

# City of Bristol Tennessee

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## Bass Pro Shop Breaks Ground in Bristol Tennessee



Today city officials joined hundreds from the community in welcoming Johnny Morris, Founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops to the Bristol Tennessee groundbreaking ceremony held at the Exit 74 site.

On hand for the festivities were Richard Childress, of Richard Childress Racing, Mike Helton, NASCAR President, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and TV Host Bill Dance among other dignitaries.

Steve Johnson of Johnson Development recalled how quickly the partnership between he and Morris was formed and actually came to being in just the last month, “When asked by Johnny, why Bristol? I pointed out that he needed to be in Birthplace of Country Music and home of Bristol Motor Speedway. Johnny, I just think that country music, racing and Bass Pro Shop’s are a good combination.” Johnson reported that grading would begin on the site in October and the pad for the building would be ready in January 2013. The new Bass Pro Shop should be ready for Christmas shopping in December of 2013.

Bristol Tennessee Mayor Joel Staton commented that there was no better place for a Bass Pro Shop, than in the mountains of East Tennessee. Staton continued, “From almost anywhere in our region you are only minutes away from a lake, river or mountain.”

Johnny Morris, Founder of Bass Pro Shops said, “ We are very excited to bring Bas Pro shop to the tri-cities area and be a part of this unique quality development. The area’s long history of hunting and fishing tradition along with the highly visible and accessible location make this the perfect place to better serve our many customers and outdoor enthusiasts that visit and live in this beautiful part of the country.”

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