We're here to help connect you to nature and each other this summer!
Come canoe with us! We have paddling programs all summer for you, regardless of your experience level. New to the water or want to refresh your skills? Take a Canoeing for Beginners class at Washington Park. If you’re looking for a great way to relax, try a Sunset Canoe on the Milwaukee River. We also have trips that combine your interests like a Full Moon Canoe or join us every Wednesday in July for Evenings on the Lagoon where we’ll be taking boats out on the water!

Visit urbanecologycenter.org/paddling
Grown-Up Summer Camp is back! July 23rd

Summer Camp isn’t just for kids! Here’s an evening of summer camp fun for grown-ups... with a twist! We’ll have canoeing, rock climbing, a beer tasting with experts from New Belgium Brewing Company followed up by a campfire, games, music, and so much more! This event will also include FREE beer donated by New Belgium available to participants.

Canoeing Option!

6pm Start 6-9pm
7pm Start 7-10pm
5pm Start 5-8pm*

* Want to rock climb instead of canoe? Sign up for our rock climbing 5 pm Start!

Registration for a specific start time is required. Each group will participate in an adventure activity to start.
Equipment Lending

Get out into nature this summer with your Equipment Lending Benefit! As a part of your UEC Membership, you can borrow equipment for FREE. Some updates for 2021:

- In addition to our boats, we are now lending camping gear as well. Register online to see what’s available.

- To ensure that all members have an opportunity to borrow, we are asking members to limit reservations to once a month.

- We won’t be lending equipment from our Menomonee Valley branch this summer. Increased inventory is available at our other two branches, however!

Have a fun, active summer!

Connect to others in our Urban Ecology Center community at a Members Only Event!

Remember, members also receive 20% off program fees so be sure to log in to our calendar when signing up for programs. Not a member? Join today! Not sure of your membership status? Reach out to our Membership Manager, Glenna Holstein at gholstein@urbanecologycenter.org.

Members-only Scavenger Hunt July 22

A meddling menace has settled in Riverside Park, causing a series of temporary challenges to appear throughout the park. We need teams of UEC members to find and solve puzzles to earn points throughout the park before the time runs out! The team with the most points wins epic bragging rights (and maybe some UEC swag).
Learn something new on Fridays at 9am during our Virtual Backyard Naturalist series! Learn about the incredible biodiversity that makes up many backyards right here in Milwaukee!

Missed an episode or want to see it again? Visit urbanecologycenter.org/uecinmybackyard and click on “Adult” to find our past episodes.

Once a month, we invite Wisconsin experts to share their insights into a specific species or phenomenon. Join us on July 9 for guest lecturer Susan Carpenter, one of Wisconsin’s experts on bumble bee conservation, the rusty-patched bumble bee, and citizen-based monitoring. Use our calendar to register and discover the life history, ecology, and habitats of our native bumble bee species.

HUGE THANKS TO AUGUST’S UEC IN MY BACKYARD SPONSOR, MACGILLIS WIEMER, LLC ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Botany Walks

Not sure if you saw a Smooth or Staghorn Sumac in the park? Wondering what that purple plant (the one that sorta looks like that yellow one) is? Wish you could have someone you could ask? Join our Land Stewards on a Botany Walk!

Sign up and stroll with us from 10:30 am-noon at Riverside Park on the first Friday of the month, at Washington Park on the second Friday of the month, and at Three Bridges Park (Menomonee Valley) on the third Friday of the month. Bring your questions and watch how the parks change during the season.

Fall Birding

Let’s get outside to enjoy nature and birds at the Backyard Birding Blitz!

On Saturday, September 4th, take to your favorite birdwatching spot and virtually join people from around Milwaukee (and even the world!) as we “compete” to count as many birds as we can. Join this fun and interactive birding challenge from your own window, backyard, or neighborhood!

Watch our Facebook for more details!

Save the date for this year’s HKE MKE fundraiser presented by the Rotary Club of Milwaukee! Pick your own nature experience from a week-long list of opportunities we have planned. 2021 hikes will include birdwatching, insect hunting, toddler fun, family adventures, natural history, and art — all led by UEC experts.

See you, September 25th - October 2nd for HKE MKE. Hike YOUR city, connect with nature, and support the mission of Urban Ecology Center!

Registration opens August 20.