



## 2019 Annual Report





## A Year in Review

Mother Nature is an amazing and unpredictable force, worthy of both respect and protection. In February 2019, the Knoxville, Tenn., community received record rains, which caused a major landslide on Ijams' River Trail and tore the public dock from its moorings on the Tennessee River. Estimates for repairing these features were quoted at \$80,000 and \$16,000, respectively. Ijams did not learn until the last quarter of the year that it would not receive FEMA disaster assistance to help restore these popular places, and began working on other options.

While it wasn't the best way to start a new year, there were many other successes to celebrate along the way, and all furthered Ijams' mission of inspiring people to care about and preserve the natural world. Record visitation, offerings to engage people in new ways, and significant habitat restoration were among the year's many highlights.

One of the most exciting accomplishments in 2019 was the completion of the Ijams Primal Playground, the first natural exercise/training site of its kind. The new space combines landscape features such as boulders, logs and trees with a customizable training plan designed by a physical fitness expert.

Research has proven that exercising outdoors increases the intensity of the activity while increasing someone's connection with the natural world. The project was driven by the mission of engaging new visitors while giving nature lovers another way to spend time in the wild.

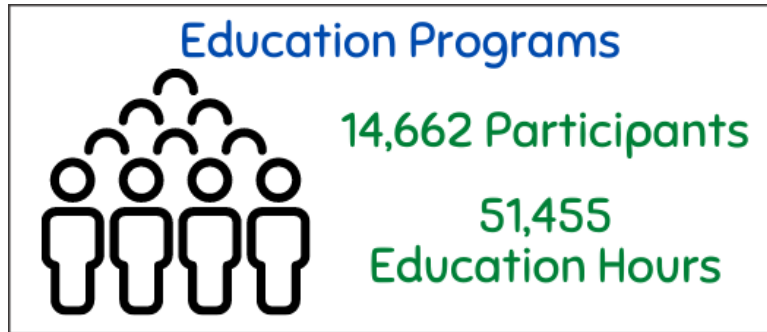
The Ijams Primal Playground also includes educational elements about the history of Mead's Quarry and the natural history of the region, creating a well-rounded exercise and educational experience unlike anything currently being offered.

All of the work accomplished in 2019 was possible due to the support of many individuals, businesses, foundations and government agencies that came together to make a difference for a place we all call home. Working together, we *can* make a difference.

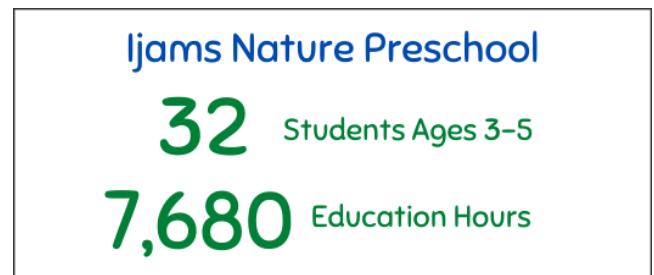
Thank you for believing in Ijams Nature Center.



## Education



The success of the part-time Ijams Nature Preschool for children ages 3-5 continued to grow in 2019 during its first full academic year, leading Ijams to begin the licensing process to become the first full-time nature preschool in the state of Tennessee.



Summer camp kicked off with the addition of a new space in a natural amphitheater just steps from Mead's Quarry Lake. The "picnitheatre" features tables and a stage for performances, arts and crafts projects, and lunch breaks. A new gaga ball pit was a big hit with campers and counselors during free time and extended care. The revised camp schedule also featured caving as a core activity. ***In total, 508 children participated in Ijams' summer, spring break and fall break camps.***





### Field Trips / Outreach

**4,925** Students Attended Field Trips  
(1,102 Received Scholarships)

**525** Students Attended  
Outreach Programs



Public programs reached more than 2,000 individuals and families in 2019, including more than 100 in the first full year of offering offsite programs in Farragut to help connect and engage residents in West Knox County with nature in their local parks

### Public Programs

**2,000** Families and Individuals

**100** Farragut Program  
Attendees

### Ijams Animal Staff

**66** Field Trips

**40** Camp Programs

**40** Public Programs

**34** Birthday Parties

**25** Outreach Programs

**11** Preschool Programs

**9** Private Events

Ijams' animal team members helped educate thousands of people through free, close-encounter Creature Features each Saturday as well as 185 other programs. The animal staff, all of whom would not survive in the wild due to injury or early bonding with humans, help people of all ages understand the importance of wild creatures and the need to protect their habitat.





# Natural Resource Management and Conservation

Managing 315 acres of protected land is no small feat, but the Natural Resource Management team, along with hundreds of volunteers, maintained the grounds and trails, completed two significant Ijams River Boardwalk repairs, and accomplished major restorations in 2019.

## "Lime Bowl" Restoration

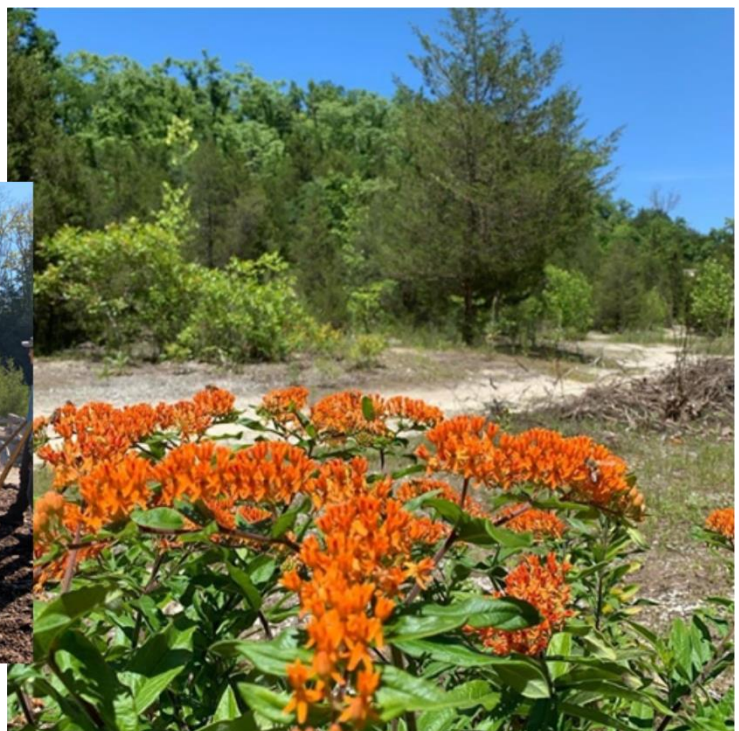
**400+** Native Plants Installed

Exotic Species Removed and  
Lime-Heavy Soil Amended

Hillside Catch Basins Completed

Ground-Penetrating Radar Survey  
Completed

Native Regeneration Efforts  
Monitored







## Grayson Subaru Preserve

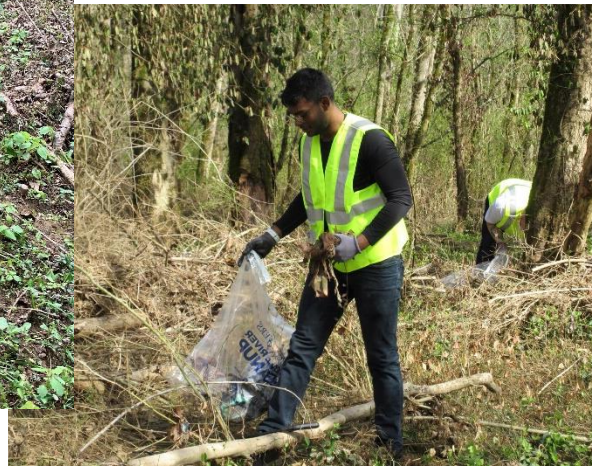
~4 Acres Cleared

100s Native Trees Planted

1 Trail Cut

Fascines and Live Stakes Installed  
to Bioengineer Creek Beds  
and Reduce Erosion

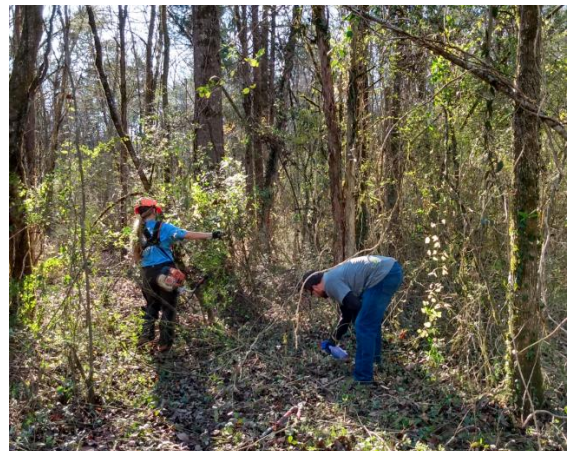
Brush Fencing Created  
Using Invasive Plants to  
Protect Fragile Areas



## Ijams Weed Warriors

Expanded Training Efforts to Help Volunteers  
Identify Pest Plants at All Life Stages

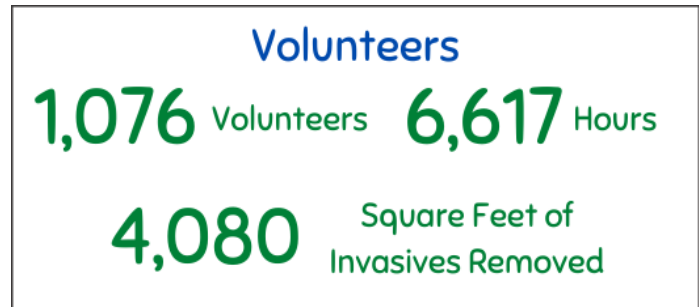
Instructed in Safe and Effective Herbicide Use





## Volunteers

From staffing the front desk and caring for Ijams' animal staff, to grounds work and trash removal, Ijams volunteers are making a difference at Ijams and the community we all call home.



### Ijams River Rescue

**682** Volunteers

**65,884** Pounds of Trash and Debris

**449** Tires

**31** Sites in Knox, Anderson, Blount and Loudon Counties





## Events

Ijams Special Events

**7,000** Attendees

Movies Under the Stars

Theatrical Performances

Concerts

Poetry Slams



Creative Workshops

Marketplaces



### Ijams Take Action: Big and Small Ways to Save the Planet

From zero-waste workshops and volunteer workdays, the inaugural year of Ijams' Take Action series provided a variety of ways to help protect the planet.



### Ijams Take Action: Big & Small Ways to Save the Planet

**1,178** Participants

**678** Education Hours

**2,300** Volunteer Hours

**15** Trees Planted

**16,000** Pounds Invasives  
Removed – Weed  
Wrangle Knoxville

**4,100** Pounds Electronics  
Disposed of Safely



## Event Rentals

From weddings and birthdays to corporate meetings and races, Ijams was the site for almost 10,500 people to gather together.

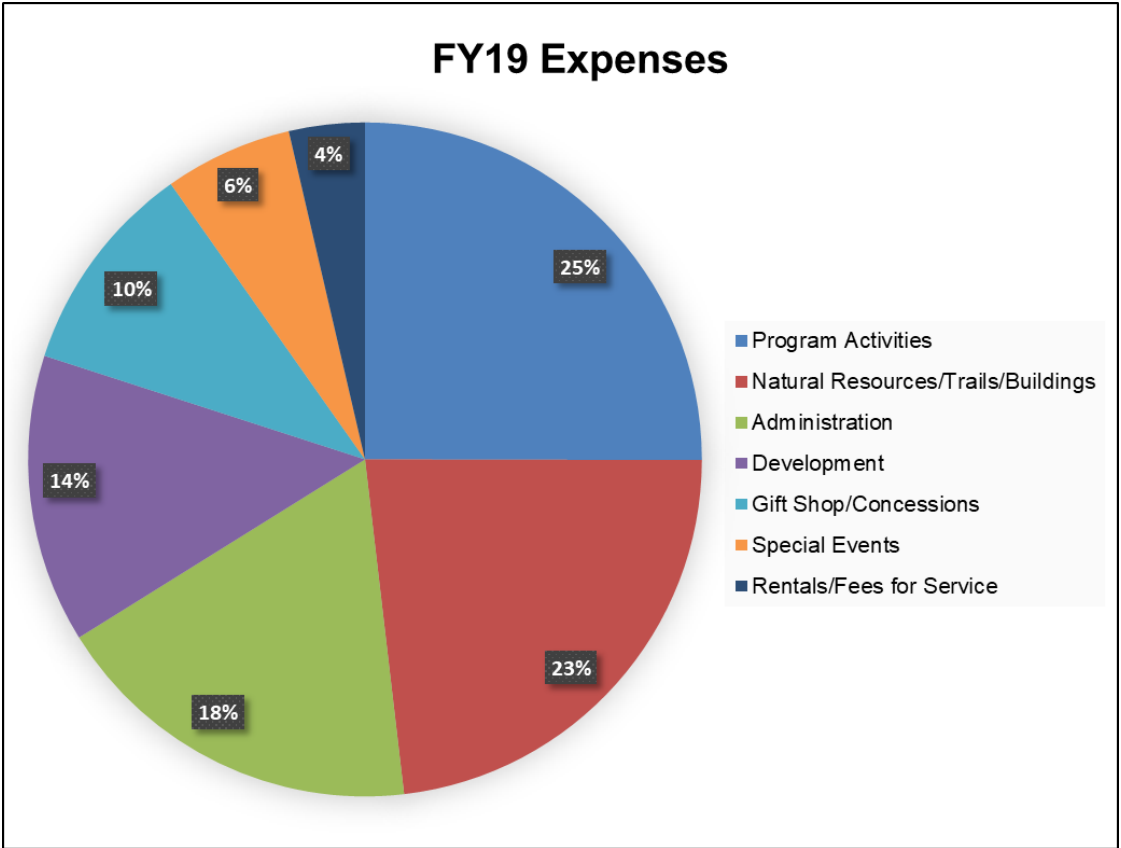
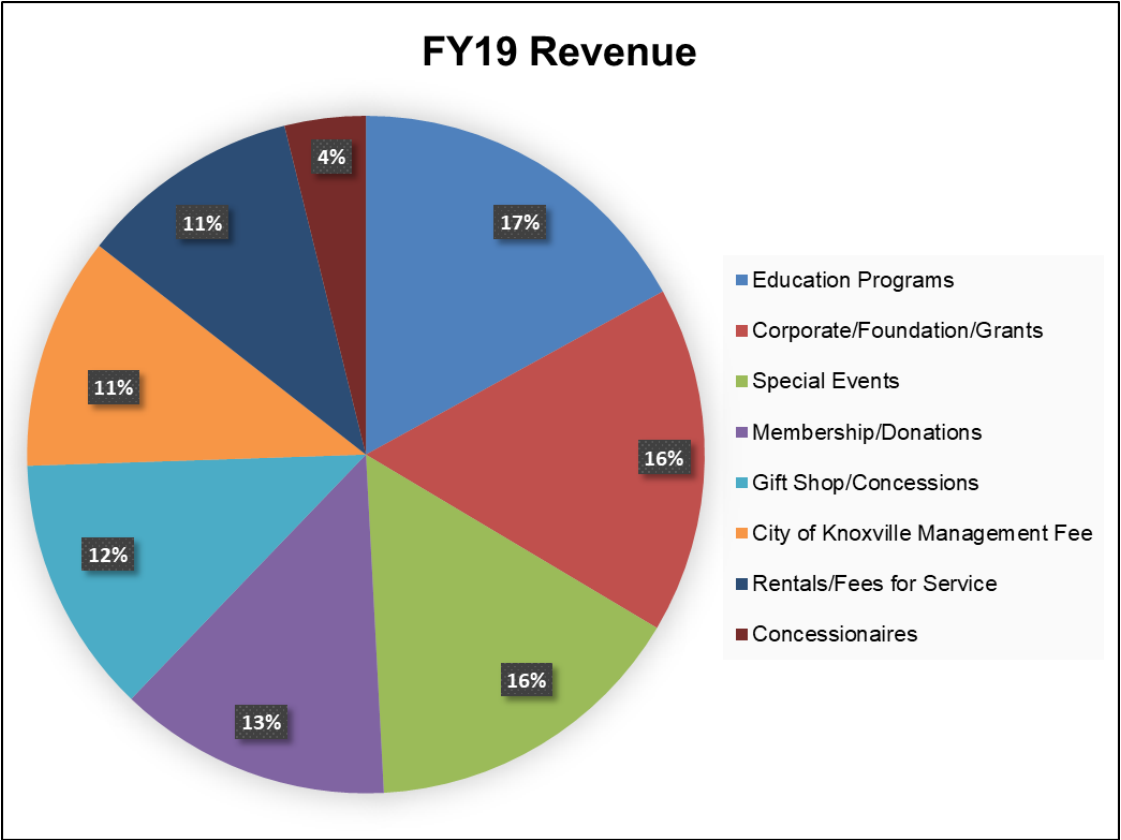
### Event Rentals

- 49 Nonprofit Events
- 10 Corporate Events
- 12 Weddings
- 10 Races
- 19 Birthday Parties
- 2 Showers
- 10 Family Events & Reunions
- 3 Celebrations of Life





# FY 2019 Financials





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Assistant Preschool Teacher.....	Rowan Young
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Development Coordinator.....	Elizabeth Newman / Karen Cooley
Visitor Services Manager.....	Sarah Brobst
Rentals Coordinator.....	Carolyn Corley / Nathan McGhee
Natural Resource Manager.....	Ben Nanny
Assistant Natural Resource Manager.....	Jack Gress / Joseph Bailey
Facilities Manager.....	Brenda Rayfield
River Captain.....	Jake Hudson



## Members and Donors

Ijams Nature Center simply would not exist without the generous support it receives from individuals, members, government agencies, foundations and businesses. More than 45% of Ijams funding comes from memberships, donations, grants and sponsorships. Thank you to everyone who donated to Ijams in 2019.

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- Finbarr Saunders & Ellen Bebb
- Mark and Carol Schappel
- Fran Scheidt
- Maureen Schenk
- Lynda Schilling and Gary Pulsinelli
- William and Becky Schneider
- Donna Schroeder
- Schwab Charitable Fund
- John and Allyn Purvis Schwartz
- Bill Schwenterly
- Scottie Lynne Pottery
- Bobbie Scull
- Wendy Seaward
- Richard Secrist
- Casey Self
- Nancy and Michael Sentell
- Jim Sessions and Fran Ansley
- Laura Sharbel
- Julie and Jeff Sharp
- Tom and Evelyn Shaw
- Courtney Shea
- Billie Shelby
- Tina Shepardson & Lyn Hartman
- Aaron Shugart-Brown
- Siddiqi Charitable Foundation
- Kristi Simpson
- David Sims & Rebecca Hedly
- Charles and Kimberly Sims
- Mary Sisson and Donald Snyder
- William Skelton
- Barbara Slover
- Smile-A-Day, LLC
- James Smith
- Richard and Karen Smith
- Christina Smith
- Jack and Jill Smoot
- Aaron Snyder
- Alan Solomon
- SoKno Taco Cantina
- Southeastern Dermatology
- Southern Marine Construction Company
- Wesley Soward & Marcy Souza
- Brian and Jennifer Spaid
- Tim Sparer & Cathy Shuck
- Mary Spengler
- Rosanne Spire
- Nickolus Stahlman & Sayge Smith
- L. Caesar & Dorothy Stair
- Caesar and Megan Stair
- Richard Stair
- Staci and Clay Stalcup
- Timothy Standridge
- Whitney and Monte Stanley
- Stanley's Plant Farm
- Robert and Diane Steffy
- Mikki and Dan Steinhoff
- Sue Stephens
- Dee and Ken Stephenson
- Jon and Sarah Stevens
- Kevin Stevens and Lisa Mullikin
- Chris and Laura Stewart
- Ruby Stewman
- Jennifer Stokes & Rex Madon
- Harold and Theresa Stone
- Anna Stout
- Jo Stout
- Sarah Stowers
- Tammy Strader
- Ann Strange
- Shelby & Jeffrey Strausser
- Jane Stroud
- Amy Styles
- Subaru of America
- Sunlight Gardens
- Sun-Up Garden Club
- Dennis Superczynski
- Charles Swanson & Pamela Reeves
- Susan Sweetser
- Sandi Swilley
- Michael and Suzann Swiney
- Mary Tankersley
- Betsy Tanner
- Paul and Barbara Taylor
- Emily Taylor
- April Taylor
- Brenda and Rob Taylor
- Jessica Taylor
- Deborah and Carmen Tegano
- Michael Tenbus
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
- Tennessee Wildlife Federation
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- Bill and Jo Terry
- Jean and Bob Terry
- Donna Terzak
- Texas Instruments Foundation
- Linda Thaller
- That Picnic Place
- John Thomas
- Lisa Thomas
- Bill and Beckie Thomas
- Melanie Thomas
- Sherrie Thompson
- Thompson Engineering
- Gerald and Alice Thornton
- Janice Threlkeld
- Samuel Tipton
- Toby's Kettle Korn
- Ross and Sharon Toedte
- Betsy Tonkin
- Dusty and April Tonkin
- Alice Torbett
- Mary and Joe Touchton
- Bo and Beth Townsend
- Doug and Catherine Traver
- Margaret Trentham
- Katherine Trunnell
- Trust Company of Tennessee
- Mary Alice Tucker
- Peggy Turner
- Tonia Turner & Amy Brace
- Camden and Karen Turner
- Shannon Twilla



- John Ulmer
- Joyce Underwood
- John and Marcia Upchurch
- Terry and Marsha Uselton
- UT College of Communication & Information
- UT-Battelle/ORNL
- Valley Grove Baptist Church
- Aleydis Van De Moortel and Merle Langdon
- Aleck & Nancy Van Hook
- Sherry Van Meter
- William & Alexina Van Pelt
- Kim Vaughan and W. Vaughan
- Sam & Mary Ann Venable
- Jean Vestal
- Mr. & Mrs. Park G. Vestal
- Joan Vestal Ellis
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary Post 3380
- Village Green Garden Club
- Visit Knoxville
- Lucky Vogt
- Allison & Phyllis von Gruenigen
- Tom & Bridget von Weisenstein
- Donald Vowell & Mary Alice Tabor Vowell
- Vulcan Materials Company
- Matthew and Cynthia Wahl
- Thomas Wainner
- Samuel & Joanne Walker
- James and Elizabeth Wall
- George & Stephanie Wallace
- John and Connie Wallace
- Walmart - Clinton Hwy
- Joe and Claudia Walsh
- Warehouse Liquors
- Tamara Warner
- Larry and Chris Warren
- Mary Alice Warren
- Caroline Wasmund
- Tommy Wasmund & Rebecca Neely
- Waste Connections of TN, Inc.
- Russ and Holly Watkins
- Rachel Watson and Michael Dey
- Audrey Watt
- Janet Watt
- Watts Chiropractic Center
- Megan and Brent Waugh
- James Waxmonsky
- Julia Webb
- Katherine and Greg Webb
- Glen Weber
- Mark and Ellen Weingartz
- Tom and Paula Welborn
- Stephanie Welch & Mark Jones
- Well House, The
- Wells Fargo Advisors
- West Hills Flats & Taps
- WestRock Recycling
- Pat Whaley
- Michael Whitaker
- Zach White and Erin Salter
- Ralph & Virginia Wiggers
- Bill Wigton
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Wildlife Preservation Fund of East Tennessee Foundation
- Chad and Lisa Wiles
- Marshall and Clare Wilkins
- Anna Marie Wilks
- Wayne and Carolyn Williams
- Doug and Rhonda Wilson
- George and Susan Wilson
- Jackie Wilson
- Teresa Wilson
- Jonathan Wimmer & Kelly Johnson
- Celia Winchester & Charlie DeBevoise
- Sherilyn Winchester
- Mike and Paige Winck
- Abby Wintker
- Jerry and Barbara Wiseman
- Brandt Womack & Kate Coffman
- Brenda Wood
- Jack Woodall & Sharon Boyce
- David and Lora Woods
- Christopher Woudstra
- Michael Wright
- Kae Wrinkle
- Tony Wylie and Kathy Riordan
- Sean and Ashley Wynne
- Alice Xiques
- James and Linda Yates
- Yee-Haw Brewing Company
- Jason and Kristen York
- Sallie Young
- Robin Young
- Allan and Donna Young
- Ruth Young
- June Zachary
- Marjorie and Arthur Zbaren
- Guy Zimmerman
- Andy Zimmerman
- Steve and Deborah Zimo
- Erik Zinser

## Mission

To encourage stewardship of the natural world by providing an urban greenspace for people to learn about and enjoy the outdoors through engaging experiences.

## Vision

Through direct experience with the outdoors all people will appreciate and care for the natural world.

Ijams Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit environmental education center that relies on member and donor support. Funding helps maintain the more than 315 acres of protected land as well as allows Ijams to offer low-cost education programs so that people of all ages, walks of life and ability can participate.

To learn more about Ijams or to help it meet its mission, visit [Ijams.org](http://Ijams.org).