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**Ijams Nature Center Acquires Final Inholding Property,
Honors Neighbor Art Rall**

(KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, 11/3/25)—Ijams Nature Center is honoring a longtime neighbor and celebrating a milestone with the acquisition of the last remaining property within the nature center's boundaries.

The two-acre parcel, located above Tharp Trace, was owned by Art Rall, who passed away in the spring.

"For decades, Art was a quiet and steadfast friend to Ijams," Amber Parker, president and CEO of Ijams Nature Center, said. "He was known for his independent spirit and love of softball. He appreciated his solitude and the nature that surrounded him."

"Art was truly one of a kind," she continued. "We are grateful for his family's decision to work with Ijams to bring this land into conservation. It honors Art's legacy and ensures that future generations will enjoy a fully protected, connected nature center."

The purchase of Rall's land increases the nonprofit nature center's land holdings to 320 acres, strengthens habitat connectivity, protects critical hillside views, and preserves public access to the Urban Wilderness, a 1,000-acre outdoor recreation destination unique to Knoxville.

The timing is especially meaningful as Ijams Nature Center celebrates its 50th anniversary of being a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

"This acquisition is not just about land," Parker said. "It's about completing a vision 50 years in the making. A vision of connection: people to nature, trails to green spaces, and neighbors to each other."

For more information about Ijams Nature Center and its 50th anniversary celebration, visit ijams.org/50-years-of-stories.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025, Ijams Nature Center is a 320-acre nonprofit educational center in the heart of Knoxville that serves visitors of all ages, stages, and abilities. Its 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. Ijams features 14 miles of hiking and mixed-use trails, a public access river dock, swimming, boating, biking, and so much more. Hundreds of world-class educational programs and events are coordinated and offered annually. Ijams' grounds and trails are open every day from 8:00 AM until dusk. For more information, visit ijams.org or call 865-577-4717.

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