

ABOUT THE REC

The Root River Environmental Education Community Center (REC) was founded in 2008 as a partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and the City of Racine.

Serving local residents, families, students, and youth groups, the REC seeks to promote appreciation, positive interaction, and responsible stewardship of the Root River and surrounding land (watershed) by providing residents and visitors with educational and recreational opportunities.

In addition to offering kayak and canoe rentals during the summer season, the REC also hosts environmental education workshops for families, private events, and school field trips.

The mission of the REC is to provide community members with opportunities to explore the Great Lakes and connected ecosystems through recreation, education, demonstration, and research.



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REC Environmental Center
1301 W 6th St
Racine, Wisconsin



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SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

The Root River Voyagers

Held on Saturday mornings during the summer from 10-11:30am, this environmental program is designed for community members ages 9 and up. Sessions cover the basics of kayaking, canoeing, and environmental education topics including rain gardens, and water chemistry.

Environmental Explorers

Middle school age scientists delve into concepts such as wildlife research, dissection, geology, and microscope discovery in this hands-on week-long camp. This program is run in collaboration with Parkside faculty and staff.

WATERshed

In the beginning of each school year, the REC, in partnership with Hawthorne Hollow, hosts and educates over 1,500 4th-grade Racine Unified School District students about the Root River watershed.

Make-a-Difference Day

The REC is a site for annual Make-a-Difference Day activities in late October. Participants assist with trash removal from the Root River and surrounding land, yard maintenance, and winterizing the REC facility.

RATES + HOURS + SEASON

SEASON PASSES

Individual Pass: \$50
Family Pass: \$90 (4 members)

FACILITY RENTAL

Education center: \$25 per hour
Center + equipment: \$75 per hour

EQUIPMENT RENTAL RATES

	ADULTS	STUDENTS
Single Kayaks	\$10 per hour	\$8 per hour
Tandem Kayaks	\$15 per hour	\$12 per hour
Canoes	\$15 per hour	\$12 per hour

SEASON

The REC is opened seasonally beginning the first week after Memorial day and ending the last week of September. We schedule private bookings on weekdays and evenings. Events and equipment rental are weather permitting.

Regular hours: Saturday + Sunday | 10am-4pm

CONTACT

Laura Schulz
Environmental Education Manager
262-595-2912 | 262-818-4200*
rec@uwp.edu

**Call during regular hours only*

EVENTS + ADVENTURE

Customize an event for your specific groups needs and interests. Some of the activities you can select are listed below:

- **Kayak and canoe tours**
- **Invasive species education + removal**
- **Volunteer activities**
- **Watershed education**
- **River animals programs**
- **Raingarden workshops**

Types of events community members have hosted at the REC:

- **Birthday parties**
- **School field trips**
- **Scouts badge workshops**
- **Family outings**
- **Summer camps**
- **Youth programs**
- **Corporate volunteer projects**

If you are interested in planning a special event, please email or call to discuss specific needs, budgets, and reserve dates.