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## development opened today in 2005

15 years of Atlantic Station: Landmark

LOCAL NEWS | Oct 21, 2020

By J.D. Capelouto - The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Mandi Albright - The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

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On this day 15 years ago, a "city within the city" opened in Atlanta. Atlantic Station, the massive mixed-use shopping center, officially took its place

among Atlanta's landmarks Oct. 21, 2005.

**EARTH DAY** 

Photographs from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's archives chronicle the evolution of the site, from an Atlantic Steel site in the 1900s to a popular residential and commercial area along the Downtown Connector. Article continues below

By Visit Lake Oconee Advertiser Content Lake Oconee is the ultimate

spring break getaway

The ambitious project, which involved almost a decade of planning and a special tax

arrangement, spurred the construction of the yellow 17th Street bridge over the

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according to AJC archives from October 2005.

interstate and transformed the city's neighborhoods just west of Midtown. The \$2 billion development included 1.5 million square feet of retail and entertainment space, several office towers and thousands of residential units when it opened,

➤ A bridge planned for 15th Street will

➤ The project is crisscrossed by side walks and bicycle trails and contains a lake and a park. Hundreds of trees

have been planted throughout.

➤ Nearly 300 inexpensive rental apartments and condominiums are

offices so they can walk to work.

available to workers in the stores and

Credit: AJC Archive

serve only commuter buses and car

tic Station. "The right players were in place at the right time; there was truly

teamwork among the public, private and investment sides. Without all that

happening, Atlantic Station wouldn't

Billed as an environmentally friendly live-work-play village, the project pledged to clean up pollutants left by

have happened.

➤ Please see PROMISES, E7



marking the nine-year trajectory of a

project that transformed a former steel

mill into one of the region's hottest

On land where barrel hoops were made in 1901, more than 1,000 people now live, a short hop from Midtown's

trendy restaurants, the funky shops on

lluff Road and attractions in down-

town Atlanta. On the exact site where

the steel mill spewed hazardous

wastes, bank executives and lawyers

Atlantic Station has "outperformed expectations," general manager Cornell Holmes

said in a statement celebrating the anniversary. "The neighborhood has become an

integral part of the community, spurring economic growth in the heart of the city and

Great for families

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Atlantic Station, from atop the Wachovia building on 17th Street.

The live-work-play village rose on the site of a former steel mill.

environment."

One headline asked, "Can much-touted development live up to its hype?" Since then,

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prospering as one of Atlanta's first successful examples of a live, work, play

Like many new high-end developments in Atlanta, Atlantic Station also faced some criticism that it was accelerating housing affordability issues in the city, especially on the Westside. A New York Times article from 2006, headlined "Gentrification Changing Face of New Atlanta," identified Atlantic Station as a major source of new housing as more people moved into the city. To mark the 15-year anniversary, Atlantic Station is putting on a self-guided audio tour of the district later this month that celebrates the area's history.

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