



Urban Ecology Center Institute

Sharing the model to connect people in cities to nature and each other



The UEC model in other cities

In response to inquiries from people in other cities, the Urban Ecology Center Institute shares the vibrant model developed in Milwaukee. With three distinct branches in different neighborhoods of the city, the Urban Ecology Center connects people in cities to nature and each other.

Excitement about the model arises from the following impacts:

- increased academic performance of kids,
- improved health and safety in our parks,
- an explosion of community engagement,
- added green space and ecological healing,
- impressive economic investments in underserved neighborhoods in the city,
- and a strong non-profit business model.

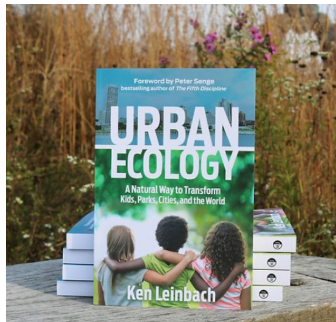
We use the case study teaching approach. With our three branches in Milwaukee — each in a demographically distinct part of the city offering a variety of programs — the UEC Institute offers case studies to help communities everywhere. It would be impossible to walk away without gaining important insights on how to activate the transformation of parks and neighborhoods in your own city.



Our training in a variety of modes

There are six ways in which we share our model, including online options, on-site in Milwaukee, and in your city:

1. The Book. *Urban Ecology: A Natural Way to Transform Kids, Parks, Cities, and the World*
2. Overview sessions introducing case studies of the UEC model – "The Intensive"
3. Focused Workshops and Classes
4. Guided Consultative Tours
5. Keynote Speaking
6. Customized Consulting for Your Organization



The UEC Model

As a systems thinking and learning organization, the Urban Ecology Center has been built from the ground up by a team with a unique and incredibly effective way of teaching. This is an environmental community center model that, once activated in a urban neighborhood green space, contributes to safety in adjacent parks, increased academic achievement of students, new jobs and job training, an explosion of volunteerism, increased value of neighborhood and city property, and an influx of community resources and engagement. A UEC restores the ecology of the land, instills love of nature, improves a neighborhood's environmental awareness, and is a catalyst for social change.

A case study approach to sharing

The Urban Ecology Center's three branches – first in its founding Riverside Park location, then in Washington Park, and again in Menomonee Valley – experienced similar results. The good news is that this can happen for you too.

After running programs out of a trailer for over six years, the organization built a new facility, then expanded into two more renovated spaces in just six more years.

These centers provide places for families and people of all ages to play and explore. Once activated in a local green space, centers provide a model of an environmental community center that inspires an explosion of volunteerism. In our experience, it can raise the value of neighborhood and city property, increase safety in adjacent parks, increase academic achievement of students, create new jobs and job training, and lead to an influx of resources and engagement. In Milwaukee, these are measurable changes and have included the investment of millions of dollars.



The training we offer immerses you in an experience that can help you transform your city. You will benefit from our 20+ years of experimentation, where we have faced major challenges and disappointments, as well as success and sustainable growth. This is not a one-size-fits-all template. The model's transformational power comes from a process of exploring possibilities and building partnerships around a shared vision of ecologically and socially restored urban spaces. Engage individually or include your whole team.

Urban Ecology Center • 1500 East Park Place • Milwaukee, WI 53211 • (414) 964-8505
<https://institute.urbanecologycenter.org/> • institute@urbanecologycenter.org