



Johnson City, TN



Johnson City, Tennessee, had several names before 1856 when Henry Johnson, who later became a Union supporter, opened a store at the intersection of three stagecoach roads. The following year, the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad purchased the store from Johnson as a right-of-way. A settlement developed and was named for a local politician who later became a Confederate Senator. A post-Civil War Presidential decree prohibited the naming of the town for a Confederate; the town was then named Johnson's Depot and, thereafter, Johnson City.

Johnson City's museums include Hands On!, a children's museum with interactive exhibits, programs, and events in the arts, sciences, and humanities. The General Shale Museum of Ancient Brick contains a collection of bricks from biblical and prebiblical times. The Tipton-Hayes Historic Site contains 11 buildings that portray the history of Tennessee from its early settlements to the Civil War.

East Tennessee State University's George L. Carter Railroad Museum hosts three historic model railway layouts. The university's Reece Museum, which celebrates the people and places of Appalachia, is temporarily closed. The University also operates the Natural History Museum & Visitors Center at Gray Fossil Site, which is built on top of a fossil deposit located near Johnson City and contains life-sized skeletal recreations and the fossilized remains of extinct species.

Freedom Hall is a multipurpose facility that hosts musical concerts, family programs, theater productions, sporting events, and other community events. The Johnson City Symphony Orchestra performs in Seeger Chapel on Milligan College's campus.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Johnson City is in the midst of revitalization efforts, including the replacement of older buildings with newly constructed condominiums. Some older residential buildings have been renovated and converted into condominiums or apartments. Some mixed-use buildings have been created with commercial activity on the ground floor and loft housing on upper floors.

Neighborhoods adjacent to the downtown include the Carnegie neighborhood, which has houses that date between 1860 and 1930 in styles that include Victorian, early American, and Gambrel Barn. Most of these houses feature large front porches. Some houses have been converted to commercial offices, but others remain residential. The brick and wooden homes in the Historic Tree Streets district were built in the 1920s to the 1940s, primarily in the Bungalow and Four-Square styles. Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, ranch, log, and Tudor Revival styles are also represented in the district, and hybrid styles are common.

Newer neighborhoods are found in the northeastern portion of the city along Carroll Creek Road. Towne Acres features traditional two-story homes and full brick ranches on tree-lined streets; construction in this neighborhood began in the 1960s. Steeplechase consists of mostly traditional 10- to 15-year-old vinyl and brick homes with some newer construction. Homes in Shadowood are between five and 10 years old and many have full brick exteriors and many trees. The traditional brick homes in Sterling Springs sit on lots of one to two acres and were built in the late 1990s.

Other new developments are located in the northwestern portion of the city. Sawyers Pond is a new neighborhood that has custom homes. Strawberry Field homes were built in the 2000s and feature traditional full brick styling. This neighborhood includes a pool and clubhouse, as does The Ridges, which also has a golf course and large custom-built homes on lots between one half and two acres.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Johnson City has 16 parks and four recreation centers. Park amenities include lighted fields for baseball, football, soccer, softball, and rugby; lighted courts for tennis and basketball; a skate park; playgrounds; trails; a disc golf course; and an indoor pool.

Winged Deer Park is a large district park with amenities that include lighted softball and soccer fields, batting cages, a nine-hole disc golf course, playground area, and a half-mile lighted and paved fitness trail. The Robert Young Cabin, which was relocated to this park, is a log cabin that was built in 1776 near Brush Creek and is the oldest freestanding building in Tennessee. The Massengil Monument, which commemorates Henry Massengil and his family (early pioneers in the area), was also relocated to this park. All trees in the James H. Quillen Historical Tree Arboretum, dedicated to former congressman James H. Quillen in appreciation for his service to the people, are related to historic trees by seeds or grafts. The Boone Lake area of the park features sand volleyball courts, a playground, horseshoe pits, a public access boat ramp, green space, a lighted handicap-accessible boardwalk, and Festival Plaza with its Goulding Amphitheater.

Willow Spring Park promotes creative, unstructured family play and has a playground with a train and village theme, sand volleyball courts, trails, a dog park, and a basketball court.

Professional sports teams include the Tennessee Mad Hatters (basketball) and Johnson City Cardinals (baseball).

EDUCATION

The Johnson City School System educates more than 7,000 students in eight elementary schools; one intermediate school; one middle school; and one high school, which comprises a grades 10-12 campus, a 9th-grade academy, a vocation/technical center, and an alternative learning center.

East Tennessee State University offers bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and professional programs that include colleges of medicine, nursing, and public health.

ITT Technical Institute offers programs of study leading to associate's and bachelor's degrees in various computer, business, and health sciences fields.

HEALTH CARE

Johnson City is served by one hospital system that operates two hospitals with a total of 582 licensed adult beds, a children's hospital, a comprehensive rehabilitation facility, and a mental health and chemical dependency hospital. The city is also served by the the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center at Mountain Home.

CITY STATS

2010

City Population	63,152
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	198,716
Per Capita Personal Income, Johnson City, TN, MSA	\$ 31,388