

## GREENWAY BENEFITS FROM MAJOR GRANT INVESTMENTS!

Two federal grants have been awarded to the foundation for restoration within the Greenway, over two years at specific sites in need of extra attention. You'll see additional staff, volunteers, crews and activity as we implement these grant funded projects:

### EPA GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE – “MILWAUKEE RIVER GREENWAY INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL” (WI) \$505,000

This project will control invasive species on 45 acres of riparian land along the Milwaukee River utilizing a Civilian Conservation Corps model. Species to be controlled include common buckthorn, garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, honeysuckle, non-native thistles, and common burdock. The project area will be planted with native plants and trees. We will utilize partnerships with the Student Conservation Association, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Institute for Service Learning, and other local private and public partners. Outcomes include greater plant diversity, improved habitat quality, improved water quality due to reduced sedimentation, and greater awareness and engagement with stakeholders and the public.

### NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION – “MILWAUKEE RIVER BEERLINE WOODLAND RESTORATION” (WI) \$30,000

This project will remove invasive species on 27 acres, restore one mile of river habitat, plant 550 trees, and involve 500 community members, including 350 volunteers within the city of Milwaukee and the adjacent 800 acres of urban greenway along the Milwaukee River. Project partners will provide volunteer labor, landscape architecture, project management and community outreach. High school students will be engaged through a youth job skills training program, college students through the removal of invasive species and the planting of native trees and herbaceous plants, and community members through outreach regarding urban conservation and restoration. Project partners include Milwaukee County Parks, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, and the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board.

**This poem was written by a friend of one of our Americorps crew members placed with RRF last spring...  
All of whom tackled the field full of those pesky invasive species!**

*May every last shudderingly callow invasive imperialist water-side buckthorn  
Feel the righteous eco-furious lash of thy government-mandated scorn!  
And may the gray-hooded soldiers, marching back from battle heavily scarred,  
Be heaped with praise and honor and mountains of breakfast foods fried in free range bacon lard!  
When the rains pour down with the full rage of Noah's vengeful God  
Our human virtues will be measured by the degree of natural water filtration occurring wherever milwaukeeans trod!  
May all invasive flora be they flowering or beetle-adorned  
Meet their end in the shade of a gray hoodie, and be forever locally forlorned  
Amen*

— Jacob Boutte

# UPCOMING EVENTS **TO VOLUNTEER**, contact the RRF office at 271-8000. All events listed on our website: [www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org](http://www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org).

River Revitalization Foundation presents

## FULL MOON FILM FESTIVAL

Friday, September 16, 5:00 pm,  
Turtle Park, RRF, 2134 N. Riverboat Rd.  
Films shown at dusk (8:15-ish)

Outdoors on the big inflatable screen. Feature film – **Sun Come Up** – about climate change refugees; and other short environmental films, including **Prehistoric Resurrection** – inspired by the idea of “resurrection



biology” and a collection of crane-related folklore, poems, fossils and historical references.

The live-action footage was filmed during the Spring migration season along the Platte River in Nebraska. The Platte River is part of a vital ecosystem that cranes and other wildlife depend on for survival.

### Meet the filmmaker!

Cathy Cook will be here to introduce her film.

### ALSO ENJOY:

- Yellowbellies food truck – Adventure Rock climbing wall – paddling with Riverwest Outdoor – hikes!
- Raffle – win great prizes! All proceeds benefit our river programs.



Saturday, September 17  
Reed Street Yards

RRF will have an exhibit as an Eco-Champion during the festival – come on down!

Check out the BLOG, we are featured!

[www.rockthegreen.com/blog](http://www.rockthegreen.com/blog)

## MATC TRAIL UPDATE

With the generous support of the Fund for Lake Michigan and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, RRF worked with a crew of youth from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) this summer. The crew spent two weeks at our MATC trail site north of Capitol Drive doing trail maintenance and building a retaining wall. The wall was built with painstaking attention to detail, making sure the base was compacted and level before securing massive 12x12 timbers into the ground with rebar. The result: an incredibly sturdy 100 foot wall that will ensure many years of enjoyment of this trail link along the Milwaukee River. Thank you SCA!



Fishing Day with the International Institute of Wisconsin was a giant success this year, complete with food, fishing, hiking, and paddling thanks to the generosity of Riverwest Outdoor Educational Adventures! This was the second time we've partnered with the International Institute for this fabulous event and we're already looking forward to all the fun we'll have next year!

## WELCOME NEW STAFF!



**JEN LINSE**  
Milwaukee River Key Initiatives Coordinator (SWWTwater)



**ROBIN CASSAR**  
Restoration Specialist



**SIERRA TALIAFERRO**  
Restoration Specialist



**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 SUPPORT THE SUSTAIN CAMPAIGN!**

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

Enclosed is my/our gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Checks should be made out to River Revitalization Foundation.

Give securely online through PayPal at [www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org](http://www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org) click on the “DONATE” tab.

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

# EARN & LEARN CREW 2016

Thank you Bader Foundation, We Energies, Potawatomi, and Greater Milwaukee Foundation LIFT Milwaukee Neighborhoods for your grant support this summer!

Our summer youth crew consisted of 10 youth, 4 of which were returners. The crew worked feverishly at removing invasive species, maintaining trails and introducing native plant species to the river corridor. This experience plays a very important role for many. Often times the youth placed with RRF during the 7-week program have never had a job or been exposed to the outdoors in such a way. The youth work alongside the land management team as Land Stewards. They are exposed to the elements daily and participate in manual labor.

This summer the youth removed a total of 4,236 lbs of invasive vegetation and planted over 450 native species within the Milwaukee River Greenway! The youth not only learned the routine requirements of holding a job, but also about various ecological concepts/principles. Every Wednesday during the program the members participated in a workshop. Workshop Wednesdays consisted of: a boating and fishing exercise with Myanmar refugees, building a bug hotel to encourage establishment of insect populations and create a safe haven during the winter months, macroinvertebrate surveying to index the biotic quality of the river, water quality testing to monitor the river's health; and building nest boxes for various bird and waterfowl species.



Earn & Learn and SCA crews check out each other's projects.

The goals of the program are to teach the youth soft job skills as well as an appreciation for nature and sense of responsibility to greenspaces in their community. The program culminated in our crew leading a guided site tour to their peers on a Student Conservation Association team. The hike highlighted two common native wildflower families, herptiles, fish and macroinvertebrates, native pollinators, and the habits of an American beaver.

# FORB – VOLUNTEER WITH RRF!

FORB (Fostering Our Riparian Biodiversity) has been a very successful addition to RRF's programming. Only a little more than half way through the 2016 calendar year and our very dedicated volunteers have donated a total of 110.5 hours! These community members deserve a big "thank you" and a high five! Their passion for creating a greenspace thriving with an abundance of diverse native species and accessible well groomed trails is overwhelming! Without these regular volunteers the habitat restoration along the Milwaukee River would not be what it is today. Thank you FORB volunteers!



If you'd like to join us, please consider volunteering during FORB, our drop-in volunteer time.

**Mondays 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Fridays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**  
**Saturdays 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

If you have any questions please contact our Administrative Assistant, Emily Thornburg at 414.271.8000 or email at [ethornburg@riverrevitalizationfoundation.org](mailto:ethornburg@riverrevitalizationfoundation.org)

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### CONTACT US

River Revitalization Foundation  
 2134 N. Riverboat Road  
 Milwaukee, WI 53212  
 414-271-8000  
[www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org](http://www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org)



Like Us!



## GREEN ROOF/ SOLAR PANELS PLANNED AT RRF HEADQUARTERS!

Thanks to NJ Unaka, ReThink Factory (and formerly of UWM SARUP), we have concept plans for a Green Roof at our offices! This project is partially funded by MMSD, Rotary Club, and the SWWT mini-grant program - AND we will also feature a solar panel installation through UWM Engineering students and ReVolv out of California! Watch for crowdfunding events this fall and next spring to bring this project to reality. This will be the 2nd solar project for a nonprofit in Milwaukee – the 1st is the Riverwest Co-Op – check it out!

<http://riverwestcoop.org/2016/02/22/the-riverwest-co-op-re-volv-solar/>

## RIVER RECREATION!



**Our little Turtle Park** has sure gotten popular over the past year! From weddings to bikers, everyone is coming down to get out on the water at beautiful Kiwanis Landing. Grab a paddle and come check it out!

2134 N. Riverboat Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

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