



## Former Young's Warehouse, Johnson City, Tennessee

Flooding in the historic downtown district of Johnson City, Tennessee was identified as a major barrier to reinvestment and redevelopment. As a result, the City had limited economic and cultural investment in the downtown core. The former Young's Warehouse property was identified in the Johnson City Downtown Drainage and Redevelopment Project as property which could be used to provide relief for flooding. Historic uses of the property included a former gas station, tire retreading facility, bulk petroleum storage, and a drycleaner.

The City worked in collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Remediation staff to develop a plan to address contaminated soils, left by previous industrial uses, ensuring that the reuse of the property would be safe for the citizens who would enjoy the future park. As a result of the cooperation shown in this project, Johnson City was able to transform this downtown property to not only address flooding, but also create public greenspace by building a five-acre greenway and park along the new creek bank.

Founder's Park and the adjacent Farmer's Market, a \$2.8 million 5-acre greenspace and flood mitigation project on the west side of downtown, were completed in 2014. The park hosts a 200-seat amphitheater area on the east side, allowing for concerts and performances, and a "great lawn" on the west side, allowing for everything from sports, events, and festivals to take place. Since its completion, Founder's Park has sparked redevelopment in the downtown area by developing a sustainable greenspace for community activities and bringing flood control improvements to an area historically affected by flooding.



The former Young Warehouse property in Johnson City is now Founders Park, functioning as public green space in addition to providing relief for flooding.