



URBAN
ECOLOGY CENTER

NEWS FROM THE

NATUREHOOD

SEE HOW YOU'RE CONNECTING PEOPLE IN CITIES TO NATURE AND EACH OTHER | WINTER 2020

***You've provided
resilience to our
community
throughout the
pandemic.***



A photograph of a woman and two children in a garden. The woman, wearing a white t-shirt and a patterned face mask, is looking down at a plant. To her left, a young boy in a blue t-shirt and a blue face mask is also looking at the plant. To her right, another young boy in a blue and white striped t-shirt and a white face mask with a black pattern is looking towards the camera. The background is filled with green foliage and a wooden trellis structure.

Community
Programs Educator
Erin Whitney
shares the wonders
of nature with
Summer Campers.

PEACE OF MIND & A SENSE OF WONDER

YOUR SUPPORT SAFELY BRINGS VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON OPPORTUNITIES
TO KIDS, FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE PANDEMIC.

Now more than ever, your support of the Urban Ecology Center's mission of connecting people in cities to nature and each other is vital to our community and well-being. While our homes are doubling as schools and offices, you are ensuring that nature can still be our classroom and offer a much-needed break to recharge and reconnect.

The green spaces we have created and nurtured together have seen an incredible increase in use as over half a million people visited our three natural spaces in the heart of the city. From early morning birders and walkers, to families taking their 'blue-screen break' and kids participating in UEC programs, your impact is more important than ever. Jackie, a UEC summer camp parent shared this about her children's experience:

"Somehow despite masks and 90 degree heat, UEC made this adventure so fun that my kids were begging to go back every day. They spent entire days outside, hiking, playing in the river and chasing butterflies. So thank you again, for your persistence and your efforts. You saved summer in a way and gave my kids a little bit of normalcy again."

Thanks to donor support, as summer turned to fall, the Urban Ecology Center was able to pivot to meeting the needs of our community by offering virtual Neighborhood Environmental Education Project programs to over 20 partner schools as well as in-person 'fall camp' programs for youth.

Maggy, mom of fall camper Amelia, said, "I tear up thinking about the difference these past weeks have meant for Amelia and my family. You have brought peace of mind to me and a sense of wonder back to my daughter."

"As a mom, COVID-19 has affected my family in countless ways. My family, like many that UEC serves, does not have the family structure or job flexibility to have my child at home and must look for childcare. There was a lack of good options available for our students in Milwaukee, until UEC created this opportunity."

Thank you for your support! While we do not know what lies ahead, we are confident that with your support we will continue to meet the needs of our community. ❄️

[GIVE AT URBANECOLOGYCENTER.ORG/DONATE](https://urbanecologycenter.org/donate)

PLANNING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

NANCY AND DAN IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT NOW, AND PLANT SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE.



When you plant a seed, you're thinking about the future. UEC volunteers Nancy Aten and Dan Collins know a lot about planting.

In their business, Landscapes Of Place, they work to analyze, design, and restore landscapes for institutions, land trusts, and private owners. With a particular interest in rehabilitating natural landscapes in urban settings, Nancy and Dan jumped at the chance to volunteer for the UEC: "Every interaction with the Urban Ecology Center is a joy for us, and our experience as proud members and volunteers encompasses lots of different things."

They embrace the UEC philosophy that ecological restoration can happen right next door, as seen in their work with Menomonee Valley transformation beginning with the planning stages in 2001 and onward.

Including the Urban Ecology Center as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, insurance, or retirement plan is like planting a seed.

Nancy and Dan explained, "We're privileged to be able to consider legacy gifts in our will, and the decision to put the Urban Ecology Center near the top of our list was easy. Joining the Legacy Society was a simple step that communicates our plans clearly. We believe tremendous and long-lasting good sprouts from gifts to the UEC."

Thank you to Nancy and Dan and all the other UEC Legacy Society members for ensuring that the Urban Ecology Center will continue to grow far into the future. ❁

Interested in joining the Legacy Society like Nancy and Dan?

When you include the Urban Ecology Center as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, insurance, or retirement plan you help ensure that the UEC mission and your values continue into the future. Please contact Jen Hense at jhense@urbanecologycenter.org or 414-626-8544 for more details.

Why wait until after Black Friday and Cyber Monday to give back? Why not give first this year?

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY
GIVING FIRST ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24!**

Every **\$84** you give (just \$7 a month!) provides a child access to environmental and science learning throughout the school year. Your support provides the resources needed to offer important programming that inspires generations to build environmental curiosity, understanding, and respect.

*Donate
here*

URBANECOLOGYCENTER.ORG/GIVINGFIRST



Land Steward Jeff Veglahn leads a plant walk in the Menomonee Valley during this year's week-long, COVID-conscious HKE MKE fundraising event.



JOIN THE FUN!

 VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR ONLINE

IN PERSON:

CANDLELIGHT WALK for Kids & Adults

December 5 & 18, 2020 | Riverside Park

Join us for a magical evening in Riverside Park as we illuminate the trails with hundreds of candles. You'll find cozy fires in the park to warm your mitts and roast marshmallows. *COVID-19 safety measures will be in place.*

WINTER EQUIPMENT LENDING

Begins in December for UEC Members

Members of the UEC can borrow equipment like cross country skis and snowshoes for free, creating wonderful opportunities to explore our parks (and beyond!) in the winter. *Contactless pickup & dropoff available.*

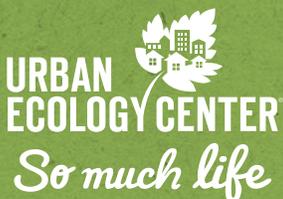
ONLINE:



URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER IN MY BACKYARD

Whether your "backyard" is a local park, or connected to your home, we're here to help make it your virtual UEC. We're providing TONS of resources to help you enjoy your nearby nature: educational content for families, opportunities to contribute to research, and much more!

URBANECOLOGYCENTER.ORG/INMYBACKYARD



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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