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**Ijams Nature Center Receives \$50,000 State Appropriation
to Make Serendipity Trail More Inclusive**

(KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, May 7, 2025) — Ijams Nature Center is proud to announce it is receiving a \$50,000 appropriation from the State of Tennessee to support the renovation of Serendipity Trail in the Homesite area of the nature center. This important project will improve accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges, ensuring that more members of the community can connect with the natural world.

Representative Elaine Davis initiated the effort, recognizing the importance of inclusive outdoor spaces. Senator Richard Briggs carried the appropriation forward in the Senate, and the entire Knoxville legislative delegation played a crucial role in successfully advancing the funding through the Tennessee General Assembly.

“This funding from the State of Tennessee is a meaningful step toward making Ijams more inclusive and welcoming for all,” Amber Parker, Ijams President and CEO, said. “By improving accessibility on Serendipity Trail, we’re opening up opportunities for people of all abilities to experience the restorative power of nature. We’re incredibly thankful to Representative Davis, Senator Briggs, the Knoxville delegation, and the entire General Assembly for their dedication to creating a more accessible outdoors.”

Serendipity Trail is a lovely trail that loops around the historic gardens, pocket meadows, and forests at the Ijams family homesite. Renovations will include trail resurfacing, grade adjustments, and the installation of interpretive signage, seating, and rest areas to better accommodate visitors using wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers.

Construction is slated to begin this winter.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025, Ijams Nature Center is a 318-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 865-577-47170.

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