

# LEGEND

-  GREENBELT
-  CONNECTOR
-  HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST \*
-  PARKING
-  WATER FOUNTAIN
-  REST ROOMS
-  PICNIC AREA



\* See other side

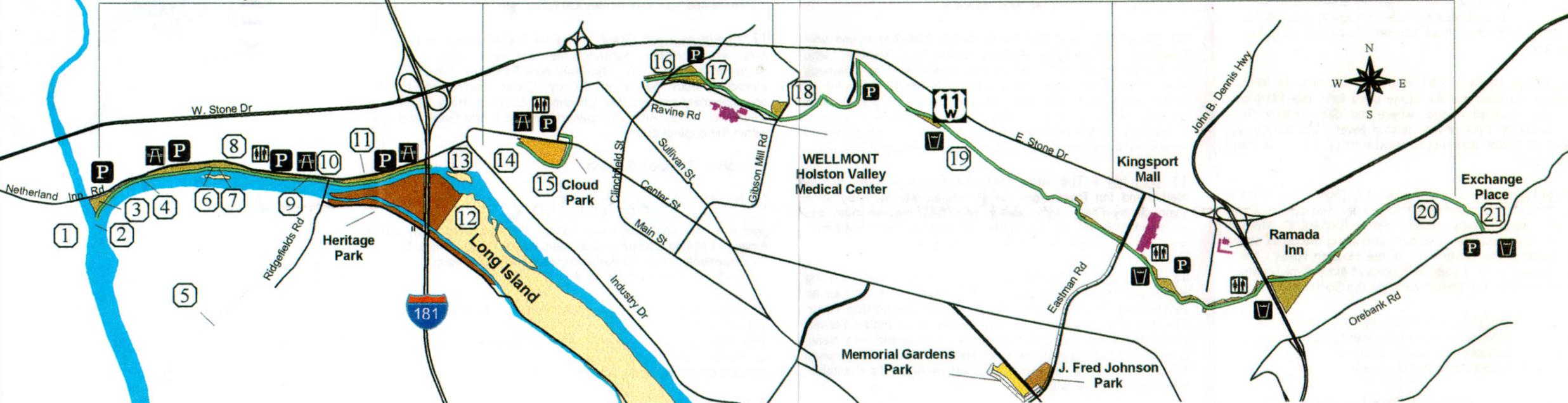


## Boatyard Section

## Woodlawn Section

## Cherokee Grounds Section

## Buffalo Grasslands Section



### KINGSFORT GREENBELT

The Kingsport Greenbelt is a linear park that connects residential neighborhoods, traditional parks, downtown, commercial districts, schools, and activity centers. A special feature of this unique park is a pathway for pedestrian and bicycle use. The pathway meanders along gentle streams, wanders through marshlands, glides across open meadows, and passes by sites of historical and aesthetic value. Development and operations of the Greenbelt are guided by a citizen advisory committee and the Kingsport Parks and Recreation Department.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS

- Carry Identification.
- Feeling Fatigued? Stop, rest and enjoy the surroundings.
- Report Accidents Immediately.

**In case of an emergency:**  
 Locate the large number painted on the pavement closest to you and Call 911, reporting the location number and the type of emergency. For additional information, comments, and suggestions call the Kingsport Parks and Recreation Department at 423-229-9457.

### GREENBELT USE RULES

- Ride, walk, or skate to the right. (Allow others to pass on the left.)
- Be considerate of others: Ride, walk, or skate no more than two abreast; Stay off of private property; Abide by all noise ordinances.
- When bicycling or skating: Warn those you are passing from behind; Yield to pedestrians; Maintain speed appropriate to conditions; Maintain control of equipment at all times.
- Children using the trail should be accompanied by an adult.
- Use pathways only during daylight hours.
- Leave vegetation undisturbed and protected.
- Keep pets on a short leash at all times.
- Report all vandalism.
- Deposit all trash in litter receptacles.
- Drugs, alcohol, hunting, shooting, open fires, horses, and motorized vehicles are prohibited.

## Historical Points of Interest Along the Kingsport Greenbelt

**Kingsport** - The name of the Model City is derived from King's Port, another name for Kings' Boat Yard. The town was incorporated in 1822 by an Act of the Tennessee State General Assembly, combining the towns of Rossville and Christianville. In 1822, Kingsport extended along the Great Stage Road from Ross Bridge to the fork in Reedy Creek Road (present day Bloomingdale Pike and West Sullivan Street).

### Boatyard Section

**1 Rotherwood II** - The mansion built by Fredrick A. Ross between 1820 and 1845, visible across the North Holston from the Greenbelt, consists of two parallel brick buildings that were joined under one roof in the 1840's. It is named after the home of Cedric the Saxon, a character in Sir Walter Scott's 1820 novel *Ivanhoe*. It was also the site of tragedy when Rowena Ross's bridegroom died in an accident just a few days before their wedding.

**2 Ross Bridge Ruins** - Still visible in the river in front of Rotherwood Mansion are the stone piers from the 1818 400-foot wooden covered bridge, where the Great Stage Road crossed the North Fork of the Holston River. The bridge was destroyed by floods and rebuilt several times during its many years of service.

**3 Battle of Kingsport** - On December 13, 1864, Major General George Stoneman's 5,500 Federal cavalry met and defeated 300 Confederate cavalry under Colonel Richard C. Morgan. The conference soldiers were deployed along the bluffs on the eastern bank of the North Fork of the Holston River. Union Colonel Samuel K. N. Patton of Kingsport led a flanking attack across the Holston that helped dislodge the Confederate troops.

**4 The Great Stage Road** - Visitors walk on this famous road from Ross Bridge to where the road ascended to coincide with the route of present-day Netherland Inn Road. The blaring of a loud trumpet heralded the arrival of a stage.

**5 Bay's Mountain** - Prominent Bay's Mountain can be seen from many points along the Greenbelt. The mountain was owned at various times by the Cloud, Netherland, and other families and was logged extensively for the 60-foot planks that were required to build flatboats.

**6 Stephen Thomas Cottage** - The cottage was built by Fredrick A. Ross between 1818 and 1829 and purchased by Stephen Thomas in 1830. Thomas was a partner and manager of the Ross Silk Mill (later Ross cotton Mill) located near Rotherwood Mansion. Stephen Thomas married Maria Rogan, daughter of a prominent Kingsport merchant.

**7 John Martin House** - The house was built in 1818 by John Martin, a tailor by trade, on one of the first quarter acre lots sold by Fredrick Ross when he laid out Rossville along the Great Stage Road. Rossville extended from the riverbank across from Rotherwood Mansion almost to the Netherland Inn.

**8 Aaron Hoffman House** - Visible across Netherland Inn Road, the two story clapboard building was built in 1829 for Hoffman's bride. Aaron Hoffman was a tanner and owned a saddle shop. The house was owned and occupied by the Hoffman family for 148 years.

**9 King's Boat Yard** - William King, the wealthy owner of the Virginia Saltworks, built the Boat Yard in 1802 on the first lots sold in the new town of Christianville. Christianville extended along the banks of the North fork of the Holston River from Reedy Creek to just beyond Netherland Inn. King's agents built wharfs, warehouses, a storehouse, a boarding house, and dwellings. It was a thriving flatboat freighting agency, shipping large cargoes of salt, iron and other commodities downriver on the Tennessee-Mississippi river systems.

**10 Netherland Inn** - The former King's boarding house was purchased in 1818 by Richard Netherland, Esquire, who obtained a stagecoach contract and developed it as a famous stop on the Great Stage Road. During its nearly 100 years as an Inn, such notables as Davy Crockett and presidents Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, and James K. Polk were guests. Even after the Clouds purchased it in 1906, the Inn remained known as "the place of entertainment in old Kingsport."

**11 Oak Hill** - The large brick manor house seen across Netherland Inn Road from the Greenbelt was built by John Lynn, Jr. by 1840. Lynn was a prominent businessman and merchant in Kingsport. His father, John Lynn, managed King's Boat Yard for William King from 1803 to 1814.

**12 Long Island of the Holston** - A National Landmark, Long Island was sacred ground of the Cherokee Nation. It can be reached by the suspension bridge across the Holston River. The four mile long island lay astride the Great Indian Warrior Path from Alabama to Pennsylvania. The island was treaty ground, "the rendezvous place" for settlers, and muster grounds for colonial militias. By 1808, Richard Netherland's Plantation occupied the entire island.

**13 Mouth of Reedy Creek/Tilthammer Shoals** - On December 22, 1779, the first 300 settlers of Middle Tennessee set out from Fort Patrick Henry under the leadership of Colonel John Donelson. Their objective was Big Salt Lick on the Cumberland River, the future site of Nashville. After travelling only 3 miles, the expedition was stopped by low water and heavy frost at Tilthammer Shoals near the mouth of Reedy Creek. The party camped here for two months, then finally arrived at Big Salt Lick on April 24, 1780 after a 1000 mile journey. The party included Donelson's daughter Rachel, the future wife of President Andrew Jackson.

### Woodlawn Section

**14 Site of Walnut Hill** - Across Reedy Creek from the Greenbelt lies the site of Walnut Hill, a large log plantation home built in 1775 by Col. Gilbert and Margaret Christian, the first permanent settlers of Kingsport. Walnut Hill was situated at

the center of an 850-acre plantation that extended along the river from Netherland Inn to include downtown Kingsport.

**15 Site of Mill Dam** - Beside present-day Cloud Park, at the point where Reedy Creek turns generally northeast, the O'Brien brothers built a mill dam in 1815. The dam fed water to a millrace which supplied power to an ironworks, foundry, two bloomeries, three saw mills, a cement mill, and a gristmill. Much of the output of these factories was shipped by flatboat from the Boat Yard.

**16 Lynn Garden** - David Ross' 1790 Great Furnace Tract was inherited in 1817 by Jacob and Eliza (Ross) Myers and became their 1578-acre Woodlawn Plantation. By 1899 it was called Lovedale and was later named Lynn Garden.

**17 Pendleton Land Grant** - Virginia lawyer and statesman, Edmund Pendleton, received the first land grant in the Kingsport area in 1756. The 3000 acre Pendleton Land Grant straddled both banks of Reedy Creek, extending from approximately present day Clinchfield Street to Holly Springs Church on 11W. All of the eastern section of the Greenbelt is within the original grant.

### Cherokee Grounds Section

**18 Nelson-Gibson Towns** - Owned by Joseph Everett in 1814 and Andre Gibson in 1851, the site has had a continually operating mill and dam since 1814. Still operating today as Kingsport Milling Company, it is seen across Reedy Creek from the Greenbelt where the path crosses the site of Kingsport High School located here before 1874.

**19 Tellico Hills & Fairacres** - Residential neighborhoods along this section now occupy the 1805-1835 plantations of Thomas Titsworth, James T. Gaines, Thomas Bachman, and David Childress. The eastern section crosses the site of the 1775 Daniel Boone's Kentucky Wilderness Road.

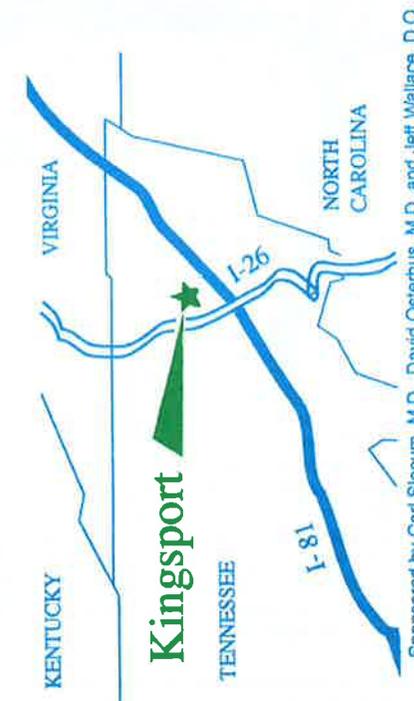
### Buffalo Grasslands Section

**20 Chestnut (Eaton's) Ridge** - The bottomland along the Greenbelt was buffalo grazing land frequently hunted by Cherokees. From Lynn Garden the Greenbelt parallels the Great Indian Warrior Path and 1773 Reedy Creek Road to the north and Great Stage Road to the south.

**21 Exchange Place** - The Greenbelt ends at the Exchange Place, a preserved, early 19th-century farm complex built by the John Gaines family around 1820 and owned by the Preston family after 1847. The Exchange Place, located where the Great Stage Road crossed Eaton's Ridge (now Chestnut Ridge), served as a stopover for providing fresh horses and exchange of currency.

More detail about Kingsport history can be found in *Kingsport Heritage: The Early Years* by Muriel M. C. Spoden (The Overmountain Press, Johnson City, TN).

## Getting to Kingsport Greenbelt



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