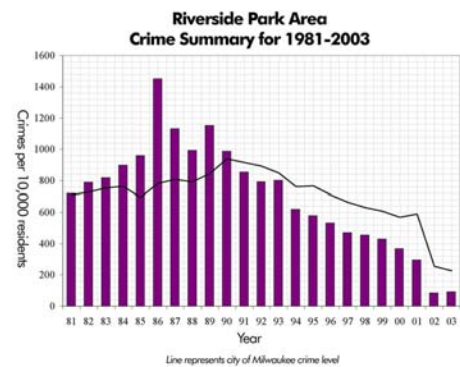




About the Urban Ecology Center

The Urban Ecology Center is a one-of-a-kind resource and innovative, replicable model for urban environmental education. Founded in 1990 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Urban Ecology Center's mission is to foster ecological understanding as inspiration for change, neighborhood by neighborhood. The center provides outdoor science education for urban youth while protecting and using public natural areas, making them safe, accessible and vibrant. These natural areas and their surrounding waters are preserved and enhanced by visitors, volunteers and staff in a manner that promotes community and supports volunteerism, stewardship, recreation and camaraderie.

The Urban Ecology Center sprouted from humble beginnings as a neighborhood effort to reduce crime in Milwaukee's Riverside Park, which had become polluted and crime-ridden. Today, the organization has grown into three community centers that serves tens of thousands of visitors each year and provides a safe presence in the park. Since 1990, crime in Riverside Park has steadily decreased. In addition to the award-winning sustainable facility at the Riverside Park location, the center expanded to a second branch in Washington Park in 2007 and a third location in the Menomonee Valley in the fall of 2012. The newest addition to the Urban Ecology Center's outdoor classroom is the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum, which features 40-acres of land including a universally accessible 2-mile loop along the Milwaukee River, Riverside Park, and a 4.5-acre Oak Savannah. The Urban Ecology Center model is being replicated or studied by leaders in cities across the United States including Columbus, OH, Syracuse, NY and Baltimore, MD.



The Urban Ecology Center offers numerous programs and activities to the community, including the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP), which provides students K-12 with hands-on, environmental educational experiences throughout the school year. Other programs for youth and children include summer day camps, the Young Scientist Club, youth leadership training and internship programs. Community members enjoy sustainable food education programs, hands-on environmental research projects, urban adventures such as rock climbing and canoeing as well as weekend youth and family programs.

The Urban Ecology Center and the NEEP school program serve as replicable models for communities across the globe seeking to make an environmental and educational impact. For more information about the Urban Ecology Center, please visit www.urbanecologycenter.org or call (414) 964-8505.