

# Ijams Nature Center 2018 Annual Report





## A Year in Review

Ijams Nature Center began as the 20-acre homesite of an ornithologist and a gardener in 1910 who believed in nature. Since then, Ijams has grown into a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to continuing that legacy by serving more than 160,000 visitors annually.

Ijams' mission is to encourage stewardship of the natural world by providing an urban greenspace for people to learn about and enjoy the outdoors through engaging experiences. By providing direct experiences with the outdoors, Ijams' vision is that all people will appreciate and care for the natural world.

Ijams offers education programs that connect people to nature and teach them about the wonder of the world with the goal of inspiring them to become good stewards of the planet. Because people connect to nature in a variety of ways, Ijams offers quality educational experiences for all ages, abilities and income levels as well as recreational activities that enrich the body, mind and spirit.

In 2018, 12,150 people participated in Ijams' on- and off-site education programs, and almost 4,000 attended special events such as movie nights, theatrical performances, concerts and the annual Ijams Symphony in the Park.

Ijams also offered 1,243 volunteer opportunities; volunteers donated 6,915 hours assisting with programs such as the annual Ijams River Rescue, animal care, front desk staffing, field trips, grounds work and more.

Everything Ijams Nature Center offers is possible thanks to hundreds of individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations. Their support of this nonprofit nature center through donations, memberships, grants, fee-for-service contracts, sponsorships, in-kind services and volunteer hours.

Thank you for believing in Ijams Nature Center and the natural world.



## Highlights



### 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Ijams River Rescue

625 volunteers collected 39.7 tons of trash from East Tennessee's waterways during the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Ijams River Rescue. An estimated 30 tons came from ONE illegal dump site on Loves Creek.



### Nature Adventure Camps

Of the 302 children who attended Nature Adventure Camp, almost one quarter (75) were at-risk or underserved youths who received a scholarship. This program encourages kids to live an active, healthy lifestyle as well as understand and appreciate the importance of nature.



### Education Programs for All Ages

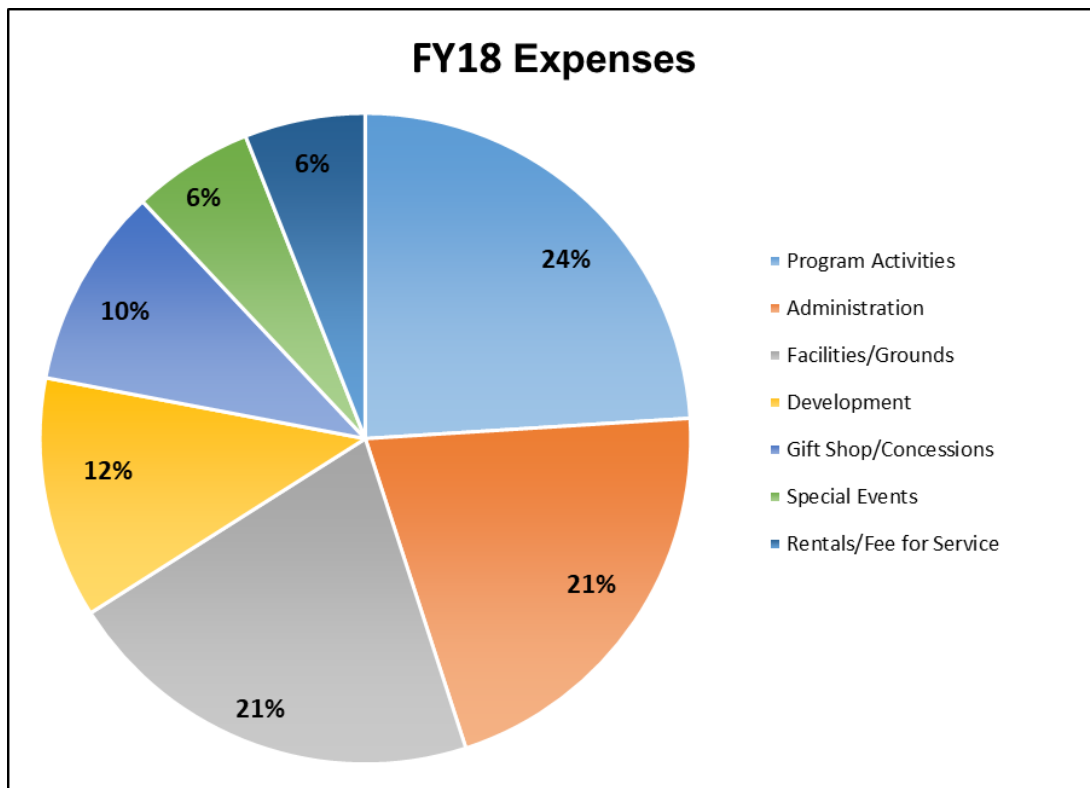
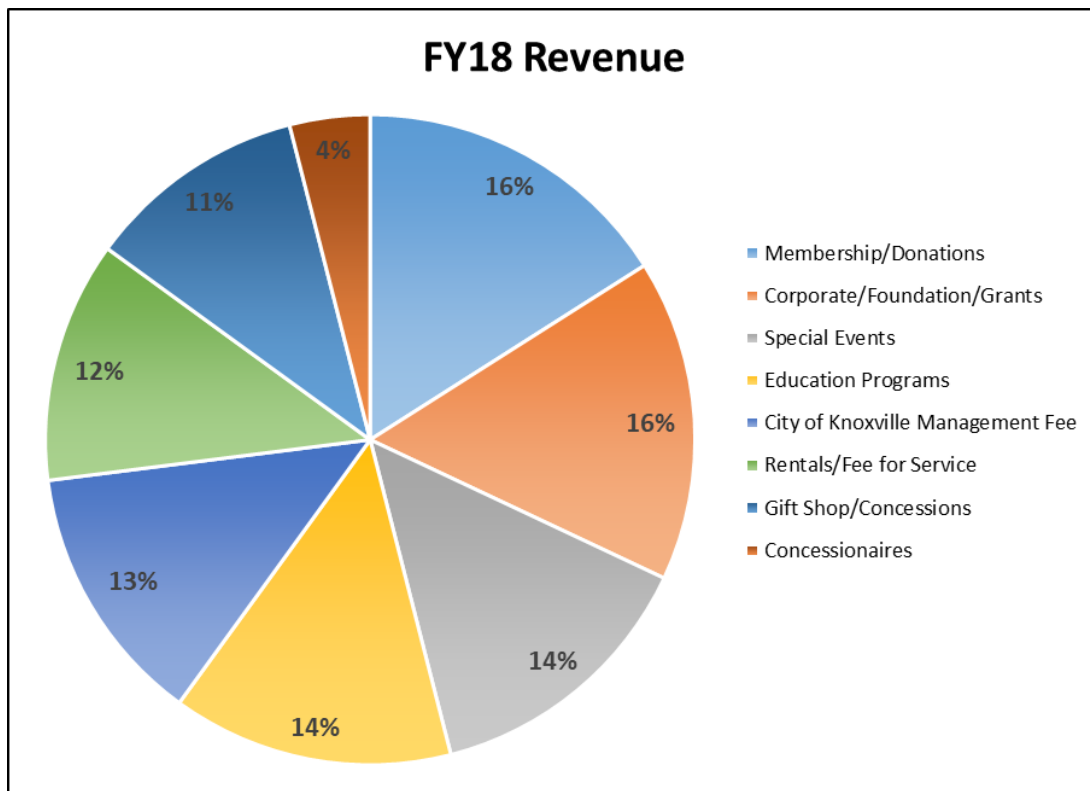
12,150 people of attended education programs. From Hiking Club to the Tennessee Naturalist Program, to the Ijams Nature Preschool and the Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival, there was something for everyone!



### Land Restoration

Work began at the Ijams "lime bowl," an area near the Ijams Crag that was once used as a dumpsite during quarry operations. Staff and volunteers created catch basins to slow erosion and filter runoff to improve the quality of the water that filters into the below caverns, which are home to the Berry cave salamander.

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