It’s Easy to Start Your Year off Well!
by Beth Heller, Interim Executive Director

Keeping New Year’s resolutions can be hard. Especially if one of your resolutions is to be active outdoors the middle of a season that usually keeps us indoors. I’ve learned that finding a group of people with similar interests can help get me going. So, if you’re aiming to start your year with more exercise, less stress and more meaningful time with family, we can connect you with others to help you along. Soon the resolution will become a part of your usual routine.

We have many ways you can get going this year. Some are DIY: free, self-organizing opportunities facilitated by the Urban Ecology Center.

Two DIY opportunities for this winter are:

Join other families and create a Natural Families Nature Club. These clubs connect families who want to participate in outdoor activities together. Think of them as nature play dates with new friends.

Natural Families Nature Clubs were created by the Children and Nature Network (C&NN). Cofounded by Richard Louv* and Cheryl Charles, C&NN is an international network that aims to get children outside. The Urban Ecology Center shares this goal, so we’re helping people to organize their clubs. Come to an orientation the first weekend of January and receive a start-up kit.

Join our Snow and Go Facebook group and get ready to play in the snow! One of the best aspects of living in a cold climate is snow. But snowfall conditions are hard to predict. When the weather is right for skiing, snowshoeing or other outdoor activities, look at posts from community members and staff for opportunities to get outside together and play! We have equipment for members to borrow, or

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Building the World We Want
by Glenna Holstein, Branch Manager - Menomonee Valley

As we usher in 2017, I’ve been thinking a lot about the idea of change. It seems like it’s something all of us want, in some way or another. We may have different ideas about what kind of change, but I get the sense that most folks would agree with the statement that “The way the world is right now is not ok. We need a change.”

This desire for change has created a lot of conversations about what within the status quo we need to fight against. For me, it’s a long list: climate change, injustice, disparity, oppression, just to name a few. While these conversations are critically important, I’ve realized that we tend to spend much less time talking about what it is we are working for. What would it look like to have the world we want to live in?

I truly believe that we need to spend more time thinking about that question. And I think that’s one of the main reasons I appreciate the Urban Ecology Center. Our work, of course, does “fight against” some of the things I listed earlier. But at its core, the UEC is not about “filling a gap” or “addressing a problem”—it’s about building the world we want to live in, right here in our own neighborhoods.

I have been reading The Next American Revolution by Grace Lee Boggs* recently, and she speaks with incredible eloquence on this idea of building the world we want.

So, what does that world look like? Honestly, I think it looks a lot like what I see at the Urban Ecology Center every day. It looks like people

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What are Community Programs?
by Brandice Kirchner, Community Programs Educator

I am a relatively new Community Programs Educator at Washington Park. We do much more than I ever expected!

What do I do? Here are some examples.

Roughly a month ago we taught the principle of cause and effect to a group of five year olds from Fernwood Montessori School in Bay View. As they came into the building for their second visit three weeks later, many of them kept saying, “I remember you! We played tug of war and you lost!”

My co-teacher and I had a lesson plan and prepared and strategized ahead of time. We had several different activities, but fate stepped in with one more. We were talking about solids, liquids and gasses when, almost on cue, one of the students burped. They then got to learn the process of how our bodies break down food and how some of the gasses need to escape. Needless to say, there were lots of kiddos making interesting sounds with their mouths after that.

Later in the day, I worked with our after-school program called the Young Scientists Club. The Club is open to anyone. As a drop in program, participants are welcome to come (or not) as they choose. The age range is from 5 years old to 12 years old, so it takes some creativity to come up with activities that will engage children of such a broad age range. Not only is there a different dynamic with interpersonal relations but also the content of what we are doing.

We keep in mind that these children were just in school all day, so our main objective is for them to have fun. We plan field trips every weekend, cook together on Fridays and go visit our neighborhood library. Some days we just run around the park. There is nothing rigid about our schedule.

Even though we prepare monthly calendars, we leave a lot of the activities up to the Club members. We see some children almost all days every week, which is incredibly encouraging. If they choose to come, they must really enjoy their time here.

I love that my job at the UEC is so versatile. I not only get experience as an educator with local schools, but I organize events and build relationships with people in the neighborhood who visit the Washington Park branch. There is never monotony in my job, which makes me excited to come to work and experience what the day has in store for me.

Thank You to Our Contributing Members

Many thanks to the local foundations, corporations and individuals who have donated to the Center. The complete list of contributing members who have given this fiscal year can be found on our website.

Credits:

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, Glenna Holstein and Brandice Kirchner.

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

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

Thank You!

313 Fall Fund Drive donors

Donated $82,376 to our Fall Fund Drive (as of 12/19/16)

Including $5,861 on Giving Tuesday!

Thank you for supporting So Much Life in our community!

If you’d like to support projects like these, consider volunteering or making a donation. Learn how at www.urbanecologycenter.org
nurturing the land, and being nourished by the land. It looks like adults sharing knowledge and skills with children who share their joy and wisdom with adults. It looks like kindness, rooted in the belief that the people around us matter, and that by caring for one another and for our earth, we care for ourselves.

I say this in part because I think it is important to recognize what a magnificent community we have built together, and to thank you for making it so. Perhaps even more importantly, though, I say this to remind everyone during this time of change that we still have all the things and all the people we need to build the world we want. That’s not to say that it will be easy, but it is possible—we can see it happening here at the Center. As Grace Lee Boggs says, “we are the leaders we have been looking for.” It’s up to us, and we have everything we need. We just need to get to work.

*To learn more about Boggs, take a look at the longer version of this article posted on our blog.

**Building the World We Want**

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you can bring your own. Break free from mid-winter cabin fever, join Snow and Go!

We also have opportunities I like to call DIWU or Do It With Us! Guided activities are available throughout the winter at community gatherings and workshops.

Our annual **Winterfest** in Washington Park is a fun way for all ages to get outside, try winter outdoor equipment and celebrate. This is a great way to start a new habit of winter athletics, such as skiing, ice skating, snowshoeing, or sledding (weather permitting).

If Winterfest tickled your curiosity be sure to join any of our many **skiing and snowshoeing** classes. In Riverside Park, our small class sizes intentionally promote customized instruction. Washington Park and Menomonee Valley provide hands-on, group instruction for beginners. All of our instructors focus on safety, skill-building and fun. Our programs are a great resource for beginner and intermediate level skiers, snowshoers and ice skaters. Scholarships are available for programs and memberships based on need.

Speaking of membership … for a very small investment you can become a member of the UEC and enjoy our **equipment lending**. Through the equipment lending benefit, members can borrow outdoor equipment throughout the year free of charge. This way, rather than purchasing equipment that you might use only a couple times during the year, you can invest in a good cause, save money, reduce storage needs at home and have ongoing access to winter sports (and other) equipment. This is a popular program, so reservations are recommended. Just call any of our three branches.

Getting outside in nature is not only a great form of exercise, but it also reduces stress and promotes health. Whether you are going on your own, with family and friends or with us, we can help you get outside in all conditions and within any budget.

Start your year off well! Don’t let winter hold you captive at home. Keep your resolutions, combat cabin fever and enjoy our beautiful Wisconsin winter. We look forward to seeing you here!


**It’s Easy to Start Your Year off Well!**

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2017

Week-long day camps for Preschool - 9th grade

Scholarships Available

Registration starts January 2017

**SUMMER CAMPS**
RIVERSIDE PARK

Programs and Events JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Our Riverside Park branch will be closed January 1 & 2, 2017

Save the Date!
15th Annual Local Farmer Open House

A great way to get farm fresh veggies aside from growing your own! Meet local farmers and learn how you can buy directly from a farmer through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Whether you are new to CSAs or have been subscribing for years, this event is for you. Attend workshops and stay for lunch! Food available to purchase.

Riverside Park | Saturday, March 11 | 11AM - 3PM | Free!

URBAN ADVENTURES

Getting Started with Cross-Country Skiing
Let us help you get started in the wonderful winter recreation activity of classic style cross-country skiing! This indoor class will cover the basic equipment you need to get started, which snow conditions are best for skiing and recommend some local areas to explore on skis. You’ll also learn what equipment you can borrow as an Urban Ecology Center member. Take this class and then take a small group lesson with us!

Mon., Jan. 2 | 6:30 - 8PM
Sun., Jan. 8 | 1:20 - 2:30PM
Tue., Jan. 10 | 6:30 - 8PM
Mon., Jan. 16 | 6:30 - 8PM
Sun., Jan. 22 | 1:20 - 2:30PM
Tue., Jan. 24 | 6:30 - 8PM
For adults | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: $5)

Small Group Cross-Country Ski Lessons for Beginners
Learn basic techniques for success in classic style cross-country skiing. Take one lesson, or multiple lessons to advance your skills. For ages 7 and older. Registration required.

Mon., Jan. 9 | 6 - 7:30PM
Sun., Jan. 15 | 1 - 2:30PM
Thu., Jan. 19 | 6 - 7:30PM
Mon., Jan. 23 | 6 - 7:30PM
Wed., Jan. 25 | 6 - 7:30PM
Sun., Jan. 29 | 1 - 2:30PM
Tue., Jan. 31 | 6 - 7:30PM
Sun., Feb. 5 | 1 - 2:30PM
Wed., Feb. 8 | 6 - 7:30PM
Sun., Feb. 19 | 1 - 2:30PM
Wed., Feb. 22 | 6 - 7:30PM
Mon., Feb. 27 | 6 - 7:30PM
For adults and children ages 7 and older | $10 (Nonmembers: $15)

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Family Nature Clubs: Orientation and Walk
In a Family Nature Club you’ll help create a community of families who design and participate in kid-friendly outdoor activities together. From outdoor play to structured programs, the what, when and how are up to you. Come to this orientation and receive a start-up kit from the Children and Nature Network. After the presentation, we’ll take a short walk. Dress for the weather.

Sat., Jan. 7 | 11AM - 12:30PM
For adults and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

Nature Rangers
Investigate animals and plants, learn about science through different activities, create environmental research projects and more! Sign up to participate one day a week. The fee covers all the sessions for a two month period.

Every Mon. or Tue. | 4 - 5:30PM
For children ages 5 and older | $10 (Nonmember: $15)

National Day of Service: Family Soup Making
Join us for this all-ages soup lesson that doubles as a service opportunity. We’ll discuss soup-making techniques, then collectively prepare a large batch of vegetarian soup. We’ll end with soup and bread for lunch and deliver the remaining soup to a local meal program. Recipes are included. Individuals are welcome, but children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Please register by Jan 13th.

Mon., Jan. 16 | 9 - 11:30AM
For adults, families and children | $15 (Nonmembers: $20) | Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult | Register by Jan 13

Animal Feeding
Come help feed our resident frogs, turtles, fish and snakes!
Every Sat. | 1PM
For everyone | Free

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: 1500 E. Park Pl.

= Accessible for persons with disabilities. We want to get you outside. Please call (414) 964-8505 with any communication preferences or physical concerns.

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

Plant Anatomy & Physiology — 6 part series
For adults and teens | $100 (Nonmembers: $120) (UEC volunteers: $75) for complete series

The Cell and Structure of Plant
Plant and cell architecture, genome structure and expression, plant cells, and water balance of plants.
Thu., Jan. 19 | 6 - 8:15PM

Mineral nutrition and photosynthesis
Mineral nutrition, solute transport, photosynthesis 1 and 2.
Thu., Jan. 26 | 6 - 8:15PM

Respiration and metabolism
Photosynthesis wrap-up, stomatal biology, translocation in phloem, respiration, lipid and metabolism.
Thu., Feb. 2 | 6 - 8:15PM

Inorganic nutrients and hormones
Inorganic nutrients, cell walls, and plant signals.
Thu., Feb. 9 | 6 - 8:15PM

Plant babies (plant reproduction)
Embryogenesis, seeds, and flower development.
Thu., Feb. 16 | 6 - 8:15PM

Cell Death, Biotic & Abiotic Stress
Pollination, plant senescence, biotic interactions, and abiotic stress.
Thu., Feb. 23 | 6 - 8:15PM

Tropical Ecology Course — 4 part series
Examine the amazing diversity of the tropical areas of our planet in this college-level course. Explore the fascinating patterns found in tropical plant, animal and abiotic communities.
Wed., Jan. 4, 11, 18 & 25 | 6:30PM - 8:30PM
For adults | $100 (Nonmembers: $125)
Past/current participants in Eco-travel to the tropics: $50 for all four sessions

Art Opening - In The Balance
by Jean Dexter Sobon
Jean Dexter Sobon’s exhibition reflects the disconnect existing between our own species and the larger part of the natural world. Each is a visual metaphor with a story, question or lesson based in history, myth or Sobon’s imaginative musings. Artist will speak at 6pm, light refreshments provided. Show runs through March.
Thu., Jan. 12 | 5 - 7PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Sustainable Coffee Tasting
Join experts from Pendulum Coffee and taste locally-roasted coffee from around the world. We will explore the beans’ origin, sustainable farming practices, coffee notes and aromas.
Sat., Jan. 14 & Feb. 11 | 10 - 11AM
For adults | $8 (Nonmembers: $10)

Ojibwe Language Study Group
Every Mon. except Jan. 2 | 6 - 8PM

Community Vegan Potluck
Tues., Feb. 7 | 6:30 - 8PM

Photo Club
Thurs., Jan. 5 & Feb. 2 | 6:30 - 9PM

350.org General Meeting
Tues., Jan. 17 & Feb. 14 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Stargazers
Thurs., Jan. 12 & Feb. 9 | 7 - 8:30PM

Faith and Ecology
Tues., Jan. 17 & Feb. 21 | 7 - 8:30PM

Friends of Real Food: Potluck Dinner and Program
Thurs., Jan. 19 & Feb. 16 | 6 - 8PM

Early Morning Bird Walk
Every Thu. | 8 - 10:30AM

Eclipse Across America
Preview the first eclipse to sweep across America in 99 years that will occur in August 2017. Meet Bob Bonadurer, Director of the Milwaukee Public Museum’s Soref Planetarium and watch a stunning video of the alignment of the Sun, Moon and Earth. Bob will give you an eclipse map that provides viewing tips and locations.
Thu., Feb. 9 | 7 - 8:30PM
For adults | $5 (Nonmembers: $10)

The Art and Science of Massage
Relax this Valentine’s Day weekend with a massage in this hands-on workshop. Partners are required. Registration required by February 10 at 5pm
Sun., Feb. 12 | 2 - 4PM
For adults | $30 per couple (Nonmembers: $40 per couple)

Owl Prowl
A winter night is the best time to hear the hoots of nocturnal raptors, the owls. We’ll take a look into the behaviors and adaptations that make these birds amazing survivors, then head to the woods to listen for the calls of our neighborhood owls. Registration required.
Tues., Feb. 21 & 28 | 6:30 - 8PM
For adults and families (ages 7 and older) | $5 (Nonmembers: $7) per person

Birds of Lake Michigan — Ozaukee County
Starting at Virmond Park in Ozaukee County we will work our way south along Lake Michigan to look for wintering ducks, geese, scoters, grebes and loons. Binoculars and spotting scopes provided. Also, feel free to bring a lunch and stay for the Beak to Tail workshop at 1pm at no extra charge. We will meet at Riverside Park and travel together.
Sat., Jan. 21 | 8AM - NOON
For adults | $10 (Nonmembers: $15)

From Beak to Tail: All About the Life of Bird
Join us for an in-depth look into the wonders of bird ecology, conservation and behavior.
Sat., Jan. 21 | 1 - 2:30PM
For adults | $5 (Nonmembers: $10)

Knife Skills
If the thought of slicing and dicing all those fresh local vegetables prevents you from cooking from scratch, come and learn how to “sharpen” your basic knife skills. Trained chef Annie Wegner LeFort will teach basic cutting and sharpening techniques as well as discussion selection and care of knives for food preparation. Handouts included. Register by Jan 16.
Mon., Jan. 23 | 7 - 8:30PM
For adults | $15 (Nonmembers: $20)

Volunteer Papermaking
Learn the art of recycled papermaking to create beautiful gifts for our Center’s contributing members.
Every Tue. | 4:30 - 6PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Riverside Park Volunteer Orientation
Want to spend more time outside? Looking to work alongside ecologically-minded people? Come find out how you can contribute your time and talents to the Urban Ecology Center.
Wed., Jan. 11 | 5:30 - 7PM
Sat., Jan. 28 | 10:30AM - NOON
Fri., Feb. 10 | 3 - 4:30PM
Sat., Feb. 25 | 10:30AM - NOON
Tue., Feb. 28 | 5:30 - 7PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

ROOT Riverside Park
Help us improve and maintain the health of our forests and plant communities! We’ll meet in the lobby and head outside as a group.
Every Tue. | 9 - 11AM
Every Fri. | 2 - 4PM
For adults, families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

INTEREST GROUPS

Volunteer Papermaking
Learn the art of recycled papermaking to create beautiful gifts for our Center’s contributing members.
Every Tue. | 4:30 - 6PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Riverside Park Volunteer Orientation
Want to spend more time outside? Looking to work alongside ecologically-minded people? Come find out how you can contribute your time and talents to the Urban Ecology Center.
Wed., Jan. 11 | 5:30 - 7PM
Sat., Jan. 28 | 10:30AM - NOON
Fri., Feb. 10 | 3 - 4:30PM
Sat., Feb. 25 | 10:30AM - NOON
Tue., Feb. 28 | 5:30 - 7PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

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Every Tue. | 9 - 11AM
Every Fri. | 2 - 4PM
For adults, families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Papermaking
Learn the art of recycled papermaking to create beautiful gifts for our Center’s contributing members.
Every Tue. | 4:30 - 6PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

ROOT Riverside Park
Help us improve and maintain the health of our forests and plant communities! We’ll meet in the lobby and head outside as a group.
Every Tue. | 9 - 11AM
Every Fri. | 2 - 4PM
For adults, families and teens | Free - donations appreciated
Upholding the Beloved Community: Advancing A Just and Equitable Transition to a Low Carbon World

Jacqui Patterson, Director, Environmental and Climate Justice Program, NAACP
Tue., Feb. 21 | 7pm
For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

Jacqui Patterson, Director of Environmental and Climate Justice for the NAACP, will discuss the principles, process, practices and policies that will advance a transition that centers on conservation and preservation of the environment while uplifting human and civil rights. The impacts of environmental and climate injustice are far reaching, including compromising health, economic wellbeing, and educational outcomes, as well as displacement, cultural erosion, criminalization, and political disenfranchisement particularly for people of color. We must have a radical transformation and transition to regenerative, interdependent, cooperative systems that uplift all rights for all people while preserving the environment upon which we all rely for our existence.

Winter in Washington Park is a special time. With the lagoon frozen over and the hills covered in snow, it’s the perfect place for an afternoon of adventure. JOIN US for some family winter fun! Our skating rink and sledding hill will be open (weather permitting), and we will have music, crafts, homemade pies and plenty of hot cocoa!

For everyone | FREE - donations appreciated

Moonlight Snowshoe in Washington Park
Welcome all snowshoers — beginners and experts alike — for a relaxing stroll after dark. We’ll provide the gear and hot chocolate. Remember to dress in layers.
Wed., Feb. 15 | 6 - 8pm
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: $6
(Nonmembers: $9) Children: $4 (Nonmembers: $7)

Snowshoeing for Beginners
Learn the basics of snowshoeing and enjoy snowy hikes this winter. Equipment provided. Make sure to dress in layers and wear waterproof footwear.
Sat., Jan. 21 | 10 - 11:30am
Sat., Feb. 4 | 10 - 11:30am
Sat., Feb. 18 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: $6
(Nonmembers: $9) Children: $4 (Nonmembers: $7)

Cross-Country Skiing for Beginners
Don’t get stuck inside this winter — give cross-country skiing a try! We’ll provide the gear and will have you hitting the slopes. Be sure to dress in layers.
Sat., Feb. 11 | 10 - 11:30am
Sat., Feb. 25 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: $6
(Nonmembers: $9) Children: $4 (Nonmembers: $7)

Moonlight Skiing in Washington Park
Up for an after-dark adventure? We invite all cross-country skiers — beginners and experts alike — to hit the slopes at night with us. We’ll provide the gear and hot chocolate. Remember to dress in layers.
Wed., Feb. 1 | 6 - 8pm
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: $6
(Nonmembers: $9) Children: $4 (Nonmembers: $7)
**Fishing for Dinner Series**

In partnership with the Wisconsin DNR, the Hunger Task Force and the Pike Lake Fishing Club

Reel in dinner! Gear provided and no license required. Registration required.

Join us for this multi-session series:

- **Fishing Techniques and Regulations**
  Wed., Jan. 4 & 11 | 6 - 8:30 pm
- **Ice Fishing Expedition to Pike Lake State Park**
  Sat., Jan. 14 | 9 am - 2 pm
  Meet at Washington Park
- **Cooking Demonstration at the Hunger Task Force Farm**
  Wed., Jan. 18 | 6 - 8:30 pm
  For adults | $12 (Nonmembers: $15)
  For the entire series

- **Pho-nomenal Vietnamese Cooking!**
  Sun., Jan. 21 | 1 - 3 pm
  For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

- **Crust Making**
  Sat., Jan. 21 | 1 - 3 pm
  For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

- **Pie Filling**
  Fri., Jan. 27 | 4 - 6 pm
  For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

- **Family Ice Fishing Adventure**
  Whether you’re new or an experienced angler, come to an ice fishing expedition! Transportation, equipment and hot cocoa provided. Register by February 16. Fishing license required for ages 16 and up.
  Sat., Feb. 18 | 1 - 4 pm
  For adults and accompanied children
  | Adults: $10 (Nonmembers: $12)
  | Children: $8 (Nonmembers: $10)

- **Birds of Lake Michigan — Ozaukee County**
  Starting near Grafton we will work our way south along Lake Michigan to look for wintering birds. Binoculars and spotting scopes provided. Stay for the Beak to Tail workshop at no extra charge!
  Sat., Feb. 18 | 8 am - noon
  For adults | $10 (Nonmembers: $15)

- **From Beak to Tail: All About the Life of Birds**
  Take an in-depth look into the wonders of bird ecology, conservation and behavior. Beginning through advanced birders welcome. Binoculars provided.
  Sat., Feb. 18 | 1 - 2 pm
  For adults | $5 (Nonmembers: $10)

- **Zumba Express**
  Bring your dancing feet and gyrating hips to this 45-minute class.
  Every Wed. | 5:30 - 6:15 pm
  For everyone | $5 (Nonmembers: $10)

- **Early Morning Bird Walks**
  Walk through the different habitats looking for birds and other natural denizens. Binoculars available.
  Every Wed. | 8 - 10:30 am
  For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: $5 suggested donation)

- **Zumba Fitness**
  Dance to great music and burn a ton of calories without even realizing it in this 60-minute class.
  Every Wed. | 6:30 - 7:30 pm
  Members $5 (Nonmembers: $10)

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Washington Park 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.

Tue., Jan. 3 | 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Sat., Jan. 14 | 10:30 - 11:30 am
Sat., Feb. 11 | 10:30 - 11:30 am
Tue., Feb. 21 | 5:30 - 6:30 pm
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

**ROOT Washington Park**

Ready to remove buckthorn and honeysuckle or help us clean seed? Join us for ROOT (Restore Our Outdoor Treasures) in Washington Park as we work to improve natural habitat for native plants and wildlife.

Every Wed. | 9 - 11 am
Every Thu. | 3:30 - 5:30 pm
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

**3 Ways to Register:**

1. **Online:**
   www.urbanecologycenter.org
2. **By Phone:**
   (414) 344-5460
3. **In Person:**
   1859 N. 40th St.

= Accessible for persons with disabilities. We want to get you outside. Please call (414) 344-5460 with any communication preferences or physical concerns.
Three Bridges Park Self-Guided Scavenger Hunt
Try this self-guided scavenger hunt for kids and adults! Bring your friends and try to find tracks in the snow.
Sat., Jan. 7 | 9:30am - noon
Sat., Feb. 25 | 9:30am - noon
For adults and children ages 5 and older | Free - donations appreciated | Drop-in program, no registration necessary

Little Explorers Morning Playgroup
Help your kids learn and explore in our preschool playgroup. We have activities (including our secret slide) specifically designed to engage the senses of children ages 4 and under.
Fri., Jan. 13 & Feb. 10 | 11am - noon
For children aged 4 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

Sledding the Slopes of Menomonee Valley
Get outside for the perfect winter activity - an evening of snow and sledding in Three Bridges Park. Plus, we'll warm up with hot chocolate. If there is no snow, we will go for a hike.
Tue., Jan. 17 | 4 - 6pm
Thu., Feb. 9 | 4 - 6pm
For children aged 5 - 12 | Free for Young Scientists Club members (Nonmembers: $5 per child)

Night Hike in Menomonee Valley
Explore the trails a guided Night Hike through Three Bridges Park! This is a perfect way to see the park as seasons change. We’ll conclude with story time and hot cocoa by the fire.
Thu., Jan. 19 | 4 - 6pm
Tue., Feb. 14 | 4 - 6pm
For families with children ages 5-12 | Free for Young Scientists Club members (Nonmembers: $5 per child)

Changing Our World Through Art: Art Opening by Escuela Verde’s Youth Artivists
In Escuela Verde’s Art Club, students use their skills and voices to work for change in the community. The work in this show speaks out about issues ranging from climate change and environmental racism to immigration reform and gender inequality. The show runs through March 3rd.
Fri., Jan. 20 | 4 - 5:30pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

EcoArt Wednesdays
Join us for nature-inspired recycled arts and crafts. Take home your very own creation every week!
Every Wed. | 4 - 5:30pm
For families with children age 12 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

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. | 4 - 6pm
Every Sat. | 1 - 4pm
For ages 5-12 | $10 annual membership

Animal Feeding
Help feed our resident animals!
Every Sat. | 1pm
For everyone | Free

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

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

FAMILY PROGRAMS

URBAN CANDLELIGHT HIKE in THREE BRIDGES PARK
Hiking by candlelight, toasty warming shelters and warm refreshments await! The Hank Aaron State Trail will be lit with over 200 candles to welcome and guide explorers through this beautiful urban oasis.
Co-hosted with:
- Menomonee Valley Partners
- Friends of the Hank Aaron State Trail

Saturday, February 25 5:30 - 8:30pm
For everyone | Free!
**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., Jan. 28 & Feb. 25 | 9:30 - 11:30am
For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated

**Early Morning Birdwalks**
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

**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 Thu. | 9 - 11am
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

**Cross-Country Skiing for Beginners**
Don’t get stuck inside this winter - give cross-country skiing a try! We’ll provide the gear and the instruction that’ll have you hitting the slopes in no time. Be sure to dress in layers.
Sat., Jan. 21 | 10 - 11:30am
Sat., Feb. 4 | 10 - 11:30am
Sat., Feb. 18 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults and accompanied children
Adults: $6 (Nonmembers: $9)
Children: $4 (Nonmembers: $7)

**Cross-Country Skiing for Kids**
Don’t get stuck inside this winter - give cross-country skiing a try! We’ll provide the gear and have you hitting the slopes in no time. Be sure to dress in layers.
Tue., Jan. 24 | 4 - 6pm
Thu., Feb. 16 | 4 - 6pm
For children ages 7-12
Free for Young Scientists Club Members (Nonmembers: $5 per child)

**Snowshoeing for Kids**
Take your kids on a snowy hike as you learn the basics of snowshoeing. Make sure to dress in layers and wear waterproof footwear. Equipment provided.
Tue., Jan. 31 | 4 - 6pm
Thu., Feb. 23 | 4 - 6pm
For children ages 7-12
Free for Young Scientist Club members (Nonmembers: $5 per child)

**Snowshoeing for Beginners**
Learn the basics of snowshoeing and enjoy snowy hikes this winter. Equipment provided. Make sure to dress in layers and wear waterproof footwear.
Sat., Feb. 11 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults and accompanied children
Adults: $6 (Nonmembers: $9)
Children: $4 (Nonmembers: $7)

**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

**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., Jan. 12 | 5:30 - 7pm
Thu., Jan. 26 | 5:30 - 7pm
Wed., Feb. 8 | 5:30 - 7pm
Thu., Feb. 23 | 5:30 - 7pm
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

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

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

**3 WAYS TO REGISTER:**
1. **ONLINE:**
   www.urbanecologycenter.org
2. **BY PHONE:**
   (414) 431-2940
3. **IN PERSON:**
   3700 W. Pierce St.

= Accessible for persons with disabilities. We want to get you outside. Please call (414) 431-2940 with any communication preferences or physical concerns.
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

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
☐ Me  ☐ Gift Recipient  ☐ Card picked up

Total   $____________

I would like information about estate and planned giving

☐ I would like to remain anonymous

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

☐ My gift is  □ in honor of or  □ in memory of

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.
IN THIS ISSUE

IT’S EASY TO START YOUR YEAR OFF WELL!
by Beth Heller

Keeping New Year’s resolutions can be hard. Especially if one of your resolutions is to be active outdoors the middle of a season that usually keeps us indoors. I’ve learned that finding a group of people with similar interests can help get me going.

BUILDING THE WORLD WE WANT
by Glenna Holstein

I’ve realized that we tend to spend much less time talking about what it is we are working for. What would it look like to have the world we want to live in? I truly believe that we need to spend more time thinking about that question. And I think that’s one of the main reasons I appreciate the Urban Ecology Center.

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS?
by Brandice Kirchner, Community Programs Educator

I am a relatively new Community Programs Educator at Washington Park. We do much more than I ever expected! ... I love that my job at the UEC is so versatile. I not only get experience as an educator with local schools, but I organize events and build relationships with people in the neighborhood who visit the Washington Park branch.

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

Thank You!
You’ve donated $63,695 to our Fall Fund Drive (as of 12/13/16)

1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211

12:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
at Washington Park

Saturday, Jan. 28

Winterfest

FSC logo