SEE HOW YOU’RE CONNECTING PEOPLE IN CITIES TO NATURE AND EACH OTHER
MISSION

We connect people in cities to nature and each other.

VISION

Our vision is to inspire generations to build environmental curiosity, understanding, and respect. We restore hope and heal our urban natural world, neighborhood by neighborhood.

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1500 E. Park Pl.
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 964-8505

Menomonee Valley
3700 W. Pierce St.
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Thank you Judy Krause for your incredible service September 2000 through December 2018. The UEC community wishes you all the best!

Cover photo:
UEC Outdoor Leader Camoya near the lagoon at Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park.
As a volunteer, Camoya remembers, “The first thing they had us do was canoe…and I’ve never canoed before. I was really nervous and it was completely out of my comfort zone. But they were like ‘you can do it, you can do it!’”

“The staff were very encouraging. So we got in the canoe and we canoed the lagoon. It was one of the best days I’ve ever had here.” From Camoya’s first introduction to the Washington Park Urban Ecology Center as a youth volunteer in 2014 to her years in the High School Outdoor Leader program and then acceptance to college in the fall of 2018, we’ve loved being a part of this amazing young woman’s journey!

Terry Evans, Branch Manager at Washington Park UEC says, “Camoya’s hard work, commitment, and leadership throughout her time here have really impacted the Center, staff, and other Outdoor Leaders. We have seen Camoya blossom from a 12-year-old that wanted to just hang out at the Center to a teenager eager to learn and have new experiences that included college. Camoya has been an inspiration to everyone that she comes in contact with.”

Being surrounded and supported by the UEC High School Outdoor Leader program, Camoya noted, “It’s nice to have that experience, because working there they were constantly pushing you out of your comfort zone. You learn a lot and you learn about yourself and your community. I think that’s one of the main reasons why I just loved being there.”

Now a freshman at UW-LaCrosse, Camoya has found her first year as a biology major on the pre-veterinarian track to be challenging and fun at the same time. When Ken Leinbach, UEC Executive Director, recently spoke at UW-L Camoya was glad to see him. “I didn’t realize the UEC had such an impact on my campus.”

Camoya’s story is just one of many journeys that you have been a part of through your support of the Urban Ecology Center. Read on to learn about more amazing work you made possible in our community!

**Read our 2017-18 Annual Report**
Dear Friends,

As I reflect back on this, my 20th year as Executive Director of the Urban Ecology Center, I am greatly honored by all that your support and partnership have enabled us to accomplish. As I look forward to the continued good work and exciting vision that lies ahead, I am in awe of the talent and generosity that you continue to share as it propels us into the future.

I am especially excited to share the progress on two major projects below and, on the following page, the incredible impact you made possible.

Congratulations on all we have accomplished together, and let’s continue to restore hope and heal our urban natural world, neighborhood by neighborhood.

Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

THE INSTITUTE
SHARING THE UEC MODEL

The Institute encompasses all our work to share the UEC model with other cities and organizations that have expressed interest.

Our book Urban Ecology: A Natural Way to Transform Kids, Parks, Cities, and the World was the basis of the curriculum for our inaugural 4-day UEC Intensive workshop, with topics ranging from Leadership for Change to Community Empowerment.
Washington Park planning has made great progress this year. A concept plan has been developed for a beautiful new green building that will allow us to double our current programming!

We have carefully created a Restoration Plan for 20 acres surrounding our current building, studying the rich history of the park and holding community input meetings.

We are excited to continue to partner with Milwaukee County Parks and the community to turn these plans into reality over the next few years.

“The immense exposure [to the UEC] during the Intensive gets you thinking about how to do something similar while still fitting to the needs of your home community. Once you can touch it, smell it, walk on it, and see it firsthand, it’s a totally different experience.”

- Yael Eran, Tiberias, Israel

23 people attended, including representatives from Tiberias, Israel, Medellín, Columbia, and McAllen, Texas. A second Intensive workshop will be held in July 2019, in addition to two-day focus workshops throughout the year.
“Without realizing it, children are learning to be responsible citizens of our planet. Of course, they think they are just having fun!”

- Partner school teacher after environmental education field experience

10,425+
Partner school teacher after environmental education field experience

34,546
HANDS-ON, NATURE-BASED SCIENCE EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS FROM 63 SCHOOLS

10,425+
NATIVE PLANTS AND TREES PLANTED BY OUR LAND STEWARDSHIP STAFF & THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS!
563 campers participated in summer camps in 2018.

47% received scholarships.

The Citrine Forktail, a rare damselfly species in our state, was documented in Three Bridges Park in September 2018! This represents the first time a rare odonate species has been documented in our shared green spaces.

100% of teachers strongly agreed that nature is an ideal setting for lessons that support early childhood development.
Volunteers of all ages helped plant native species during Community Planting Day at Three Bridges Park.
The Urban Ecology Center experienced a successful financial year thanks to continued generous community support and the dedication of volunteers and staff. Our 2017-18 operating expenses were managed well to ensure a small surplus at year end, thanks to increased earned and contributed revenue. We successfully paid off short term financing ahead of schedule and continued planning for the future.

The Urban Ecology Center carries no long-term debt and enters only into agreements that are supported by existing pledges and contributions from our donors. The Board of Directors and Finance Committee maintain a keen focus on the adequacy of cash, while also providing oversight for all material financial aspects of the organization. The Center has a positive ratio of assets to liabilities and a robust donor base, ensuring a solid financial foundation from which to cultivate future growth. Our annual financial statements are audited by the Milwaukee based accountants of Scribner Cohen & Co.

Please visit our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org for additional information, including the IRS Form 990 and audit report.

The charts above represent operational revenue and expenses and are derived from Urban Ecology Center cash-basis financial statements. This statement is not required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and is not part of the audited financial statements.

Volunteers are at the core of the UEC’s operations. Their contributions of time and expertise are vital to our mission!

4,728 volunteers dedicated
25,185 hours to the Urban Ecology Center.
That’s $580,755 of contributed labor!*

*Based on a $24.00 per hour value determined by Independent Sector for the state of Wisconsin.
Here’s to you
The Urban Ecology Center thanks you, our generous donors, for your support in the 2017-18 fiscal year.

We are grateful for the support of the following foundations, corporations, and individuals who made a contribution to support our mission, programs, or operations. Donor levels reflect total giving for the year, including gifts-in-kind. A full listing of donors can be found on our website.

Symbols next to a donor’s name reflect that either a portion of their gift or their entire gift supported one of the following: the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum (*); Riverland Property Acquisition (†); Menomonee Valley – From the Ground Up (#)

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Exploring Washington Park with students from Story Elementary, looking for evidence of animal homes and making guesses about who might live in this big old oak tree.
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UEC Land Stewards and volunteers plant butterfly milkweed, a native species, to help attract Monarch butterflies to our parks.
This Eco Kid is all smiles while learning about plants and animals at Summer Camp in the Menomonee Valley!
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UEC summer interns spending an afternoon on the Milwaukee River collecting and observing aquatic macroinvertebrates with our Community Science team.
A monarch butterfly lands on a native pale purple coneflower in Riverside Park. Monarchs provide many research and educational opportunities at the UEC.
GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Gifts given September 2017-August 2018 in honor or memory of an individual that are not designated to a specific fund support the Urban Ecology Center’s Endowment. Donor name appears below the person being honored.

§ - Either a portion of gift or entire gift supported the Deep Roots Native Tree & Plant Program

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Every effort was made to ensure that this list of donors is accurate. If you made a gift between September 2017 and August 2018 and your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please contact the Center’s Development Office at (414) 964-8505.
JOIN THE FUN! VIEW OUR FULL PROGRAM & EVENTS CALENDAR ONLINE

EARTH DAY OF SERVICE
Saturday, April 27
All three UEC branches
All ages | Register online
Let’s have a working celebration of the Earth! Bring your friends and spend a morning helping in our parks. Meet new people and have fun making a difference!

SUMMER SOLSTICE SOIRÉE
Saturday, June 15
Washington Park
Join us as we celebrate the 12th Annual Summer Solstice Soirée, a unique gala-style evening in celebration and support of the Urban Ecology Center.

HKE MKE 2019
October 2019
Riverside Park
Let’s hike Milwaukee! Our annual fall fundraiser takes you on a scenic hike through the heart of the city — with lots of fun stops along the way!

You can connect more people in cities to nature and each other.
Learn more at www.urbanecologycenter.org!

Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 964-8505

Washington Park
1859 N. 40th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 344-5460

Menomonee Valley
3700 W. Pierce Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 431-2940

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