

# Environment & Conservation Department Intranet

## Former East Tennessee Gas Station Converted into Local Produce Hub

*Kim Schoetzow | June 23, 2016* The former Exxon station, located at 101 Boone Street in downtown Jonesborough, operated as a gasoline/service station in downtown from the 1930's until 2003, when the property was placed for sale and three gasoline underground storage tanks (USTs) were placed temporarily out of service. Due to the location of the land in the historic downtown, city leaders were interested in purchasing and developing the unused property into an enhancement for downtown activity and commerce. The property owner and tank owner at the time was Tri-Cities Petroleum, Inc., who wanted to sell the property and gasoline tanks all together. It took some time for the details to be ironed out, as the town was not interested in the USTs or any potentially associated liability. In 2011, the town purchased the property and registered the USTs for the purpose of permanent tank closure. The tanks were subsequently closed in March 2013, with assistance and oversight by TDEC's Division of UST personnel from the Johnson City Environmental Field Office and the Nashville Central Office.

After much effort and fundraising, the former Exxon gas station is now a year-round retail store. Boone Street Market opened for business in October 2014. Boone Street Market is part of Jonesborough Locally Grown, the nonprofit that leases and operates the Jonesborough Farmers' Market. The Farmers' Market is a community-organized and operated market offering locally grown produce, baked goods, flowers and more featuring live music every Saturday. Produce sold here must be grown within 100 miles of Jonesborough, ensuring the best local foods are made available to shoppers. Boone Street Market is operated for the benefit of both its customers and suppliers. Volunteers help supplement the work alongside staff members. Operating costs are sustained by sales fees assessed to the growers from consignment of their goods, and through membership support and fundraisers, including monthly dinners. Cooking classes are offered as well to help sustain the business. In addition to the town of Jonesborough and Jonesborough Locally Grown, major supporters of the effort include the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, USDA Rural Development, the Washington County Commission, numerous individuals, civic groups, and banks. The property has been transformed from what was an abandoned site with USTs to what is now a great place to find locally grown produce.

*The former Exxon station*



*Boone Street Market*





This is outstanding!

Posted 3 weeks, 5 days, and one hour ago by Renee Stewart on June 23, 2016 at 11:13am

What a totally awesome project! We are going to look at some other venues to get this project in the spotlight-go UST!!!!

Posted 3 weeks, 4 days, and 22 hours ago by Lori Munkeboe on June 23, 2016 at 1:39pm

These types of property reuses are so vital to communities; preserving the history, character and gateway landmark, but returning the property to a modern and needed use. I'm so appreciative of this revitalization effort being a Jonesborough native and proud of TDEC and staff for their important contributions to not only my hometown but hometowns across the state! Thanks for sharing Kim!

Posted about 3 weeks, 4 days, and 16 hours ago by Mark Braswell on June 23, 2016 at 8:26pm

Love this idea! And the whole community is part of it. Great job! Would love to see something like this in the White Bluff/Kingston Springs area.

Posted 3 weeks, 4 days, and 40 minutes ago by Paula Desmarais on June 24, 2016 at 11:41am