



Ijams Parking Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost to park at Ijams?

Ijams' parking fee is \$5 per car, per day.

Why has Ijams started to charge for parking?

Ijams Nature Center is a nonprofit organization, not a city park. Only 9% of our annual operating budget comes from government funding. Unlike most nonprofit nature centers, Ijams has never charged an entry fee, relying instead on the support of incredibly generous members and donations. However, with the significant increase in visitation, current members and donors make up only 0.2% of our total visitors. To continue to offer excellent programs and maintain our natural resources, we must seek a sustainable path forward that diversifies our revenue streams and engages more people in support of our mission. This revenue will help create an equal distribution of support among all users, and visitors from outside Knoxville, Knox County, and East Tennessee will help protect and maintain Ijams.

Do other nature centers charge for parking?

Most nonprofit nature centers charge a per-person entrance fee to help support their operations. These entry fees range from \$2 per person up to \$10 per person per day. Those fees are usually paid at a gatehouse entry or visitor center. Ijams Nature Center has six vehicular entrances, so a single location for an entrance fee is not possible. Instead, to help support its operations and maintenance of facilities, trails, and natural areas, Ijams has chosen to implement a \$5 per day, per vehicle parking fee instead of a per-person entrance fee.

I'm an Ijams member. Do I pay to park?

All Ijams Nature Center members park for free and will receive an annual parking hangtag coinciding with their membership. Annual memberships start at \$10, depending on your income level, and we have worked hard to create a range of membership options to engage everyone in all we offer. Ijams never wants to create barriers to engaging with nature and the outdoors. The nature center has several equity memberships that address the needs of people with lower incomes, seniors, veterans, and students. Please visit the Ijams [membership page](#) for more information.

I'm an Ijams volunteer. Do I pay to park?

Volunteers are issued free daily parking passes or annual hangtags, depending on the number of hours they volunteer.

I'm attending a program/workshop/event at Ijams. Do I pay to park?

Please read the program description to learn if the daily parking fee applies during your program, workshop, or event.

Do I pay to park if I walk or ride my bike into Ijams Nature Center?

People who walk or bike into Ijams do not pay the \$5 daily parking fee. Only visitors with motorized vehicles (e.g., cars, vans, motorcycles) will be required to pay the fee.

How do I pay for parking?

If you are a member, parking is free (see Ijams membership levels [here](#)), and you will receive an annual parking hangtag to post in your vehicle. You also can purchase an annual parking pass for \$50. If parking for a single day, you can pay \$5 electronically in the parking lot using a QR code provided there, or come to the Ijams Visitor Center to purchase a daily parking pass to put on your dashboard.

Can KAT bus service routes go to Ijams?

The City of Knoxville may consider a trial in the future, but right now it is trying to get back to pre-pandemic levels of service and implement its KAT Reimagined plan, which prioritizes helping people get to work.