

## **Ijams Nature Center Announces Weed Wrangle 2023**

Mark your calendars! Weed Wrangle Knoxville 2023, coordinated by Ijams Nature Center, will be Saturday, March 11, 9:30 a.m.-12 noon at the Citizens Cemetery and Collier Preserve, located at 1038 Fuller Ave.

Each year since 2020, Ijams has coordinated Weed Wrangle Knoxville, a local effort that is part of a nationwide event to build awareness of the threat non-native invasive plants pose to our ecosystem. In addition to building awareness, this event is about putting boots on the ground and tackling this problem throughout our community. Weed Wrangle Knoxville rescues public parks and green spaces from invasive species through hands-on removal of especially harmful trees, vines and flowering plants. Volunteers are needed. Registration will open soon. Registration and more information can be found at [www.ijams.org/weed-wrangle](http://www.ijams.org/weed-wrangle).

Volunteers at Ijams are critical to the success of the Natural Resource Management Department, particularly as it relates to the effort of removing non-native invasive plants from the landscape. The Ijams Weed Warriors, a group of highly trained volunteers dedicated to removing invasive plants, and other Ijams volunteers helped clear invasive plants from seven acres in 2022. Non-native invasive plants represent the largest threat to forest health and the biodiversity that makes Knoxville such a special place to call home!

Ijams Nature Center is comprised of mostly city-owned land and their 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. This urban greenspace comprises 318 acres of mostly forested land that contributes to Knoxville's urban forest canopy.

For more information about Ijams and their programs, contact Ben Nanny at [bnanny@ijams.org](mailto:bnanny@ijams.org). He is also an ex officio member of the City of Knoxville's Tree Board.