

RRF GOING SOLAR!

ONE OF this year's RE-volv projects is brought to you by the Solar Ambassador Team at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (UWM). The project is taking place at the River Revitalization Foundation (RRF), Milwaukee's urban rivers land trust. RRF focuses on the conservation and protection of riparian corridors in the city. Not only is RRF going solar, there are also plans to have a green roof installed in conjunction with solar panels. "RRF wants to be part of a highly visible demonstration project that showcases alternative energy as well as stormwater management. The combination of green roof and solar will give the surrounding neighborhood and community a sample of what they can do on their own buildings to address these issues", said Kimberly Gleffe, Executive Director of RRF. "We also appreciate the partnership of the Solar Ambassador team, helping to implement this project". The Solar Ambassador Team at UWM is in the heart of their 45-day campaign to raise \$10,567.



DONATE THROUGH CROWDFUNDING AT re-volv.org/project/21/ NOW THROUGH APRIL 3.

As of Monday March 6, 2017 the team has reached 30% of their goal with 29 days left. The Solar Ambassadors at UWM and RRF would like to thank Helios for donating all 10 solar panels required for the project.

Small commercial solar installations – including those used by nonprofits and co-ops – lag behind residential and other solar markets. More than 1.5 million nonprofits and nearly 30,000 co-ops in the United States could be saving money and reducing carbon emissions by going solar, but they often do not have access to solar financing.

RE-volv is changing that through a first-of-its-kind revolving fund to finance solar projects for community-serving nonprofits and co-ops.

"RE-volv.org is a platform where people come together to bring solar power to communities that need it," said Andreas Karelis, RE-volv's Executive Director and founder. "Our new crowdfunding platform empowers people to take action for clean energy and allows them to see the result: solar on the roof". In Milwaukee, RRF will be the 2nd project done with ReVolv; the most recently completed project is on the roof of the Riverwest Co-op.

DONATE AT
re-volv.org/project/21/

About RE-volv

RE-volv is a San Francisco-based nonprofit that empowers people to take direct action on climate change by crowdfunding solar energy projects for community-serving organizations. Tax-deductible donations made to RE-volv's crowdfunding campaigns contribute to a revolving fund that provides solar financing for nonprofits and cooperatives around the country. RE-volv raises awareness about solar energy through its community-based solar projects and education and outreach programs. RE-volv is an inaugural member of the White House National Community Solar Partnership and a winner of the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Catalyst program Business Innovation Award.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GET READY FOR SPRING!

TO VOLUNTEER, contact the RRF office at 271-8000. All events listed on our website: www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org.

APRIL EARTH DAY RIVER CLEAN UP! ARBOR DAY!

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 am – NOON

Earth Day river cleanup and weed out! Join us and Kiwanis Club volunteers to beautify our Turtle Park site and Kiwanis Landing. Volunteers will meet at the RRF offices at 2134 Riverboat Rd. Gloves, tools and supplies will be provided. See you there!



MAY KIWI OPEN GOLF OUTING!

Monday, May 22

SAVE THE DATE! – The Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee will hold its 13th Annual “Kiwi Open” Golf Outing on Monday May 22nd at the beautiful Western Lakes Golf Club. All proceeds benefit Kiwanis Landing at Turtle Park, southern entrance to the Greenway. Please call the Kiwanis Club office for details on golf and sponsorship opportunities at **414-276-1331** or email at kiwanismke@sbcglobal.net.

"KIWI OPEN"

JUNE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Saturday, June 3, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Join us for an evening in nature. **Natural Resources Foundation field trip** National Trails Day® will be celebrated locally with a Milwaukee River Greenway hike and paddle in partnership with the Natural Resources Foundation. Hike the scenic Milwaukee River Greenway to see greenspace restoration, revitalization and conservation efforts of urban natural areas. Then board kayaks for a short paddle down the Greenway water trail on the Milwaukee River to Lakefront Brewery for a beer or dinner (not included). Kayaks provided. Cost: \$25.

You must be an NRF member to register for this field trips! To join, visit WisConservation.org.

LOVE THE MILWAUKEE RIVER AND ITS SURROUNDING GREENSPACES?

Then get involved in RRF's drop-in volunteer opportunity, F.O.R.B. (Fostering Our Riparian Biodiversity).

Activities will include but are not limited to: removing invasive species, establishing native plants and trees, maintaining trails, seed collecting, seed cleaning and controlling erosion. If you're interested in volunteering

arrive at RRF at or before the start time.

REQUIREMENTS: Volunteers must be willing and able to participate in manual labor for at least two hours outdoors in varying weather conditions. Most importantly, a willingness to smile, have fun, and get dirty!

INCENTIVE PROGRAM: Volunteers that donate a total of 10 hours or more in a given year are provided free access to use any of the RRF watercrafts. Availability is determined by fleet size and staffing to unlock canoes and kayaks.

Please contact the Field Supervisor, Ellie Kirkwood, if you have any question about volunteering. Email: ekirkwood@riverrevitalizationfoundation.org

Mondays, 2:00 – 4:00 pm / Fridays, 1:00 – 4:00 pm / Saturdays, 9:00 am – NOON



We are again hosting a Full Moon summer series including the ever popular Happy Hour. Drink Now! Howl Later!

Friday, June 9th 5:30-9:00 pm (moon rise 8:31 pm)

Monday, August 7th 5:30-9:00 pm (moon rise 8:07 pm)

Kiwanis Landing at Turtle Park on the Milwaukee River!



**RIVER
REVITALIZATION
foundation**

RIVER REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM The River Revitalization Foundation was created to establish a parkway for public access, walkways, recreation and education, bordering the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic Rivers; to use the rivers to revitalize surrounding neighborhoods; and to improve water quality. **Thank You!**

YES! I'D LIKE TO JOIN THE SUSTAINERS CIRCLE!

- \$ 25
- \$ 50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1,000
- \$ Other

Name

Company

Address

City State Zip

Phone Fax

Email

Please remit to: River Revitalization Foundation, 2134 N. Riverboat Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53212

Enclosed is my/our gift of \$

Checks should be made out to River Revitalization Foundation.

Give securely online through PayPal at www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org click on the "DONATE" tab.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

RESTORATION:

As a result of our recently awarded Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant RRF was able to expand its Land Management team to have a greater impact on the land we own and manage. Thanks to our field staff leading many volunteers and UWM service learners, partnering with an Operation Dream team, and leading a Cream City Conservation Corps we have improved and maintained several acres of riparian habitat.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 18 acres of land canvassed for buckthorn eradication
 - 52,000,000 lbs. invasive species removed since we were awarded GLRI in July 2016!
 - Can you believe that there is still more buckthorn? GEEZE!
- 12 lbs. seed cleaned that was collected by RRF staff at several local natural areas! Native seed broadcasted over 16 acres of the 45 acre GLRI project area!
 - DANG, that's a lot of future baby plants!

BIRD BOXES:

While out enjoying the Milwaukee River Greenway, you may see new housing additions to the landscape. Don't fret though, these housing developments are for the birds—nesting boxes! Last summer, RRF's Earn and Learn team assembled 22 nest boxes. This winter our staff, volunteers and Operation Dream youth have been installing the nest boxes throughout Turtle Park, Caesars Park, and Gordon Park in anticipation of the breeding season this spring. The nest boxes come in several different sizes and shapes to attract specific bird species. They are strategically located at the right height, distance, habitat, and direction from each other to appeal to specific birds. The nest boxes were designed to attract the following species: Northern Flickers, Great-Crested Flycatchers, Eastern Bluebirds, and Common Mergansers. Of those species Northern Flicker and Great-Crested Flycatcher populations are in decline, providing an ideal nesting place for them during breeding season in the central city is critical for population sustainability and conservation. Keep a look out this spring and summer for updates on our social media about observations as we monitor the inhabitants of our nest boxes.



Nest box



Seed collecting.

Operation Dream team.



Before and after buckthorn removal.

WELCOME!

RRF is pleased to partner with Public Allies and offer a placement to Jachin Moore, Outreach Coordinator! Jachin will be helping with events, volunteers, and lead our Earn and Learn summer youth crew this year! To learn more about Public Allies, go to www.publicallies.org.



JACHIN MOORE

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CONTACT US

River Revitalization Foundation
2134 N. Riverboat Road
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-271-8000
www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org



GREENWAY GOINGS ON

JOIN US! We welcome your input!

RRF will hold a stakeholder meeting open to the public on Tuesday, April 25 at the Gordon Park Pavilion, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. This short meeting will feature a presentation on our progress in implementing the Milwaukee River Greenway Master Plan and the opportunity to give input into future project priorities.



When: Tuesday, April 25th

Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Where: Gordon Park pavilion, corner of Humboldt Blvd. and Locust St.

Parking: Free, available in the pavilion lot, enter from Humboldt Blvd.

RSVP and/or Questions? Contact Aaron Zeleske, Greenway Director, 414-271-8000 x2 or azeleske@riverrevitalizationfoundation.org

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Wisconsin Images for Conservation is hosting a photography contest to highlight land trust protected properties in the Southeast region. RRF is one of five partners participating.

The entire **Milwaukee River Greenway** within Milwaukee County is open to all registered photographers. **Imagine...**

You walk along the Milwaukee River on a recreational path winding six or so river miles from the city limits at Silver Spring Drive to the harbor at Lake Michigan; this river path then zigzags through Riverwest, along Brewers Hill and the Beer Line B, past Park East through downtown and the Third Ward to the lake front. The cool river water bubbles over the rocks through a protected park bringing our neighborhoods and communities together. Pedestrian bridges unite east and west at North Avenue and at Locust Street, creating a series of loops for runners, hikers, dog-walkers, and commuters. Finally you reach the Riverwalk where views of downtown unfold, a contrast to the upstream wooded stretch. The greenway restores the river as nature's

gathering place too. This corridor unites the river's rich working past with its economic, recreational, and sustainable present. It is a magnificent place of beauty and refuge in the heart of Milwaukee. You are part of a Milwaukee celebrating its sense of place; a place where fresh water is central to its identity (excerpt from Milwaukee's Central Park vision paper, Vince Bushell).

Several key sites within the Greenway include:

Milwaukee County Parks – Caesar's, Gordon, Riverside, Kern, Hubbard, Lincoln, Estabrook and Meaux; RRF protected – Turtle Park, Beerline Loop trail, Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum.

REGISTER HERE:

wisconsinimagesforconservation.org/

Contact the RRF office at **414-271-8000** for your own pocket map and for additional wayfinding information.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS:

riverrevitalizationfoundation.org/greenway/map/

2134 N. Riverboat Road
Milwaukee, WI 53212



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