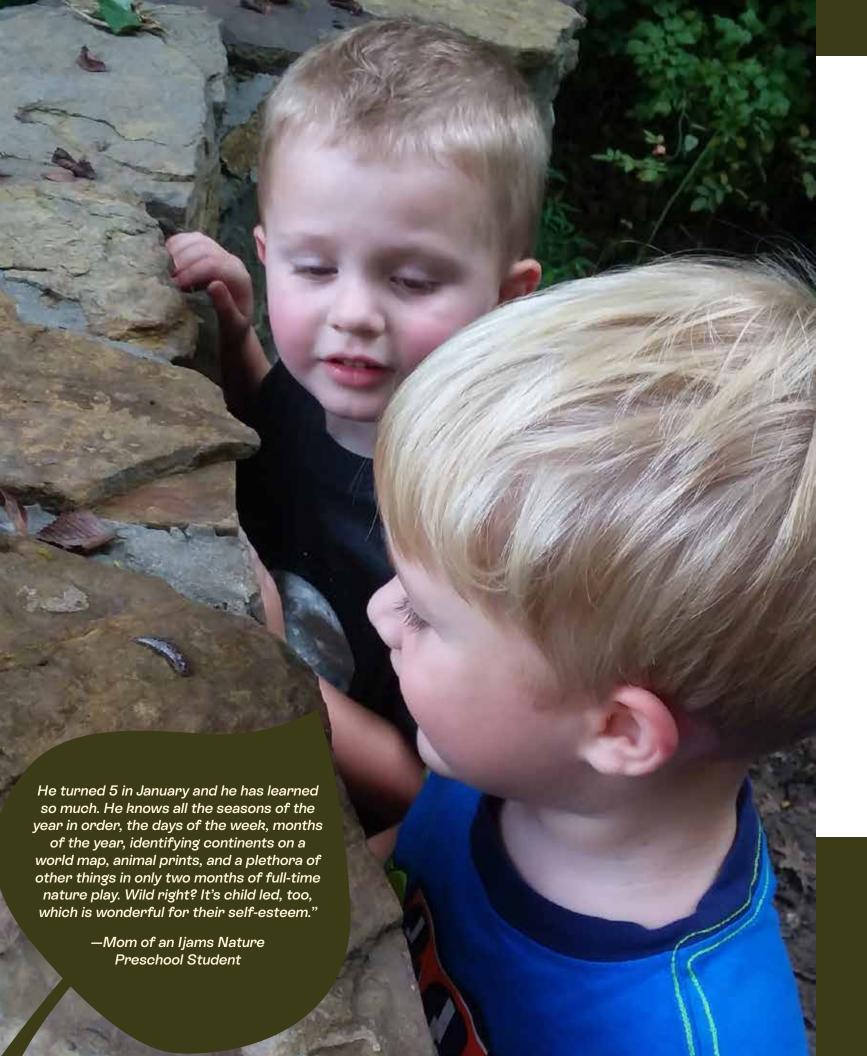




## Annual REPORT 2022



"Ijams is an incredible partner and asset.

We are so fortunate to have these hundreds of acres –just minutes from downtown– preserved as a leading wildlife sanctuary, an environmental learning center, and a recreational hub. The City is proud to help support Ijams' continued growth and maintenance."

-Mayor Indya Kincannon

"Ijams Nature Center is an integral part of Knox County's amazing greenspaces and an important partner in education and outdoor recreation."

-Mayor Glen Jacobs

Did you know that Ijams has 620,000 visitors a year?!



# Letter from the Executive Director

Wow! What a year for Ijams Nature Center and the Knoxville community! The culmination of years of planning and hard work for the staff, Board, and volunteers at Ijams came together in 2022. This includes the repair of the River Trail, dedication of three new acres of land, completion of the accessible

walkway at Mead's Quarry, installation of the new Mead's Quarry swim docks, opening of a storybook trail in collaboration with Knox County Public Library, and cutting the ribbon on the unique Nature Playscape at Grayson Subaru Preserve. Creating diverse ways for everyone to access nature at Ijams has been and continues to be a big part of the Ijams Nature Center mission.

Ijams Nature Center had over 620,000 visitors in 2022. That's about 11,923 people a week or 1,696 people a day! It's such a joy that so many people love nature and want to access it at Ijams Nature Center, but it does put a lot of pressure on our natural resources, green spaces, and built environment. We are fortunate to have a small but mighty group of dedicated staff who work hard to keep up with all the use, and equally fortunate that so many volunteers and donors give their time, skills, and resources to keep Ijams running!

Speaking of running, a nature center isn't a nature center without its educational programming and events, and Ijams has shown out in those areas! From the Ijams Hummingbird Festival to Ijams River Rescue, bluegrass jams, caving trips, outreach events, volunteer pop-up tables, Ijams Nature Preschoolers outdoor classrooms, and thousands of school children learning about East Tennessee's ecosystems; Ijams has worked hard to connect the community to nature in myriad ways.

I want to give a big thank you to everyone who makes Ijams Nature Center part of their lives. This very special place is made so by people who love it, care for it, and continue to dream of how to make it even more special for everyone. Keep watching as Ijams continues to plan and improve, and find out how you can be a part of that!

Thank you for loving Ijams.

Sincerely, Amber L. Parker

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## **Community Impact**



Family Programs | 224 Participants | 448 Contact Hours Youth Programs | 100 Participants | 2,903 Contact Hours Adult Programs | 460 Participants | 2,336 Contact Hours



School Programs | 1,420 Participants | 4,401 Contact Hours
Outreach Programs | 2,918 Participants | 499 Contact Hours
Camps | 587 Participants | 6,208 Contact Hours
Nature Preschool | 22 Participants | 26,386 Contact Hours
Nature Play Club | 17 Participants | 3,720 Contact Hours



Ijams River Rescue: 560 Volunteers • ~21 tons of trash • 1440 Trash Bags • 146 Tires



Ijams Natural Resource Management staff & volunteers cleared 7 acres were cleared of invasives this year!



## 2022 Highlights

Ijams Nature Playscape at Grayson Subaru Preserve Opened!







Ijams Dedicated 3 new acres of land.









**Visitor Center Parking Lot Repaired thanks to the City of Knoxville!** 





**River Trail Reopens** 





Mead's Quarry Dock built thanks to Knox County & a private donor.







**Tharp Trace Trail Makeover** 



**Invasive Plant Removal** 



**Knoxville Leadership Foundation & KnoxWorx Partnership** 



Dunn Street
Demolition & Trail build



Fleurish: A Sustainable Fashion Event







**36th Annual Ijams River Rescue** 





## 2022 Programs

#### Ijams Weed Warriors Native Landscape Certification



Thanks to support from TVA and Aslan Foundation, Ijams launched its NEW Ijams Weed Warriors Native Landscape Certification Program, a grassroots effort to change our urban landscape for the better.

#### **Early Learning Programs**



Ijams entered its third year of running a DHS-licensed full-time Nature Preschool.

Ijams DOUBLED the students in the part-time preschool program, and will increase capacity AGAIN in 2023.

Since opening the preschool in 2020, Ijams has served 72 families with full-time care, 22 families with part-time care, and 6 students with full/partial scholarships/state assistance.







#### **Animal Outreach**



Ijams animal ambassadors helped teach 214 different programs.

- 19 programs each month
- 31 were off-site outreach programs.
- 6,000+ people attended these programs.
- Each animal ambassador educated 500 people per month, not including special event attendees.

Ijams welcomed Auggie, a new American kestrel.







#### **Youth Programs**



Field trips expanded offerings to better serve 38 local schools.

Ijams provided \$4,750 in scholarships to 489 underserved students.

Summer and school break camps served 587 kids ages 3-12.

#### **Public Program Expansion**





#### **Guided Kayak Trips**

Ijams reintroduced guided kayak trips, resulting in 20+ successful trips throughout the season.

#### Hallo-Week 2022

From Oct. 24-29, Ijams offered a NEW, weeklong series, Hallo-Week.

#### **Caving Trips**

On Oct. 29, Ijams soft-launched its NEW monthly caving program offered April-November.

#### Volunteers







Volunteers contributed a total of 5,763 volunteer hours, which is equivalent in value to ~\$172,602! A core group of ~40 volunteers donated 62% of those hours.

#### **Special Events**



Ijams hosted 141 special events attended by 9,755 guests.

8 Movie Nights (2,436 participants)

20 Music Events (1,461 participants)

7 Big Fun Tuesdays (215 participants)

7 Back Patio Socials (306 participants)

26 Shakespeare Performances (1,065 participants)

28 Creative Series Events (606 participants)

7 Take Action! Events (538 participants)

33 Healthy Living Programs (148 participants)

3 Marketplaces (~2,200 participants)

4 Miscellaneous Events (780 participants)





#### **Gift Shop**





Ijams supported 100 local artists, bakers, authors, crafters, beekeepers, and others in the shop, and close to 130 artists through Marketplace events, generating \$40,000+ for these makers through Gift Shop and Hallway Gallery sales.

#### Rentals



Over 8,000+ guests attended 160 private events at ljams through October.

32 Birthdays

22 Elopements

28 Weddings

25 Meetings 6 Races

53 Other













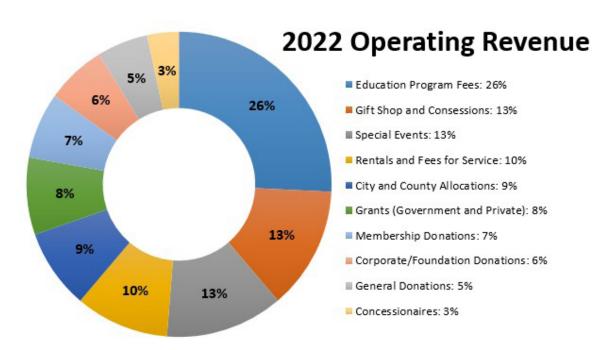




## 2022 Financials



#### **Operating Revenue**



#### **Operating Expenses**



### **Looking Ahead**



Ijams Nature Center is entering into an important growth phase that includes a Master plan-based revitalization of facilities and spaces to best meet the needs of its diverse visitors. 2023 will include:

- A new brand and logo for Ijams
   Nature Center
- Revitalization of the Universal Pond at Ijams Visitor Center
- Final facility and landscape designs based on a comprehensive Master Plan
- Preparation for the first phase of construction projects
- Public input and planning for the second phase of Ijams Nature Playscape



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