



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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26 September 2013

Clayton Family Foundation Supports Gateway to Knoxville's Urban Wilderness

The Clayton Family Foundation is supporting Ijams Nature Center with a grant of \$10,000 toward the operations of this 300-acre urban green-space. A member and visitor supported non-profit park, Ijams is the gateway to the South Loop of Knoxville's renowned Urban Wilderness.

Founded by H.P. and Alice Ijams in 1910 at their homesite in South Knoxville, the park originally began as a land conservancy and wild bird sanctuary. The Ijams' were involved with the planning of Knoxville's 1913 Conservation Expo, as well as the promotion of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In keeping with the forward thought of its founders, Ijams Nature Center has continued to grow to meet the needs of our changing community.

16 years ago, Ijams was an 80-acre wildlife sanctuary with just over three miles of hiking trails. With the acquisition of the Meads and Ross Marble Quarries, in 2001 and 2007 respectively, Ijams grew to 300 acres and has since developed over 12 miles of multi-use trails that are open and free for public use. The modern Visitors Center, built in 1997, boasts live animal and historical exhibits, a live raptor display, and educational and social programs for children, adults, and families.

Thanks to the generous support of philanthropic individuals and organizations like the Clayton Family Foundation, Ijams Nature Center is here for everyone to discover and explore.

Ijams Nature Center is a 300-acre urban greenspace encouraging stewardship of the natural world by providing engaging outdoor experiences.

For more information, please contact Mary Thom Adams at 865-577-4717, ext. 117 or email mtadams@ijams.org.