



The Hidden Secret to Our Success

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

"Hello Ed, is this a good time to discuss the terms of the lease for the Arboretum project?"... "Wait, are you sure?"... "You mean you are in Hamburg, Germany and it's midnight over there?"... "I can't believe you took my call! Thanks for agreeing to help."

And on another day...

"Hi Andre, we have a situation we need to address at the Center— do you mind taking a minute to discuss this with me?"... "Thanks"... are you at an airport? I just heard an announcement in the background?"... "You are in Moscow on your way to Siberia! That's crazy! You sound like you are in the same room with me, what time is it?"... "11pm!"... "Wow, thanks for taking my call!"

I am often uncomfortable with the credit that I get for the successes of the Urban Ecology Center. I'm sorry, but you just don't grow a three branch multi-million dollar organization by yourself. It takes a lot of skilled and dedicated people...a lot of them. Many of you have had experiences with our talented staff, but the hidden secret behind our Center's success is in fact my boss...or shall I say bosses. I'm speaking here of our Board of Directors. These are people like Ed and Andre that give of their valuable time to our important mission — even at odd hours from the opposite side of the world!

In the nonprofit world, it is actually a team of volunteers that is responsible for governing the agency and ensuring that the organization is fiscally sound. This same group hires, fires and manages the Executive Director...that would be me (thankfully, not fired yet). At any given time the Urban Ecology Center has somewhere between 20 and 30 Board members.

We have an exceptional Board and always have...it's amazing!

continued on page 11



Greater and Greener: A Global Perspective on Urban Parks

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Imagine walking up two flights of stairs under a decommissioned, elevated freight rail surrounded by high rises, street vendors and droves of people. As you reach the platform, you emerge into the lush greenery of a vibrant park buzzing with thousands of visitors. Well above the hot pavement of the streets below, the dry, intense heat of the city is replaced by moist fresh air and shade. For readers familiar with New York City's relatively new attraction, you may have guessed that this is The High Line, a 1.45 mile park, constructed in the heart of Manhattan not too far from the Hudson River.



New York City Mayor Bloomberg calls The High Line, "a treasured neighborhood oasis". He stated, "In the three short years since the first section opened as a park, The High Line has become a significant generator of economic activity for the entire city and a celebrated icon for planners, designers and leaders around the world." The rail (CSX) has donated an additional 4 blocks to the city to extend the park.

Along with keynote speakers Mayor Bloomberg, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Eco-entrepreneur Majora Carter, and Daphne Miller, MD, the Urban Ecology Center was invited to share its story with over 800 people traveling from around the world and the country. Participants in the Public Park Alliance's Greater and Greener conference were charged with re-imagining urban parks for the 21st century. As

continued on page 4

Branch Highlights

RIVERSIDE PARK

Access for all! We want everyone to enjoy Riverside Park so we are repairing the park's existing pavement and adding a new access point to the Oak Leaf trail. These additions will help people who use mobility devices and families with strollers to more easily get out into nature.

WASHINGTON PARK

Big changes at Washington Park! Our new Wisconsin Native Animal Room is opening late summer. Come see "Lake Wisconsin", our 560 gallon fish tank, made possible by a Dream Big grant from Lead2Change. Read more about our Animal Room transformation on page 12.

MENOMONEE VALLEY

It's time! We are thrilled to officially open our Menomonee Valley branch to the public on September 8! Join us for the celebration, then come visit during our open hours, Tuesday - Friday noon-7pm and Saturday, 9am-5pm. We're excited to begin great work in a new neighborhood!



New Fiscal Year, New Branch, New Newsletter!

by Jeff McAvoy, Marketing Communications Manager

Notice anything different about this newsletter? We've made lots of changes and I want to explain some of the thinking behind the decisions we made. In the end, I think we've come up with some great additions and I hope you'll like the new design!

So, what's new?

See for Yourself! (No really, see what's happened with your support)

What better way to communicate the impact of our work to our readers than through photos? This new section is designed to *show* you what we've been up to. Captions help to provide some background information and context for what you're seeing. We get to see these wonderful scenes nearly every day and we love it! We thought you would like to enjoy them as well.

Programs & Events Quick Guide

The "Quick Guide" was designed to give you the full listing of programs happening at our three branches with all of the essential

details you need. Full descriptions of the programs and registration forms are now on the easy-to-use calendar section of our website. Additionally, because each program category is on a separate page, each page of the quick guide can act as its own stand alone flyer. Feel free to hang up whichever section(s) interest you most: Special Events, Family Programs, Adult Learning, Urban Adventures or Volunteer Opportunities/Interest Groups.

Branch Highlights

This brief new feature on the front page of the newsletter lets you know a quick update of what's happening at each of our branches. Look for more information about activity at the branches in the articles.

You'll notice lots of other little tweaks and changes throughout the newsletter too, like author photos and the new table of contents on the outer cover. Overall, we hope you'll love the new changes as much as we do! 🌱



This Place *Is* Real

by Glenna Holstein, Branch Manager, Menomonee Valley

I don't remember the first time I walked into the Urban Ecology Center. This strikes me as unfortunate, because I have since witnessed many people's first encounter with the Center, and it can be pretty incredible. I love watching people's faces as the energy of the amazing work happening here breaks over them and they think, "This place is *here*? This is *real*?"

My most recent experience of this occurred at the new Menomonee Valley branch. One afternoon, I looked out the window and noticed a group of kids gathering on the bike path. I had seen them around often and was curious as to what they were up to. As I watched, it became clear that they were carefully laying rocks across the path, apparently hoping that some hapless biker would be amusingly upended by their construction.

continued on page 12

Credits:



The Urban Ecology Center Newsletter is created and distributed through a team effort by the following people: Carijean Buhk, Ginger Duiven, Demetria Dunn, Judy Krause, Jeff McAvoy, Pat Mueller, Shirley Spelt and a volunteer mailing crew.

Contributing writers: Will Bufe, Beth Heller, Glenna Holstein, Willie Karidis, Ken Leinbach and Jeff McAvoy.



DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE

- Thanks to Heartland Advisors and many generous donors, our 5th Annual Summer Solstice Soiree and Auction was a huge success! We began the night by inaugurating Susie's Bridge, our elegant new entrance to Riverside Park and our growing Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. It was a perfect summer evening to celebrate the natural wonders that are right here in the city and the inspiration that they bring to our community. Our supporters are also an inspiration for the help they provide which helps us carry out our mission every single day.

Many thanks to our 2012 sponsors:

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

Summer is a busy time at the Urban Ecology Center! Take a look at some of the wonderful things that happened at our locations.

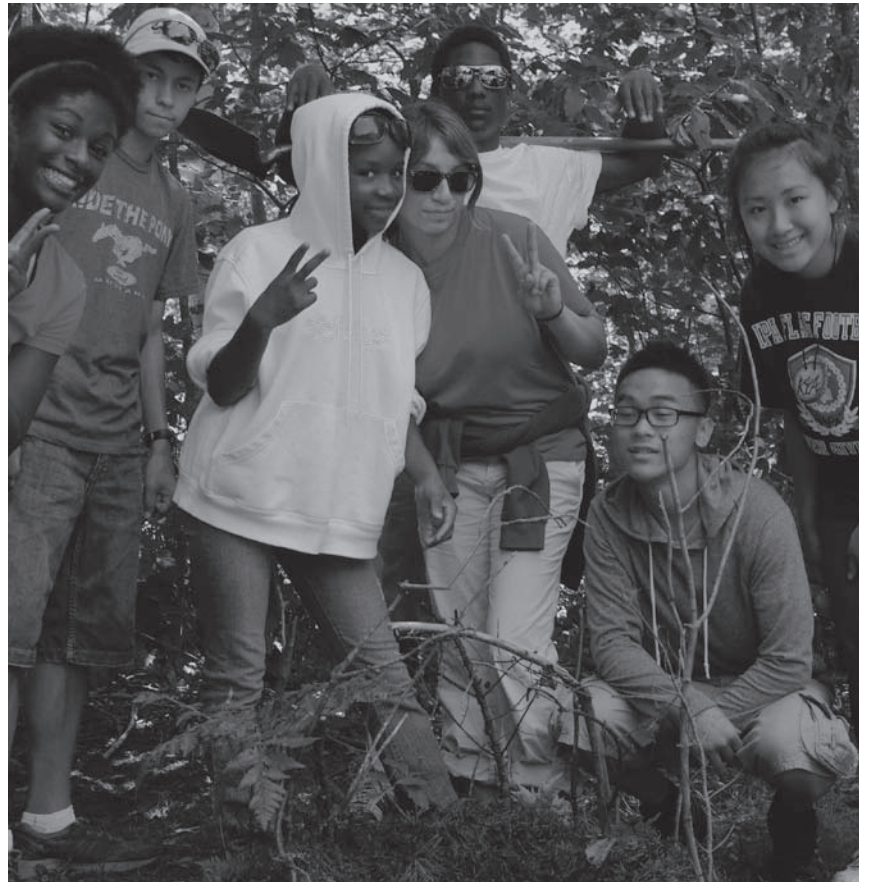


574

summer campers canoed, created awesome recycled art sculptures, built forts, climbed our rock wall, biked, camped along the Mississippi River, and much, much more!. **That's 28% more campers than we've had in past years!**



19 interns learned about **environmental education, urban adventures, visitor & volunteer services & more!**



18 high school students began their 2 year internships with us this summer as High School Outdoor Leaders. As part of their training, they spent 7 days travelling and camping in Northern Wisconsin.

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

Greater and Greener

Continued from page 1

the Center's representative, I was able to share our efforts and discover pockets of similar work scattered throughout the country. Much of the conference was geared toward practitioners and focused on best practices for creating ecologically sound, active and well funded green spaces. However, there was also a strong focus on the impact of urban parks for cities, and the following three impacts rose to the surface as themes throughout the conference.

First, cities are recognizing that vibrant parks are economic drivers. In addition to Mayor Bloomberg's message above, Secretary Salazar, Millennium Park's manager Edward Uhler, President of Brooklyn Bridge Park Regina Myer, Majora Carter and many others, shared research, case studies, statistics and anecdotes of communities rebounding from extremely poor quality of life due to poverty, crime and other symptoms of our economic downturn. At the heart of each example was barren or abandoned land restored to green space, coupled with an engaged community of businesses, residents, education providers and governmental officials. In Milwaukee, we should be proud to know that the work started by the Menomonee

Valley Partners over a decade ago, now a joint effort with the Center, is at the forefront of this model of economic revitalization.

Second, health of urban residents improves significantly with access to urban parks. The majority of the country's population now lives in cities. As doctors face rising obesity rates, mental health issues, inactivity and what Daphne Miller, MD, coined as "indoor sickness," they are beginning to "prescribe nature." Across the country health care providers are investing in green spaces near their facilities and doctors are instructing patients to take walks so that their health will improve. These efforts are scattered though and not fully embraced by the medical community. The Urban Ecology Center is piloting a study with the Medical College of Wisconsin to quantify the positive effects of our outdoor programs. It's work like this that will help drive changes.

Finally, from Los Angeles, to Chicago, to New York, urban parks are serving as a powerful context for education. As school systems struggle to re-design approaches to learning, a smattering of education centers are finding

that student engagement improves within the context of natural spaces. For example, students from Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment (BASE) study at three campuses: their traditional classroom, the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and Prospect Park. BASE students are performing better on the regent exams, attendance has more than doubled and learning is improving. More research is needed in order for educational leaders to fully embrace this approach to learning. As the Center continues to build rigor and depth into our academic achievement focused efforts, our results will be an important part of building the case for learning outdoors. So far, we have shown that attitudes toward learning and environmental literacy improve with our programs and have encouraging preliminary results to show that science content knowledge improves.

Imagine what we could accomplish in Milwaukee if all of 15,000 acres of parks were active, free of crime and serving as outdoor classrooms: a healthier, economically strong, more knowledgeable community. Let's re-imagine this for our 21st century. 🌱



Taking Milwaukee by Bike: Summer Camp Style

by Will Bufe, Summer Environmental Education Intern

It was another sizzling hot week in Milwaukee, a prime cut from the legendary Summer of 2012. While most folks might prefer to sit around inside an air conditioned room to wait it out, the Urban Ecology Center's Biking Adventures campers shifted their chains into high gear to beat the heat.

Our middle schoolers discovered just how much a bike could be used to support their own independence and serve as an efficient and economical mode of transportation. They learned safety tips for the trails and the streets to keep themselves safe. They felt their own energy powering their movement and excitedly began to see just how simply they

could get around without using gasoline.

We cruised all over Milwaukee. We rode the Oak Leaf Trail up to Estabrook Park, hiked in the cool shade, and played a big game of bocce ball. We rolled through Lake Shore State Park and learned about our city's water treatment plants. We covered miles of water on the Milwaukee River, paddling canoes into downtown, discovering a whole new perspective of the city's skyline. We toured a bike shop. We climbed giant boulders and skipped rocks along McKinley Beach.

The campers even learned how to do their own bike maintenance, demonstrating difficult maneuvers like expert mechanics. The tasks

they learned seemed a little daunting at first – most of them thought that changing a flat tire would be way too complicated or difficult for them to complete. But they decided to take a stab at it, and quickly became masters of the art. Working together and demonstrating incredible leadership skills, they discovered new powers within themselves. In just a few minutes they had replaced their tubes and were excitedly pumping them back up again.

When the campers walked out of our Biking Adventures camp, they had become empowered bike riders. Most importantly, though, they had fulfilled the first rule they had set for themselves at the beginning of the week – Be awesome. 🌱

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Quick Guide

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

CELEBRATE WITH US!

FALL FESTIVAL

As the air starts to get crisp and the leaves change color, celebrate Fall! Fun for the entire family includes: rock climbing, nature hikes, crafts, caramel apples, food, and more.

Saturday, Sept. 29th | 12 - 4PM
For adults and children
Free - donations appreciated

FALL FESTIVAL *for Afternoon Nappers*

A festival for the lil' ones! Children 5 and under accompanied by an adult can enjoy a morning of fun including a craft, hike, puppet show and more and still get home in time for their afternoon nap. Space is limited.

Saturday, Sept. 29th | 10:30AM - 12PM
For children 5 and younger
accompanied by an adult
Free - donations appreciated

at RIVERSIDE PARK

AUTUMN CELEBRATION

Come celebrate a beautiful autumn in Washington Park! Join us for fall food and drinks, games, crafts, and fun for all ages!

Saturday, Oct. 6th | 1 - 4PM
For adults and children
Free - donations appreciated

at WASHINGTON PARK



MENOMONEE VALLEY BRANCH GRAND OPENING

Saturday, September 8TH | NOON - 4PM

It's time to celebrate! We are thrilled to be opening our branch in the Menomonee Valley and we hope you are excited too! Come check out our new building, enjoy family friendly activities and more.

3700 W. Pierce St. Milwaukee, WI 53215 **FREE** Public Festival

ABOUT THE Quick Guide

As our online tools improve, we strive to rely less on paper based communications. This "quick guide" is meant to inform you about the programs happening at the Urban Ecology Center's three branches and give you a brief description and any essential information you may need for them. Full details and registration forms can be found on our website at: www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar



Fall in Love with Autumn!

Autumn is an amazing time of the year to get outside. The intense heat of summer breaks, insects like grasshoppers reach the full glory of their maturity and trees reveal hidden pigments. The landscape is like a canvas that changes, sometimes radically, each day.

It is an almost magical time of the year and the Center offers a wide array of opportunities to engage with the changing environment. Monarch butterflies begin a harrowing journey down to Mexico in September. You can help scientists learn more about how this amazing feat is accomplished by a 1 oz creature by participating in Monarch Tagging on Thursday, September 6, Tuesday, September 11 and Wednesday, September 12.

See how artists capture this magic by visiting the Nature's Moment and Pulp Renderings, the latest environmentally-themed art show displayed through September in the Riverside Park Community Room during the Center's open hours. Be sure to come back on Sun., October 7, for the opening of a new show featuring Marc Tasman's brilliant photos, Kathleen Walter's unique mixed media compositions and Tom Petri's lifelike bird carvings. Double the visual impact on a canoe trip down the Kinnickinnic River and relax as leaves and sky reflect off the water.

As temperatures grow cooler, fall becomes a time to reconnect to a community of friends. From cooking to bird watching to films and

lectures, the Urban Ecology Center provides a safe, politically neutral gathering place to explore ways to move toward a more ecologically, economically and equitably sustainable future for this community. Check out the Adult Learning section to see our new offerings. Also, stop by the Interest Group section to learn about our monthly programs created and led by members of our community.

Don't let shorter days deter you from exploring outside or cooler nights from connecting with friends. Whether you play in the leaves or learn to cook -- come visit us!

— Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

All Urban Ecology Center locations will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 3.

RIVERSIDE PARK



This is the height of this growing season; there is no better time to **challenge yourself to eat more locally.**

Whether it is learning how to prepare or put up fresh produce, meeting local food producers, or discovering restaurants that support local farmers we can help!

Start at the Eat Local Resource Fair, take the Eat Local Challenge, **return for cooking classes** or purchase an "Eat Local Cookbook".

— Jamie Ferschinger, Branch Manager - Riverside Park

WASHINGTON PARK



The music of nature. We are excitedly entering our **third year of partnership with Present Music!**

Geniuses at **Present Music** and our **Young Scientists Club** explore Washington Park and together they **create original songs from the sounds and themes they find.**

Present Music is an acclaimed, leading new music ensemble that works with composers and schools to establish new music in Milwaukee. — Willie Karidis, Branch Manager - Washington Park

MENOMONEE VALLEY



Get ready for a fun-filled fall in the Menomonee Valley! For our first season of programming, we have lots of ways for you to get to know our newest outdoor classroom. **Explore this incredible area by bike or on foot** by joining us for one of our weekend family expeditions or **Citizen Science opportunities.**

Get in on the "ground floor" by becoming one of our first **Young Scientists, Park Rangers, or Photo Phenologists!** Looking forward to seeing you at MV! — Glenna Holstein, Branch Manager - Menomonee Valley

Get weekly emails about our programs!

THE
**WEEKLY
GUIDE**

Our Main email Newsletter
list of events for the coming week

THE
**WEEKLY
R&R**

Research & Restoration News
native plant and animal of the month

Sign up on our website
www.urbanecologycenter.org

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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28	29	30	31			

Quick Guide

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.

(RP) Every Mon - Thu | 4 - 5:30 pm
For ages 5 through 12 | \$10 annual fee
(Plus suggested daily donation - \$5)
Space is limited to 12 participants,
please register ahead of time

(WP) Every Tues - Fri | 4 - 6 pm
and Every Sat | 1 - 4 pm
For kids ages 7-12 years old
\$10 annual membership

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

Animal Feeding

Help feed the Center's resident turtles, snakes and fish.

(RP) & (WP) Every Sat. | 1 pm
(MV) Every Sat. beginning
Sept. 15 | 1 pm
For everyone | Free -
donations appreciated

E.B. Garner Fishing Club

Interested in learning how to fish?
Join E.B. Garner as he teaches you to
cast, put on bait and take care of your
fishing poles. Fun for all!

(WP) Wed., Sept. 5 & 19 | 4 - 7pm
For kids 7 and up
Free - donations appreciated

Monarch Butterfly Tagging

Join us as we carefully catch, tag and
release monarch butterflies that are
enroute to Mexico. This project will
supply valuable data to scientists as
part of MonarchWatch, a research
project led by the University of Kansas.

(RP) Thu., Sept. 6, Tue., Sept. 11
& Wed. Sept 12 | 5 - 6pm
For adults & accompanied children
Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9)
Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Bat Survey

Join Wildlife Technician Anne Reis and
Bat Biologist Lainet Garcia-Rivera for a
bat monitoring survey at Menomonee
Valley. Meet outside the MV branch
building at 7:15pm. Wear comfortable
walking shoes and bring a flashlight.

(MV) Tue., Sept. 18
7:15 - 8:30pm
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

Getting to Know the Menomonee River

How can we tell if the water is clean?
What kind of plants are growing in the
river and on the shore? Are they edible?
How many of them are native plants?
We are going to answer all of these
questions and more through hands-on
activities and an excursion along the
shore of the Menomonee River.

(MV) Sat., Sept. 22 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

Family Fishing Fun

Fall is the best time to fish the
Menomonee River! Learn the basics of
lure tying, casting, pole maintenance
and then try your hand at catching the
big one! Fun for the whole family--no
experience or equipment necessary!

(MV) Fri., Oct. 5 | 4 - 5:30pm
For families with children ages 7 and
up | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9),
Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Menomonee Valley by Bike

Experience the Valley in a new way by
hopping on your bike and pedaling the
Hank Aaron State Trail. We'll begin at
the Center in Menomonee Valley and
explore along the river. Learn about the
economic and ecological revitalization
happening in the Valley, and perhaps
discover a new way to get around
town! Bring your own bike, or borrow
one of ours. Don't forget your helmet!

(MV) Sat., Oct. 13 | 2 - 4pm
For adults and accompanied
children | \$10 per person
(Nonmembers: \$15 per person)

Changing Seasons

Family Hike

Fall and winter are coming right around
the corner! Come along on a fall hike
as we observe the signs of the season
to learn about all the changes plants
and animals undergo to prepare for the
coming winter.

(RP) Sat., Oct. 20 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults & accompanied children
Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9),
Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Oooooooooo...

Creepy Critters!

Ever wonder why creatures like bats
and spiders and snakes get such a bad
rap? Celebrate Halloween by learning
about Wisconsin's "creepiest" critters,
why they scare us, and why they're so
amazing. You'll even get to face your
fears by meeting some of these animals
up close!

(MV) Wed., Oct. 31 | 4 - 5:30pm
For families with children ages 4
and up | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers:
\$9) per person, Children: \$4
(Nonmembers: \$7) per person

Food Fridays

Join our Young Scientists Club in the
planting and maintenance of our
Learning Gardens, and help us cook
and enjoy tasty meals with the harvest!

(WP) Every Fri. | 4 - 6 pm
For kids ages 7-12 years old | Free
for Young Scientist Club members
(Nonmembers: \$5 suggested donation)

Science Saturdays and Sundays

Discover the world of science through
self-led interactive activities and crafts.
The theme for September and October
is: What's Up with the Weather?

Drop in program
(RP) Every Sat. | 10 am - 4 pm
Every Sun. | 1 - 4 pm
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated

HOMESCHOOL SERIES

Healthy Harvest!

Plants have been growing all summer.
Help harvest the beautiful bounty from
our gardens! Then we will prepare a
tasty dish with the food we harvest.

(WP) Tue., Sept. 18 | 2 - 3:30pm
For children age 5 and older
\$5 (Nonmember: \$7)

Migration MADNESS!

Just in time for the fall migration! We
will search for birds on a birding hike
and learn about fascinating migratory
adaptation of local birds.

(RP) Tue., Oct. 16 | 2 - 3:30pm
For children age 5 and older
\$5 (Nonmember: \$7)

*All Urban Ecology Center locations will be
closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 3.*

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



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

**3 WAYS TO
REGISTER:**

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 964-8505

3 IN PERSON:
Just stop by!

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

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

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



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

Quick Guide

Food Programs

Cooking Circle

Join chef Annie Wegner LeFort to learn how to prepare healthy, local food from scratch.

Planning Ahead, Cooking in Bulk and Quick Preserving

Learn tips for menu planning, cooking in bulk and quick preserving methods. We'll prepare items to taste, freeze or preserve.

(RP) Mon., Sep. 17 | 6 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$30
(Nonmembers: \$35)

Quick and Easy From Scratch?

Learn what delicious dishes you can create from scratch with 5-10 simple ingredients that take less than an hour to prepare.

(RP) Mon., Oct. 15 | 6 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$20
(Nonmembers \$25)

Food Preservation Classes

Tomato Fest

At the end of summer tomatoes are plentiful -- perfect to put into jars as sauce, paste and whole. Materials and produce included..

(RP) Tue., Sept. 11 | 6 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$30 preregister, \$35 at the door (Non-members: \$35 preregister, \$40 at the door)

Pickling Summer's Fare

In this hands-on class you'll preserve vegetables such as pickles and beans. Materials and produce included.

(RP) Tue., Sept 25 & Oct 2
6 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$30 preregister, \$35 at the door (Nonmembers: \$35 preregister, \$40 at the door)

Photo Presentation: Bhutan, Land of the Thunder Dragon

Native Bhutanese premier birder and tour guide Chubzang Tangbi's photos bring to life the beauty of the Himalayan landscapes, sacred temples, high mountain passes, hillside fortress-monasteries and colorful festivals.

(RP) Mon., Sept. 10 | 7pm
For adults and teens
Free - donations appreciated

Bird Banding

Help the Center's research team study migrating songbirds. Dress for the weather.

(RP) Tue., Sept. 11 - Oct. 16
Starting between 6 and 6:30am
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

Mining in Wisconsin

A proposed mine at the headwaters of the Bad River watershed caused tremendous anxiety for the Bad River Ojibwe tribe. Patty Loew, author of *Indian Nations of Wisconsin: Histories of Endurance and Renewal* will discuss the future of mining in Wisconsin.

(WP) Tue., Sept. 11 | 7 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Menomonee Valley Walking Tours

Branch Manager Glenna Holstein and Corey Zetts from Menomonee Valley Partners will discuss the Valley's history, current revitalization and future plans!

(MV) Wed., Sept. 12, 26,
Oct 10 or 24 | 10 - 11am
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Ornithology Workshops

Examine the latest issues from the bird world and the physiology of these fascinating creatures.

(WP) Tue., Sept. 18 | 4:30 - 6pm
or Tue., Oct. 2 | 4 - 5:30pm
For adults | Members: \$5
(Nonmembers: \$10)

Milwaukee Sustainability Plan Town Hall Meeting

The City of Milwaukee's Office of Sustainability is leading Mayor Barrett's Green Team in developing a Sustainability Plan. Share your ideas about sustainability with city officials.

(MV) Thu., Sept. 20 | 5:30 - 7pm
For all ages | Free - donations appreciated

Fall Herbal Series

Herbalist Linda Conroy leads you on a fun exploration of fall plants. Learn how to make cough and cold remedies, put up wild roots and more! Dress for the weather.

(RP) Thu., Sept. 27 | 6 - 9pm
For adults | \$85, plus \$15 material fee day of class (Nonmembers: \$100, plus \$15 material fee the day of class)

Photo Phenology

Help us create a picture record of the Valley. We'll meet each month to photograph and sketch the natural area around the Center. Cameras or sketch pads not required.

(MV) Sat., Sept. 29 & Oct. 27
10 - 11:30am
For adults, teens and families
Free - donations appreciated

Film: Mother Nature's Child

CO-SPONSORED BY WALDORF SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

Mother Nature's Child explores nature's powerful role in children's health and development through the experience of toddlers, children and adolescents.

(RP) Tue., Oct. 9 | 6:30 - 8pm
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Travel for the Single Woman

To tour the world, while empowering, can also be intimidating. Veronica Bell has traveled extensively around the world and is excited to share her inspirational journeys.

(WP) Wed., Oct. 10 | 7pm
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Herbal and Milk Soap Making Workshop

Join Linda Conroy as we explore the art of creating unique soap. We will cover ways to incorporate fresh milk (goat and cow), whey and herbs into your recipes. Take home recipes and soap!

(RP) Tue., Oct. 23 | 6 - 9pm
For adults and teens | \$20
(Nonmembers \$25) plus \$10 material fee (due to the instructor on the first day of class)

South Side Story

The Menomonee Valley divides Milwaukee into two different worlds: the South Side and the rest of the city. Join historian John Gurda for a look at a community that grew up on heavy industry and remains a fascinating stronghold of ethnic diversity.

(MV) Tue., Oct. 30 | 7 - 8:30pm
For adults | Members: \$5
(Nonmembers: \$10)

Beesentation: Bees and Beekeeping Revealed!

In this introduction to bees and beekeeping, you'll discover who is inside the hive and how people manage bees.

(RP) Tue., Sept. 4, 18, Oct.
2 or 16 | 6:30 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Beekeeping Basics

THREE PART SERIES

Three, 2-hour courses will give you the foundation to start beekeeping in a Top Bar Hive.

(RP) Mon., Sept. 3, 10 & 17 and
Oct. 1, 8, & 15 | 6:30 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$85 (Nonmembers: \$100)

All Urban Ecology Center locations will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 3.

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

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

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 964-8505

3 IN PERSON:
Just stop by!

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

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

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



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

Quick Guide

Canoeing Basics

Practice your canoeing technique on the still, quiet waters of the Washington Park Lagoon. All skill levels welcome.

(WP) Sat. Sept. 8 & 22 and Oct. 13 & 27 | 11am - 12pm
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Birding by Canoe

Join Urban Ecology Center staff as we paddle a local waterway on the lookout for fall migrants. Birders of all experience levels are welcome. Bring a lunch and water. Canoes, paddles and PFDs provided.

(RP) Sat., Oct. 13 | 9am - 3pm
For adults and accompanied children: \$35 (nonmember \$40)

Canoe the Kinnickinnic River

The "KK" river has much to offer from great blue herons to beavers! Join us as we explore this urban waterway. We will also discuss the wonderful projects that are being done to improve this valuable resource. Meet at the Urban Ecology Center and we will ride together.

(RP) Sat., Oct. 20 | 12:30 - 4pm
For adults and accompanied children | \$10 (Nonmember \$15)

Open Climb

Unwind by climbing on our three story rock wall! All climbers must have a completed and signed waiver before climbing. No walk-ins. Must have a minimum of six people registered so gather some friends and sign up!

(RP) Every Tue. until Oct 30 | 4 - 5:30 pm
For adults, teens and children ages 6 and older accompanied by an adult
Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12), Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Water Safety Course

Come take a 30 minute water safety course to make sure you are ready to get out on the water. This training, or training through one of our scheduled canoe/kayak trips, is a requirement of the boat lending program. Registration required.

(RP) Every Thu | 6 - 6:30 pm
(RP) Every Sun | 1 - 1:30 pm

(WP) Every Sat | 10 - 10:30 am
For adults | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)
Membership required to borrow boats



Climb and canoe with us this fall!



Did you know?

Caving is the recreational pastime of exploring wild cave systems.

In contrast, **speleology** is the scientific study of caves and the cave environment.

Source: Wikipedia

All Urban Ecology Center locations will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 3.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Creepy Caving

An Urban Ecology Center Halloween tradition! Join us on a trip to Chilton, Wisconsin to go caving. Try your hand at some tight squeezes and learn some neat natural history while you're at it. Transportation provided; please pack a lunch. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting very dirty, and bring along something to change into after the tour.

(RP) Friday, October 26 | 9 - 4pm
For teens | Member \$10 (Non-Member \$15)

ART AT THE CENTER

Art Opening: Marc Tasman, Kathleen Walter and Tom Petri

Take a journey through Wiesbord Acres viewing Marc Tasman's brilliant photos. Enjoy Kathleen Walter's unique mixed media compositions and be amazed by Tom Petri's lifelike bird carvings. A show not to be missed! Artists will speak at 3pm. Show will be up through the end of December.

(RP) Sun., Oct. 7 | 2 - 4pm
For everyone | Free, donations appreciated

Art Show: Nature's Moments & Pulp Renderings

Amber Shefchek's oil paintings are focused on plants and animals. The backgrounds are developed through layers inspired by places of her youth and the vibrancy of nature's colors. Don Urness recycled paper pulp projects reflect his interest in the environment how light affects nature and objects.

(RP) September 1 - 22 |
Show available for viewing during RP open hours
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

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Quick Guide

Volunteer Orientation

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

(RP) Sat, Sept 8 | 10:30am - 12pm

(RP) Fri, Sept 14 & Oct 12

| 3 - 4:30pm

(RP) Tue., Sept 18 | 5:30 - 7pm

(RP) Sat, Oct 6 | 10:30am - 12pm

(RP) Wed., Oct 24 | 5:30 - 7pm

(WP) Fri., Sept 7 | 4 - 5pm

(WP) Sat., Sept 22 | 10 - 11am

(WP) Fri., Oct 5 | 4 - 5pm

(WP) Sat., Oct 20 | 10 - 11am

(MV) Sat., Sept 15 and Oct

27 | 10:30am - Noon and

Wed., Sept 26 | 5:30 - 7pm

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Compost Crew

Come and help keep the Center's compost systems working full steam!

(RP) Every Tue. | 2 - 4 pm

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Burdock Brigade

Help us restore our parks by removing exotic invasive plants and propagating and planting native species.

(WP) Every Thu. | 4 - 5:30 pm

Washington Park Senior Center

Every Thu | 10:30am - 11:30am

(RP) Every Tue. | 9 - 11 am

(RP) 1st & 3rd Sat. of the

month | 9:30 - 11 am

For adults, families, and teens

Free - donations appreciated

Volunteer Papermaking

Feeling creative? Join other Center volunteers and learn the art of recycled papermaking to create beautiful gifts for our Center's supporters.

(RP) Every Wed. | 4 - 6pm

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Work Outside Wednesdays

Green up your thumbs in our native nursery or while you keep the Center's gardens looking great and welcoming to wildlife.

(RP) Every Wed. | 2 - 4 pm

For adults, families and teens
Free - donations appreciated

Forestry Fridays

Help us improve the health of our forests in Riverside Park, the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum and Washington Park.

(RP) Every Fri. | 2 - 4 pm

For adults, families and teens
Free - donations appreciated

Park Ranger Crew

Join other volunteers and walk through the park picking up trash and noting any maintenance needs.

(RP) Every 2nd, 4th & 5th Sat.

of the month | 9:30 - 11 am

(WP) Every Sat. | 9 - 10 am

(MV) Every Thu. | 10am - Noon

For adults, families, and teens

Free - donations appreciated

INTEREST GROUPS

Victory Garden Initiative Eat and Meet*

(RP) Tue., Sept. 4 & Oct.

2 | 6:30 - 8pm

Photo Club*

(RP) Thu., Sept. 6 & Oct.

4 | 6:30 - 8:30pm

New Urban Friends*

(RP) Mon., Sept. 10 | 7:30 - 9pm

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Community Living Options Group-Milwaukee (CoLOG Milw)*

(RP) Tue. Sept. 11 & Oct.

9 | 7:30-8:45pm

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Friends of Real Food*

*THE FARM, THE FARM BILL,
HUNGER TASK FORCE & YOU!*

(RP) Wed., Sept.12 | 6 - 8pm

*DESIGNING RESILIENT
FARMS AND GARDENS*

(RP) Wed, Oct. 10 | 6 - 8pm

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Urban Echo Poets*

(RP) Thu., Sept. 13 & Oct.

11 | 7 - 8:30pm

Urban Stargazers*

(RP) Thu., Sept. 13 & Oct.

11 | 7 - 8:30pm

Vegetarian Potluck*

(RP) Thu, Sept. 20 & Oct

18 | 6:30 - 8pm

Transition Milwaukee

(RP) Mon., Sept. 24 & Oct

22 | 6:30 - 8:30pm

Early Morning Birdwalks

(MV) Every Tue. starting

in Sept. | 8am

(WP) Every Wed. | 8am

(RP) Every Thu. | 8am

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The Hidden Secret to Our Success ...

Continued from page 1

The Board meets as a full group every other month and groups of Directors meet monthly in smaller working committees. Those committees are focused on important functions like Finance, Development and Marketing, Nominating and Governance, Human Resources or the overall leadership and coordination of the Board through the Executive Committee. Or they might lead a branch advisory committee -- one for Washington Park, Riverside Park and soon to be the Menomonee Valley. Or they participate on a task force for special projects like the Rotary Centennial Arboretum Project. Everyone has a responsibility and none of our work at the Center could be done without them.

It is the Board of Directors that allows the Urban Ecology Center to sing. Do you know how much I knew about financial management or human resources policy when I started here at the Center? Well, to be honest...nothing. For this reason and much, much more I have needed help...a ton of it. What I have discovered over time is that asking for help is a powerful act. If your need is legitimate, your purpose is pure, and your vision is clear, people are willing to use their talents to assist. And not just any people. We are talking about people who are leaders in their own realms where they are running huge organizations or managing key departments in global companies to name just a few of our Board's talents. Did I mention legal advice? OMG, without this legal help we wouldn't have a single lease, partnership or branch!

We sit with overwhelming riches when it comes to volunteer expertise. Because of this I feel like one of the luckiest Executive Directors around! I am blown away by the deep intellect, profound dedication and amazing skill set we have represented. And then to beat all... Board and committee meetings are actually fun! Sure, they are sometimes intense when hard decisions need to be made, but they are always filled with laughter, too. I, and I think all of us would say this, learn so much because of the diversity of the group. Despite the relatively large size, over the years the Center's Board has remained blessedly free of internal

politics allowing for a high degree of efficiency and output. In short, we get stuff done.

Now you may think from this description that we are all like-minded. We aren't. Far from it, in fact. We have liberal environmentalists working closely with folks who don't believe in global warming. I do not lie. We have those who need numbers to understand, and those like me who do better with words. We have business executives working closely with community activists and education experts. We have people with a deep faith tradition and those that do not participate in any formal religion. We all grow from the diversity. It's fun to learn how others tick! We have cultural diversity and age diversity too...but not enough. These are areas we are striving to improve. Perhaps due to this diversity, this is not a rubber stamping kind of Board, but a group that challenges and asks the hard questions and in turn makes difficult decisions...but we do this from a place of respect, transparency and dialogue.

The Urban Ecology Center, somehow over the years, has been able to maintain a remarkable Board of Directors. A diverse array of Milwaukeeans coming together around a shared vision, all rolling up their sleeves and using their respective talents to move this organization forward in a positive direction. If you know anyone who has been, or is, on our Board, be sure to thank them for their essential and effective volunteer service.

At the latest Board meeting my bosses elected officers for the coming year. The Board leadership is:

President: Ed Krishok, Managing Director, International Legal Affairs, Harley-Davidson Motor Company

Vice President: Monique Charlier, President, Rivet, LLC

Treasurer: Peter Campbell (re-elected to serve a second term), Associate Managing Director, The Private Bank

Secretary: Kathy Werlein, Supervisory Analyst, Research Department, Robert W. Baird & Co. (Kathy is also serving a second term),

Our current Board directors are:

Marc D. Andraca, Jennifer Breceda, Peter Campbell, Monique Charlier, John Clancy, Eric Crawford, Derek Deubel, Danni Gendelman, Jeff Geygan, Mary Gute Witte, Dennis Grzezinski, Troy Hilliard, Edward Krishok, Cora Lee-Palmer, Theresa Lins, Blake Moret, Will Nasgovitz, Bill Rumpf, Molly Schissler, Mary Staten, Carl Trimble, Kathy Werlein and Andre Williams.

Finally, I'd like to give particular thanks to the following three very special outgoing Board members.

Theresa Lins has been with us for almost a decade. She has served on just about every committee and become an integral part of our family. Her hard work early on with marketing got our name out to the community and her recent work with governance has been critical to our growth.

Marc Andraca of Johnson Controls has been with us for four years and as Board Vice President has been a key driver of our recently completed strategic plan. Marc and his wife Deb have led our Hoot in the Night summer camp fund raiser for the past two years.

Jeff Geygan taught me how to keep a meeting moving and end on time. His finance expertise came at a very important time for the Center. Jeff put together an incredible team for our finance committee before shifting over to become our Board President for the past two years. He and his wife Kathy were instrumental in creating our popular annual fundraising event, the Summer Solstice Soiree and Auction.

We will deeply miss Theresa, Mark and Jeff. I share my deep gratitude to each of you for your service to the Urban Ecology Center. 🌿

This Place *Is* Real

Continued from page 2

I was unsure what to do. I didn't want to yell at them—they are the *reason* we are here, after all. But I couldn't ignore them either. So I went outside, introduced myself, told them about the Center and the community mosaic project that was happening in preparation for the Grand Opening, and said "You know, for the mosaic, we thought it would be cool to have rocks incorporated in the design. Since you guys have conveniently collected a bunch of rocks, would you mind bringing them inside and donating them to the project?" And, I kid you not, those teenage boys picked up as many rocks as they could carry (even filled their pockets!) and brought them inside with me.

And as soon as they were in, I saw that "this is *real*?" look come over their faces. I showed them the slide, the overlook, the

future animal room, and they were hooked! "Come back tomorrow!" I said as they left smiling, "You can help with the mosaic!"

And they did! One of them, Marcel, has come back nearly every day to help with the mosaic and has even come to a Volunteer Orientation. In fact, he was recently overheard telling some of his friends, "Yeah, this is the Urban Ecology Center ... I pretty much work here!"

As I said, I don't remember my first day at the Center. But I do distinctly remember that feeling of belonging that I can see Marcel experiencing. And as I am watching our newest branch take shape and already begin to have an impact, I could not be prouder to say that I "pretty much work here." 🌱

Where's the "Thank You" list?

Our list of supporters has grown so large that we can no longer print it in the newsletter. The list can instead be found on our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org/thankyoulist. Many thanks to the local foundations, corporations and individuals who have donated to the Center within the last two months. We are extremely grateful for your patience during this transition.

We thank all of you who have become members, renewed your membership, given a gift membership or made a donation to our mission. We work hard to recognize all our supporters accurately. Contact Cassie at 964-8505 or cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org if your name has not appeared as you expected.



Steady Change

by Willie Karidis, Branch Manager, Washington Park

It's fascinating to watch the place where you work become transformed. The progress can take on many forms -- slow as molasses, steady as an Ornate Box Turtle or fast and furious. No matter at what speed you are moving, visitors inevitably come in and comment, "Wow, it looks so different!" or "You all have been doing so much work!" However, when you are caught up in the day to day, it's sometimes hard to see the change -- "smell the roses" as it were, along your journey. It was a comment from a regular visitor that caused me to step back and really take a look at what we've accomplished.

We are working hard at Washington Park to build a better home for our programs, visitors and animal residents. Through the help of dedicated volunteers, enthusiastic staff and Milwaukee County Parks, the transformation is starting to become real and noteworthy. Bit by bit we are adding new displays and green features.

The most recent addition to the building is our new Wisconsin Native Animal Room. Thanks to the generosity of long time

supporter, Janine Arseneau, we were able to begin construction and will have it completed by the time you read this.



Volunteer and staff crew working on our new animal room.

Our new Animal Room will house "Lake Wisconsin", a 560 gallon fish tank, made possible by the organization Lead2Change and their Dream Big grant. Daniel Rawley, one of our

Outdoor Leaders, submitted the grant and won the \$5,000 award. "Lake Wisconsin" will greet visitors to the Center and house native species of fish including bowfin, short nosed gar, bluegill, perch and bullhead. In addition, the Wisconsin Native Animal Room will have displays which include different species of frogs, turtles, snakes and salamanders. Sometime in the future, if we are lucky, a little eastern screech owl will be found in the room as well.

We know that the physical changes we are making to the Center will help us continue to deliver quality educational programs. This is what it's all about. At the end of the day, how many lives have we impacted, what lessons have we taught and what have people learned? Education is a strategic process of meaningful moments. Our new Wisconsin Native Animal Room will help us deliver those moments with more frequency and meaning. It makes all the work worthwhile.

Please visit us during our open hours and take a look for yourself. 🌱

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, over 2700 member and many in-kind donors the Center serves over 80,000 people per year.

To make a contribution, please see page 14 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
uec@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:
Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.

Washington Park

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

Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Friday: 4 - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Menomonee Valley

3700 W Pierce St.
Milwaukee, WI 53214
(414) 431-2940
gholstein@urbanecologycenter.org

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

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org
Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP

Did you know you can give a donation, join or renew your membership securely online? Visit www.urbanecologycenter.org and click either "donations" or "membership"

Renew or begin your membership, choose one:

- Individual (\$25) includes guest Family (\$35) Student (\$12)

Financial assistance is available. Please call the Center at (414) 964-8505 and ask to speak to someone on our membership team for details.

Give a gift membership:

- Individual (\$25) includes guest Family (\$35) Student (\$12)

Recipient Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Eve. _____

Email _____

Send the announcement card to Me Gift recipient

Occasion _____ Deliver by _____

DONATION (IN ADDITION TO MEMBERSHIP)

Please accept my gift to support:

- Provide a membership for a low income family (\$35)
- Provide an educational program for families (\$75)
- Provide a summer camp scholarship (\$195)
- Support a high school summer intern (\$600)
- Restore native plants to an acre of public land (\$1000)
- Sponsor a school for a year, 24 field trips for city kids! (\$5000)

Total Enclosed _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

My neighborhood park is

- Riverside Washington Menomonee I love them all!

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.

Charge my membership to: Master Card Visa

Card Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date ____/____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please make your check payable to:
Urban Ecology Center and return it with this form to:

Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, Sept. 29th | 12 - 4PM For adults and children
Free - donations appreciated

at RIVERSIDE PARK

AUTUMN CELEBRATION

Saturday, Oct. 6th | 1 - 4PM For adults and children
Free - donations appreciated

at WASHINGTON PARK



**MENOMONEE VALLEY BRANCH
GRAND OPENING**
Saturday, September 8TH
NOON - 4PM

FREE Public Festival

FSC logo

IN THIS ISSUE

THE HIDDEN SECRET TO OUR SUCCESS

By Ken Leinbach

GREATER AND GREENER: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON URBAN PARKS

By Beth Heller

NEW FISCAL YEAR, NEW BRANCH, NEW NEWSLETTER!

By Jeff McAvoy

TAKING MILWAUKEE BY BIKE: SUMMER CAMP STYLE

By Will Bufe

CONSTRUCTIVE DESTRUCTION

By Glenna Holstein

STEADY CHANGE

By Willie Karidis

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



574
Kids attended
Summer Camps