct. 6 | 6:30 - 9PM

Community Vegan Potluck

Tue. Sep. 6 & Oct. 4 | 6:30 - 8PM

Urban Echo Poets

Thu. Sep. 8 & Oct. 13 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Stargazers

Thu. Sep. 8 & Oct. 13 | 7 - 8:30PM

350.org General Meeting

Tue. Sep. 13 & Oct. 11 | 7 - 8:30PM

Friends of Real Food:

Potluck Dinner and Program
Thu., Sep. 15 & Oct. 20 | 6 - 8PM

Faith and Ecology

Tue. Sep. 20 & Oct. 18 | 7 - 8:30PM

Birdwalks

Every Thu. | 8AM

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.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Summer Tree Identification

Is that an oak or an aspen? Join our Forester, Caitlin Reinartz, and learn how to identify native trees. Dress for the weather. Please register for each class separately.

Poplars, Basswood and Legume

Family Thu. Sep. 1 | 5 - 7PM

The Conifers, Part 1

Thu. Sep. 8 | 5 - 7PM

The Conifers, Part 2

Thu. Sep. 15 | 5 - 7PM

For adults | \$7 per class (Nonmembers: \$10 per class) UEC Land Stewardship volunteers: \$5 per class

Tiffany Bottoms State Natural Area

Take an overnight exploration of the Mississippi River corridor. Trip includes Tiffany Bottoms train ride, transportation, accommodations, sightseeing and meals. Register by September 5th.

Fri. Sep. 9, 8AM - Sat. Sep. 10, 7PM

For everybody | \$265 (Nonmembers \$275)

Eco-travel: Costa Rica 2017 - Cloud Forests, Volcanoes and Waterfalls!

We are excited to offer an eco-travel trip to the Republic of Costa Rica, February 1st - 12th, 2017. This session provides an overview of the trip and details on how to sign up.

Mon. Sep. 12 | 5:30 - 6:30PM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Walk and Talk Series

Sats., Sep. 24 & Oct. 29 | 10 - 11AM

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

Medicine in Ethnic Communities in Israel

Cosponsored by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation

Professor Zohara Yaniv-Bachrach shares Israeli ethnobotany and the contributions of Bedouins, Yemenites and Ethiopians to the beliefs about the origin of disease and healing.

Mon. Sep. 19 | 7 - 8PM

For adults | Free

Sustainable Coffee Tasting

Enjoy your morning brew with coffee experts from the Pendulum Coffee.

Sat. Sep. 10 & Oct. 8 | 10 - 11AM

For adults | \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Picassiette Mosaics Workshops

Expand your creativity through picassiette, a form of mosaic created with china and other elements that you break and shape into new, stunning patterns. Fee includes use of tools and materials. Registration required by 5pm on September 23rd.

Suns. Sep. 25 - Oct. 16 | 1 - 4PM

For adults | \$160 (Nonmembers: \$175)

The Spice Box: Pakistani Cooking with White Jasmine

Hosted by The Mindful Palate

Join Huma Siddiqui, cooking instructor and President of White Jasmine, as she prepares four recipes using her signature spice blends. You'll receive a copy of her book *Jasmine in Her Hair*. Please register by September 16th.

Sat. Oct. 1 | 11AM - 1PM

For adults | \$60 (Nonmembers: \$75)

From Beak to Tail:

All About the Life of Birds

Join us for an in-depth look into the wonders of bird ecology, conservation and behavior. Includes a dusk walk. Binoculars provided.

Sat. Oct. 29 | 3 - 4:30PM

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

Autumn Naturalist Workshop

Discover soil science, forest ecology, water quality and more. Registration required by October 4th at 5pm.

Wed. Oct. 5 | 5 - 7:30PM

Sat. Oct. 15 | 10AM - 12:30PM

For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Art Opening Reception

- C. Matthew Luther and Ellen McGaughey

C. Matthew Luther will exhibit scenes from *Superfund Wisconsin*, an archive of environmental pollution. Ellen McGaughey's crane series paintings celebrate Sandhill and Whooping Cranes. Artists speak at 6pm.

Thu. Oct. 13 | 5 - 7PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

URBAN ADVENTURES

Water Safety Course

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

Every Sun. in Sep. | 1 - 1:45PM

Every Mon. in Sep. except

Sep. 5 | 6 - 6:45PM

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

Canoeing/Kayaking

Kinnickinnic River Paddle

Get to know Milwaukee's smallest, but most densely populated urban watershed. Equipment provided. Meet at 2011 S. 1st St. Registration required by September 1st at 5pm.

Sat. Sep. 3 | 9:30AM - 12:30PM

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

History of Milwaukee by Canoe

Discover the history of downtown Milwaukee as well as explore ecological issues facing the river today. Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St.). Registration is required at least 24 hours before the program start time.

Sun. Sep. 4 | 9AM - NOON

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

Full Moon Canoe

Paddle with the full moon above and reflected city lights below. Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St.). Registration and nonrefundable payment required by September 15th at 5pm.

Fri. Sep. 16 | 7:30 - 10PM

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

Birding By Canoe: Des Plaines River

Take a leisurely 6.5 mile paddle through forested floodplains and beaver dams on the Des Plaines River in Kenosha County to look for fall migrants among the peak foliage. Canoes and PFDs provided. Please dress for the weather and bring a lunch. Location may change due to current water levels.

Sat. Oct. 15 | 8AM - 5PM

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

Climbing

Open Climb

Stop and enjoy climbing our three story rock wall. All equipment is provided and trained belayers are on hand to assist.

Sun. Sep. 11, 18 & 25 | 2 - 4PM

For adults, teens, and families | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12) Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Free Open Climb

Curious about rock climbing? Come try it out for free! Each participant will receive one free climb, with the possibility for additional climbs if time allows. First come, first served in the order of arrival and signed waiver. Come and climb - you might just get hooked!

Sun. Sep. 4 | 2 - 4PM

For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated

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.

Fri., Sep. 2 | 10AM - 5PM

Sat., Sep. 3 | 10AM - 5PM

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

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Celebrate a beautiful autumn in Washington Park! Join us for fall food and drinks, pumpkin carving, entertainment and fun for all ages.



Saturday, October 29

NOON - 4PM
For everyone | Free

Autumn Celebration for Afternoon Nappers

Kids ages 3 to 5 accompanied by an adult will enjoy a craft, hike and puppet show and still get home for their afternoon nap. Space is limited.

Saturday, October 29 | 10:30AM - NOON

For accompanied children ages 3-5 | Free
Register by October 27

Community-based Decision Making

As Chair the Environmental Justice Task Force for the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Committee and Director of Workforce Development for Kenosha County, Adelene Greene is involved first hand in community initiatives that promote equity, diversity, peace, tolerance and understanding. She believes that it is essential for communities of color to be involved in the decision-making process to create permanent change. Learn how minorities are planning and building an inclusive community.

Tuesday October 11 | 7 - 8:30PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Animal Feeding

Come one, come all! Help feed the Center's resident turtles, snakes, fish and more!

Every Sat. | 1PM
For everyone | Free

Young Scientists Club

Do you know a child who is interested in science and nature? 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.

Every Tue. - Fri. except Sep. 21-22, 28 | 4 - 6PM and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM
For kids ages 7-12 | \$10 annual membership

Exploring Your Neighborhood with the Washington Park Library

Stop by the Washington Park Library to learn what makes this neighborhood so special. We'll have activities, books, crafts and fun with staff from the library and the Urban Ecology Center.

Every Tue. Sep. 27 - Oct. 18 | 3:30 - 5:30PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Orientation

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

Sat. Sep. 17 | 10:30 - 11:30AM
Thu. Sep. 29 | 5:30 - 6:30PM
Sat. Oct. 1 | 10:30 - 11:30AM
Wed. Oct. 12 | 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
Every Fri. | 9 - 11AM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Fixin' Facilities at Washington Park

Come help maintain our building and vehicles.

Every Fri. | 2 - 4PM
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



**New hours starting
September 1st!**

New branch hours are: Tuesday - Thursday: Noon - 7pm,
Friday: Noon - 6pm, Saturday: 9am - 5pm

**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

Move Grass Series

Hosted by the Victory Garden Initiative

Fall Gardening — Starting Early

Greens and peas in November? Crazy! We'll give you tools to plan ahead for an abundant fall harvest that will reap a second round of spring and summer favorites.

Thu. Sep. 15 | 6 - 7:30PM
For adults | \$12 members, students and seniors (Nonmembers: \$20)

Soil Rehab

Great vegetables start with awesome soil. Learn how to handle contaminants, identify soil types and improve your soil through composting, mulching, vermicomposting and more.

Thu. Sep. 29 | 6 - 7:30PM
For adults | \$12 members, students and seniors (Nonmembers: \$20)

Aquaponics 101

From fresh fish to fresh greens, learn about the amazing closed-loop system that is aquaponics. We'll set up a demonstration tank and help you create a system in your home.

Thu. Oct. 13 | 6 - 7:30PM
For adults | \$12 members, students and seniors (Nonmembers: \$20)

Aromatherapy

Essential oils can help manage insomnia, restore tired feet and alleviate stress. Learn from a Certified Clinical Aromatherapist how essential oils can help you live a healthier and calmer life.

Thu. Oct. 27 | 6 - 7:30PM
For adults | \$12 members, students and seniors (Nonmembers: \$20)

Home Brewing Basics Series

In this two-session series, we will explore the natural process of fermentation and brew a batch of ale together. The price includes four bottles of finished beer. For adults age 21 and over. Please register by Saturday, October 8th.

Session 1: Equipment, recipes, preparation and fermentation

Wed. Oct. 12 | 6 - 8PM

Session 2: Bottling and aging

Wed. Oct. 26 | 6 - 8PM
For adults age 21 and older | \$15 (Nonmembers: \$20)

Make Your Own Sourdough Bread

Learn the process of making your own sourdough bread from start to finish. We'll even send you home with a starter to try it yourself! Please register by Saturday, October 15.

Tue. Oct. 18 | 6 - 7:30PM
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Walk & Talk

Join our Branch Manager, Terry, to explore Washington Park.

Wed., Sep. 21 & Oct. 19 |
4:30 - 5:30PM
For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)
Free with New Member Certificate!

Korean Cooking : *Harvest Festival Noodles and More!*

Join Saehee Chang, a local Korean culture consultant and cook, and discover the Korean Fall Harvest Festival. Participants will make Jap Chae, Sweet Potato Noodles with seasonal vegetables and savory Kimchi Pancakes! We will cook together and celebrate the bountiful harvest of the fall season!

Sat. Oct. 1 | 2 - 3:30PM
For everyone | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12) Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Early Morning Bird Walks

Every Wed. | 8 - 10AM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

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)

Zumba Fitness

Dance to great music and burn a ton of calories without even realizing it with Zumba Fitness. These classes are open to all ages and skill levels.

Every Wed. except Sep. 21 |
5:30 - 6:15PM
Every Wed. except Sep. 21 |
6:30 - 7:30PM
For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

URBAN ADVENTURES

Canoeing for Beginners

The Washington Park Lagoon is a beautiful, calm and spacious body of water for learning 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. Sep. 3 | 10:30AM - NOON
For adults and accompanied children age 6 and up | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Fall Family Paddle

Celebrate the coming of autumn with a relaxing afternoon paddle. Enjoy guided canoeing and nature activities around our beautiful lagoon. All skill levels welcome! Please register by Friday, September 9th.

Sat. Sep. 10 | 1 - 3PM
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$6)

Water Safety Course

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

Every Sat. through Oct. 8 | 10 - 10:30AM
For adults | Free - donations appreciated | Membership required to borrow boats

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Saturday Sunshine Yoga on The Trail

Led by Angela Smith of Zen Dragonfly, this six week series 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. Sep. 3, 10, Oct. 1 & Oct. 8 | 9 - 10AM

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

Recycled Halloween Art

Make amazing Halloween art out of recycled materials. We will supply the materials and ideas. Drop-in with your family for Halloween fun!

Sat. Oct. 29 | 10AM - 4PM

For adults and accompanied children |

Free - donations appreciated

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Little Explorers

Morning Playgroup

Preschool is the age of discovery and we're here to help your kids learn and explore! Join us on the 2nd Friday of the month for our preschool playgroup. We have activities (including our secret slide) specifically designed to engage the senses of children ages 4 and under.

Fri. Sep. 9 & Oct. 14 | 11AM - NOON

For children ages 4 and younger |

Free - donations appreciated

Three Bridges Park Explorers

Take this self guided exploration of Three Bridges Park and search for the most popular bird species and natural treasures. Perfect for kids and adults! Stop by the front desk for a copy of the Urban Ecology Center's Three Bridges Park Explorers Guide, then get outside!

Sat. Sep. 17 | 9:30AM - 4PM

For adults and children | Free

- donations appreciated

Animal Feeding

Help feed our resident animals!

Every Sat. | 1PM

For everyone | Free

Skulls, Skins, and Bones

Whether grinding plants or tearing meat, animals have unique skull, skin and bone structures that help them survive. Stop by anytime for a hands-on exploration of how these structures differ in carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. We'll also meet some real live animals in our Native Wisconsin Animal Room.

Sat. Sep. 17 | 9:30AM - 4PM

For families | Free -

donations appreciated

Photo Phenology

Get out your cameras and watch the Valley change over the seasons and through the years! This club meets each month to take photographs and draw pictures of the natural area around the Center. We hope to create a picture record to help us understand the way the Valley is changing and the factors at play. Bring a camera if you can, but no photography experience necessary; we will learn as we go!

Sat. Sep. 24 & Oct. 22 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults, teens and families |

Free - donations appreciated

International Food and Art Walk

Travel the world in Silver City, the neighborhood where our Menomonee Valley branch is located! Enjoy art at the Center and other spaces in the neighborhood while sampling cuisine from Thailand, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Peru, China and Vietnam. For more info, visit www.lbwn.org/ifaw.

Sat. Sep. 24 | noon - 5PM

For everyone | 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. Sep. 29 & Oct. 27 | 4:15 - 5:45PM

For families with children | 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 and learn about the land. GPS units are provided.

Sat. Oct. 15 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults, teens, and children |

Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9)

Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Spinning Spiders

Discover the amazing skills and characteristics of spiders. We will explore Three Bridges Park for evidence of spider activity.

Sat. Oct. 22 | 10 - 11:30AM

For families with children ages 5-10 |

\$3 per child (Nonmembers: \$5 per child)

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.

Every Tue. & Thu. except Sep. 22 |

4 - 6PM and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM

For ages 5-12 | \$10 annual membership

EcoArt Wednesdays

Join us for nature inspired recycled arts and crafts. Take home your very own creation every week!

Every Wed. except

Sep. 21 | 4 - 5:30PM

For families with children age 12 and younger | Free - donations appreciated



**New hours starting
September 1st!**

New branch hours are: Tuesday - Thursday: Noon - 7pm,
Friday: Noon - 6pm, Saturday: 9am - 5pm

**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.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Walk and Talk at Menomonee Valley

Join our branch manager, Glenna, to explore both our building and Three Bridges Park.

Wed. Sep. 14 & Oct. 12 | NOON - 1PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

From Beak to Tail:

All About the Life of Birds

Join Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science, for an in-depth look into the wonders of bird ecology, conservation and behavior. This is an ongoing series you can jump into at any point. The program features a lecture, discussion and a dusk walk. Beginning through advanced birders welcome. Binoculars provided.

Sat. Sep. 24 | 3 - 4:30PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Plant Walk in Three Bridges Park

Join Land Steward Jeff Veglahn for a walk in Three Bridges Park. Find out what's in bloom and learn how to identify native wildflowers, grasses and trees. Please register by Friday, October 21st.

Sat. Oct. 22 | 9:30 - 11AM
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

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

Bike Tours

Hidden History on the Hank Aaron State Trail

Take our leisurely bike tour along the Hank Aaron State Trail from our Menomonee Valley branch to the lake. Trace the Valley's history from a production center renowned for its rail cars through its transformation into a national model of sustainable development. Stops include: Milwaukee Soldiers Home, Miller Park, Three Bridges Park, the site of the Milwaukee Road Shops train building complex, Lakeshore State Park and Purple Door Ice Cream. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours.

Sat. Sep. 3 | 9:30AM - NOON
For adults | \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

Forest Home & Pilgrim's Rest Cemeteries

See the graves of notable Milwaukee families on this leisurely bike tour of Forest Home and Pilgrim's Rest cemeteries. We'll stop by beer barons Blatz, Schlitz and Pabst, and industrialists Bradley and Davidson before making our way to Pilgrim's Rest Cemetery. On our return we will visit south side favorite, Wild Flour Bakery, before making our way back. This tour travels through trails and side streets. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours.

Sat. Sep. 10 | 9:30AM - NOON
For adults | \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

Mountain Biking Trails of Wauwatosa

Journey west on the Hank Aaron State Trail to Jacobus and Doyne Parks and explore mountain biking trails discovered by our biking campers last summer. 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.

Sat. Oct. 8 | 9:30AM - NOON
For adults | \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

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 Fri. through Oct. 7 | 5 - 5:45PM
For adults | Free - donations appreciated | Membership required to borrow boats

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Menomonee Valley Volunteer Orientation

Want to spend more time outside? Looking to work alongside ecologically-minded people? Interested in sharing your gifts with the community? Come find out how you can contribute your time and talents to the Urban Ecology Center.

Thu. Sep. 8 | 5:30 - 7PM
Tue. Sep. 20 | 5:30 - 7PM
Sat. Oct. 8 | 10:30AM - NOON
Tue. Oct. 18 | 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. except
Sep. 21 | 9 - 11AM
Every Wed. except
Sep. 21 | 2:30 - 4:30PM
Every Thu. except
Sep. 22 | 9 - 11AM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Fixin' Facilities

Are you handy? Do you want to learn new skills? Help maintain our building, vehicles, equipment and park. There are a variety of projects from construction and painting, to repair and upkeep.

New day and time!
Every Fri. | 3 - 5PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Volunteer Park Rangers

Help keep our parks clean, safe and accessible. Dress for the weather and join other volunteers as we walk through the park picking up trash and noting any maintenance needs.

Every Sat. | 11AM - NOON
For everyone, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult | Free - donations appreciated



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
tevans@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Thursday: Noon - 7pm
Friday: Noon - 6pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm

New hours!

Menomonee Valley

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

Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Thursday: Noon - 7pm
Friday: Noon - 6pm
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.

See page 5
for details



Sunday, September 18th 2016
9am - 1pm | Urban Ecology Center - Riverside Park
(Don't worry, the Packers don't play until 7:30pm!)



FSC logo



Enjoy a leisurely hike through scenic Milwaukee
while supporting the Urban Ecology Center!

Family Friendly!

Create or Join a Team!

Explore Urban Nature!

Sunday, September 18th 2016

9AM - 1PM (Don't worry, the Packers don't play until 7:30pm!)

2.5-mile hike begins and ends at Riverside Park

REGISTER TODAY!
urbanecologycenter.org/hkemke