



# PROG

# RESS

## e d i t i o n

2021

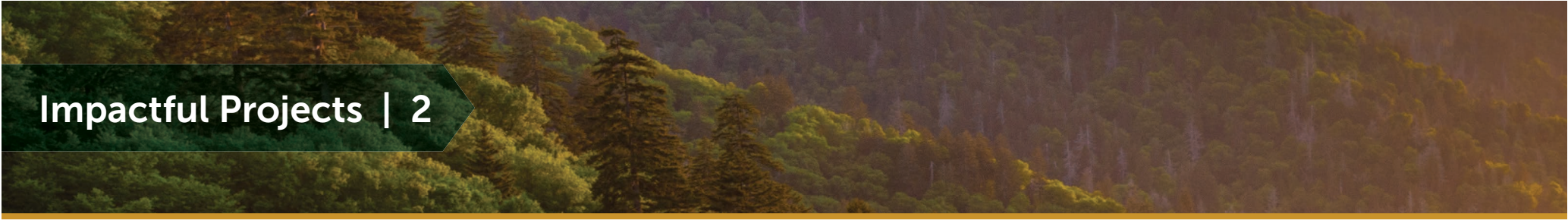
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[kingsporttn.gov](https://kingsporttn.gov)

 Kingsport Alerts





# A greener future

The City of Kingsport has a rich history, enhanced by being a planned city with residential, industrial and commercial areas strategically placed to ensure a successful future. Today, our beautiful city has outgrown its “rust belt” moniker and is a green and beautiful place to visit, work, live and play. Our local economy is healthy, and we celebrate the great measures that two of our large employers are taking to become models of recycling with innovations to serve the needs of clients.

**EASTMAN** has made an investment of approximately \$250 million for a new facility at its current location in our hometown of Kingsport. The company will build one of the world’s largest plastic-to-plastic molecular recycling facilities using a process known as methanolysis, and the facility will be mechanically completed by the end of 2022.



**Highlights:**

- Facility will use more than 100,000 metric tons of plastic waste that cannot be recycled by current methods of curbside recycling.
- Polyester renewal technology will produce premium, high-quality specialty plastics made with recycled content.

**Initiative supports Eastman’s commitment to:**

- Address a global plastic waste crisis – and support the company’s goal to recycle more than 500 million pounds of plastic annually by 2030.
- Reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, supporting its effort to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Reduce its use of fossil feedstocks.

**DOMTAR** is investing up to \$350 million to transition its old Kingsport paper plant to the

manufacturing of containerboard products made from 100 percent recycled cardboard.

The company, which opened in our city in 1916, will construct a new warehouse and retrofit its existing building and site. Construction began in late 2020 and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2023.



**Highlights:**

- Converted mill will employ approximately 150 people.
- Transition is consistent with Domtar’s long-term strategic plan to convert high-quality assets to match market conditions.
- The facility overall has an estimated regional economic impact of \$714 million.



**Scott Adams Memorial Skate Park**

Scott Adams Memorial Skate Park is getting a makeover and expansion at its new location at Brickyard Park. Professional consulting firm New Line Skateparks has been hired to design the new facility, which is moving as part of a land agreement with Domtar. Kingsport’s skating community provided input at multiple public sessions to help shape the vision of the skate park. Also coming to Brickyard Park is a pump track for bicycles designed by Progressive Bike Ramps/Velosolutions. Construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2021 with the bike park slated to open in 2022.

**Riverbend Park**

Kingsport soon will have another park to explore. Riverbend Park, which will be located along the Holston River off Fort Henry Drive, will begin Phase I development in the fall of 2021. The park will include a paved walking trail, benches and access points with plans for a nature-based playground. Visitors will enjoy beautiful views of the river and surrounding natural environment.

**Lynn View Community Center**

Parks and Recreation is now in the second year of a Project Diabetes state grant that has funded multiple updates to the Lynn View Community Center. The first year saw the rebuilding of the track, and in the second year the community center will get a new playground. Physical activity is proven to help reduce obesity and diabetes. Get active on the new playground in June 2021!

**Greenbelt Signage**

The Greenbelt connects citizens across the community and is a great place to walk, jog



A 100-foot-long mural on the Lynn Garden Hardware building at 1113 Lynn Garden Drive illustrates the history and icons of the community.

or bike while experiencing the natural beauty of Kingsport. The Greenbelt currently is in the design phase of a western extension. This spring, Parks and Recreation will install new interpretive signs along the boardwalk that highlight indigenous birds as part of a collaboration with Birding Kingsport.

**Miracle Field**

Miracle Field opened last summer, and 2021 will be the first year of operations, so get ready to play ball! A Miracle League removes barriers that keep children and young adults with mental and physical disabilities from playing baseball. Teams play on a custom-designed, rubberized turf field that accommodates wheelchairs and other assistive devices.

**Master Plan**

Our parks are for everyone – and Kingsport Parks and Recreation’s new master plan will ensure that is the case for years to come.

Parks and Recreation has been working since 2019 with consultant group Ragan-Smith to develop a master plan. After months of work and plenty of community input, the recommendations center around 12 “big ideas” as a guiding vision.

The recommendations cover four categories: facilities, programs, staff and operations, and partnerships. Atop the list for facilities is continued expansion of the Greenbelt, as well as connecting recreation to the Holston River and Kingsport’s historic downtown and developing community parks in underserved

areas. For programs, Ragan-Smith suggested that Kingsport capitalize on the demand for outdoor adventure in our area by offering more nature-based and educational programs such as hiking, biking and paddling. Other program recommendations include keeping athletic tournaments and local athletic programs strong and developing more public spaces for community events.

Some consolidation and budget increases were suggested for staff and operations, as well as creating strong volunteer and partnership training programs. The master plan also includes recommendations to continue to strengthen partnerships with other recreation facilities and businesses across the city.

This year, maybe more than any other, has shown everyone how important parks are to a community’s well-being.

“We all saw the importance of having open spaces where people could be active in a healthy, safe way,” said Kevin Guenther, a landscape architect with Ragan-Smith.

A community survey conducted by Ragan-Smith during the pandemic found that people felt safe in Kingsport’s parks, which became an important component of safe recreation.

The 125-page master plan will help Kingsport Parks and Recreation continue to serve the community and its needs well into the future. To learn more, visit [kingsportparksandrecreation.org](https://kingsportparksandrecreation.org).

**Kingsport Parks & Recreation**

## Improved convenience, accessibility at new City Hall

In April, the City of Kingsport will begin consolidating four government buildings and multiple departments into one new City Hall location at 415 Broad St. The transition will provide improved efficiency, accessibility and convenience to residents.

Progress on the move to the six-floor building, formerly Regions Bank, will be announced through “Kingsport is on the move” updates via the Kingsport

Alerts page on Facebook and the city’s website at [kingsporttn.gov/onthemove](https://kingsporttn.gov/onthemove).

The new location is ADA-compliant, and visitors will have access to 75 on-site parking spots and nearly 200 more on Clay and New streets and at Kingsport Public Library and 5 Points.

The consolidation is anticipated to be complete by late spring.

**Kingsport Alerts**





## 2021 Initiatives

The Kingsport Neighborhood Commission strengthens neighborhoods, as well as their relationships with the city. This year, the commission is all about neighbors helping neighbors. Here are just a few of the goals and themes for 2021:

- Partner with Keep Kingsport Beautiful to organize neighborhood cleanups throughout the year.
- Partner with Marsh Regional Blood Center by donating blood and encouraging our neighbors to join us.
- Ask neighbors to nominate residents that need extra yard help so we can lend a hand by partnering with Students Helping Others Understand Tomorrow (S.H.O.U.T.!) and the Mayor's Youth Council.
- Partner with Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee to pack and distribute food boxes to those most in need.
- Install up to 500 garden hooks for hanging flowers and bird feeders outside the windows of residents at assisted living centers.

We aim to inspire our neighbors to get involved and partner with some of the great organizations in Kingsport to help enhance our community.

 [Kingsport Neighborhood Commission](#)

## Municipal Elections

A local election is coming soon in Kingsport, and your Neighborhood Commission wants to make sure your voice is heard. The municipal election includes several important positions, including Mayor of Kingsport, three Alderman seats and two seats on the Kingsport Board of Education.

To participate in the upcoming election, cast your vote May 18 or vote early. It's important to get involved in your community, so do your part by fulfilling your civic duty this May. Be sure to research the eligible candidates before casting your vote. For more information about the election



and early voting dates, visit the Sullivan County Election Commission at [scelect.org](https://scelect.org).



*Little Free Libraries popped up across the Model City thanks to the efforts of the Kingsport Neighborhood Commission.*



## Digital Access Packs

The COVID-19 pandemic uncovered the extent of the digital divide in our community. The lack of connectivity and access to a reliable device makes it difficult to participate in school, search for a job or complete other necessary life tasks. To help narrow the divide, the Kingsport Public Library offered digital access packs for people to borrow.

The packs are available for no fee to library cardholders and provide access to a reliable computer and internet connection. Packs, which include a Chromebook and a Hotspot, were made possible by a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act grant from the Tennessee State Library and Archives and a generous donation from Christ Fellowship, a non-denominational church in Kingsport. The library has 20 digital access packs available that may be checked out for one week by adult cardholders and may be renewed one time. Visit [kingsportlibrary.org](https://kingsportlibrary.org) for more information.

## StoryWalk® in Glen Bruce Park

The Kingsport Public Library installed a StoryWalk® in Glen Bruce Park in 2020 with 20 displays placed around the park. StoryWalk, a system created for outdoor spaces with numbered stations that contain laminated pages from children's books, became a perfect way to share time together outdoors during a year of social distancing and safety protocols.



The first book to be featured was a staff favorite called "We're Going on a Bear Hunt," as retold by author Michael Rosen and illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. Each display contains a page of the picture book along with questions or activities for families to enjoy together. Storywalk currently features "Snowmen at Night" by Caralyn Buehner and illustrated by Mark Buehner.

The library plans regular StoryWalk updates. The StoryWalk\* Project can be found in all 50 states and internationally.

*\*The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.*

 [Kingsport Public Library](#)



**As 2020 unfolded during an evolving global pandemic, small cities with an affordable cost of living and access to high-speed internet became attractive places to reside.**

Since March 2020, 568 families moved to Kingsport from distances greater than 35 miles away. In only nine months, new residents came from 44 states, plus D.C. and Puerto Rico, with an investment of \$75.2 million in local housing.

Kingsport also continues to garner national accolades. Allconnect, a marketplace for comparing home services like cable TV and high-speed internet, recently named Kingsport the sixth most-connected small town in America. The findings are based on average download speed and percent of population serviceable. Many cities advertise "gig speeds" that measure up to 1,000 Mbps, which isn't necessary for most residential customers.

Internet subscribers in the towns featured on Allconnect's list average a download speed of 300 Mbps, which is sufficient to enjoy most internet activities, such as streaming, gaming and online browsing, with more than one user in the household.

During 2020, Kingsport/Johnson City landed at No. 12 on U-Haul's list of Top 25 growth cities in America. Growth cities are calculated by the net gain of one-way U-Haul trucks entering a city versus those leaving that city in a calendar year.

 [Move to Kingsport](#)



# CELEBRATE OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

*Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium is celebrating 50 years of family fun and adventure in 2021, and you're invited to a party that will last all year long.*

On May 24, 1971, Bays Mountain Park opened the doors to its Nature Center and has since welcomed generations of Kingsport families into the park. With a focus on education, preservation and wholesome outdoor fun, the park has become a staple attraction for the region, often referred to as Kingsport's "crown jewel."

This year, the park will celebrate its golden anniversary with special events – including the Anniversary Day Celebration on May 24, 2021 – opportunities to get involved, commemorative merchandise and more. Throughout the year, watch for fun events and programs fit for everyone. Whether you love adventuring in the woods, learning about local history or spending time with family, Bays Mountain Park is the destination.

## Kids at Bays

Come to the park for Kids at Bays on Saturday, April 24, for a fun-filled family day from 12-6 p.m. Featuring food trucks, live music, games, door prizes and more, all activities are free with park admission. Plus, from noon-1 p.m., kids can help celebrate the wolves' birthday by making cards and decorating cupcakes.

## Brews for Bays – and a Cause!

You can help the park this year by buying yourself a drink! Bays Mountain Brewing Company has partnered with the park to bring a new brew to the menu: "Celebrate 50! Bays Mountain Park Ale." One dollar from every can sold will support trail maintenance projects.

## Show Your Love for Bays

Want to deck yourself out in Bays Mountain merch to help celebrate? Visit [baysmountain.com/merch](https://baysmountain.com/merch) to purchase limited edition T-shirts, hats, mugs, water bottles, stickers and more. Be sure to keep an eye on the website as more designs will be released throughout the year. Proceeds will support the 50th anniversary initiatives.

## Let's Celebrate!

Since May is the park's official anniversary month, it's packed with fun activities leading up to the big day on May 24, including:

- Morning Yoga on Saturdays at 9 a.m.
- Morning Kayak Tour, May 23, 9 a.m.
- Guided History Hike, May 23, 2 p.m.
- Anniversary Day Celebration, May 24, 1 p.m.

What else can you look forward to during Bays Mountain's 50th Anniversary Celebration? On social media, watch for oral history narratives of the park and other fun facts. Bays Mountain



Brewing Company will host "A Night with a Naturalist" events at the brewery, where you can sip local brews while learning a thing or two.

On Father's Day weekend on June 19, the park will host Jeep Fest. There's plenty of other events and programs coming too, including VIP Barge Rides, Campfire Tales, a music festival and the return of the Laser Light Show.



## Connect

More events and opportunities to mark the 2021 birthday of Kingsport's beloved nature preserve will be announced throughout the year. Visit [baysmountain.com](https://baysmountain.com) and follow Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium on Facebook and Instagram. Please spread the love for the mountain by tagging the park when you post pictures of your visits and adventures!

 [BaysMountainPark](https://www.instagram.com/BaysMountainPark)

 [Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium](https://www.facebook.com/BaysMountainPark)





The Downtown Kingsport Association (DKA) builds upon its established values while engaging the community to enjoy the charm of our hometown. In 2020, Downtown Kingsport welcomed 16 new businesses. Shoppers can find gift and home décor, boutiques, antiques, bakeries, artisan candymakers, pet shops, florists and art galleries, along with a wide range

of personal services businesses. With a reinvigorated focus, DKA encourages creative partnerships among merchants as well as actively promotes events that attract people to downtown. The addition of the Main Street Alleyway project initially included eight colorful and creative murals. The project quickly inspired business and property owners and led to additional murals throughout downtown with nearly 20 by current count. A vibrant live music scene, array of restaurants, pubs, brewery, distillery and entertainment venues combine with a family- and pet-friendly atmosphere to make downtown the HEART of Kingsport.

[Downtown Kingsport Association](#)



Keep Kingsport Beautiful (KKB) celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2020, marking four decades of bringing environmental education and beautification efforts to the Model City. In 2020, KKB contributed more than \$330,000 worth of volunteer hours and benefits to the City of Kingsport, and for every dollar donated to KKB, the program returned \$81 worth of benefits to our community.

In 2021, KKB will provide plenty of opportunities to get involved in beautifying our city. Keep Kingsport Beautiful works with the Kingsport Neighborhood Commission to identify areas around town that need attention due to litter and debris and will be scheduling cleanups and offering volunteer opportunities.

In April, KKB will hold Clean Sweep Kingsport, and volunteers will be needed to pick up litter and debris at several locations.



The Saturday in the Gardens tour, sponsored by Eastman, will take place June 19. Attendees can buy tickets and visit some of the area's most beautiful gardens at their own pace.

In July, KKB will hold the Trash Barrel Paint-In, in anticipation of Fun Fest, sponsored by Domtar. During Fun Fest, the organization encourages volunteers to become Trashbusters to ensure events are litter-free. Trashbusters is sponsored by AEP Appalachian Power.

Conservation Camp, sponsored by Republic Services, will take place in September at the Eastman Recreation Area. The three-day camp provides environmental education and outdoor fun for fourth-grade students from Kingsport, Bristol and Sullivan County.

[Keep Kingsport Beautiful](#)



Healthy Kingsport has established strong partnerships within the community to promote the importance of being physically active. Partnerships with local organizations will continue as well as the creation of new programs, including Healthy Kingsport-branded bike rides, walks/runs, hikes and fitness in the park. The Walker Tracker app records the community's progress toward a citywide goal of 4 million miles, and Kingsport is positioned to become the first community in the United States to collectively move 3 million miles. The annual Walk for Wellness Expo will return in October 2021. The free event is designed to build increase interest in physical fitness.

We also will continue our "Live Sugarfreed" initiative, which focuses on the consumption of water over sugar-sweetened beverages. Organizations can take the Live Sugarfreed pledge at [healthkingsport.org](http://healthkingsport.org). Healthy Kingsport also is planning "Drink only Water" challenges throughout 2021 to educate the community on the health benefits of drinking water and will continue to acquire



*The S.H.O.U.T.!® Leadership program with Kingsport Chamber and Healthy Kingsport day with youth took place at the Farmers Market.*

sponsorships for water bottle refill stations and reusable water bottles for local schools.

Healthy Kingsport is making progress in reducing tobacco use in our community through a tobacco-free campus initiative and workplace policies to discourage or ban the use of tobacco. Healthy Kingsport also is advocating for state-level policies aimed at giving control to municipalities as far as the hiring of tobacco users. The tobacco-free campus pledge also is available at [healthkingsport.org](http://healthkingsport.org), as well as signage that can be ordered.

[Healthy Kingsport](#)



The past year presented new challenges and opportunities for Visit Kingsport as the city's tourism organization. In an effort to support our local businesses and attractions, the Visit Kingsport team developed the Distance Socially, Support Locally #KingsportStrong campaign. It became and remains more important than ever to support Kingsport's businesses, restaurants and attractions as they continue to recover and begin to welcome visitors back through their doors.

Kingsport and Sullivan County rank No. 7 out of 95 counties in Tennessee for overall economic impact directly from tourism expenditures. Despite the challenges that our region faced in 2020, Kingsport managed to host sports tournaments, meetings and conventions that resulted

in \$14.6 million in economic impact.

Tourism will play a key role in the economic recovery of our region – and it starts locally. As Visit Kingsport continues to promote our city as a tourism destination, here's how you can help: Plan a staycation, visit a restaurant or attraction you haven't been to in a while and always share the love of local via social media by using #VisitKingsport hashtag.

Visit Kingsport is hopeful for a much brighter 2021, with a full calendar of events slated for the second half of the year and sports events (without spectators) returning this month. Visit Kingsport plans and hopes to bring some normalcy back to our community with Racks by the Tracks, WING Fling and the 40th anniversary of Fun Fest!

[Visit Kingsport](#)





# Art contest inspires artists, other cities

The third annual Storm Drain Art Contest concluded in November 2020 with five drains newly painted by Kingsport artists. The contest is coordinated by the Stormwater Department, with the help of the Office of Cultural Arts and Engage Kingsport.



This year was more exciting than ever as our annual contest inspired other cities such as Norton, Virginia, and McMinnville, Tennessee, to hold their own Storm Drain Art Contest. The message behind the contest was spread as well: Keep It Clean – We’re All Downstream!



All of the drain designs are unique with some that feature animals that live in local waters. Others highlight the importance of community effort when it comes to keeping water clean.

With the success of the third year of the contest, the Stormwater Department plans to hold the contest again in 2021.

“I hope that the work of these extremely talented artists will not only educate, but also brighten someone’s day as they stroll past the new storm drain art,” said Amanda McMullen, stormwater quality control technician for Kingsport Public Works.

# New city app makes reporting issues easy

The City of Kingsport will soon launch ConnectKingsport, a new mobile application powered by SeeClickFix that allows residents to request services and report non-emergency issues such as potholes that need to be fixed or graffiti that needs to be removed.

The app uses GPS to recognize the user’s location and provides a menu of common quality-of-life conditions to select. The app also allows the user to upload pictures or videos to accompany the request. Residents can track the status of their reports or those by other members of the community until the issue is resolved. The ConnectKingsport app will replace YourGov as the city’s primary tool for citizens to report issues.

This citizen-first approach allows residents to have a direct line of communication to request city services. The app also provides a source of information about all things Kingsport with links to the city’s website, animal services, ongoing events and more.

“When maintenance requests come in, they will be instantly routed and passed into Cartegraph, the city’s work and infrastructure management system,” said Kristen Steach, asset manager for Kingsport Public Works. “By pairing the SeeClickFix and Cartegraph systems together, city field crews can now see and respond to requests in record time, automatically notifying citizens every step of the way.”

This new application not only allows citizens to report problems, but also to view, comment on and vote to fix problems submitted by their neighbors. Citizens can create “watch areas” to receive notifications about all issues reported in their community and follow the progress of service requests.

Once the app is live, go to the Apple Store or Google Play, search “ConnectKingsport” and download the free SeeClickFix app. You’ll also be able to access the app on the city’s website at [kingsporttn.gov](http://kingsporttn.gov) or [seeclickfix.com](http://seeclickfix.com). Your input helps make Kingsport a great place to live, work and play.



# KMTPO to roll out strategic plan for biking, walking

## Bike/Pedestrian Plan

The Kingsport Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (KMTPO) currently is working on a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the greater Kingsport region. The plan will guide active transportation investments and strategies in East Tennessee and southwest Virginia over the next 10-20 years.



The KMTPO has completed its preliminary analysis of existing conditions – specifically, understanding where people would like to walk and bike and the barriers that may prevent that from happening. Virtual public workshops were held in December 2020 and January 2021, during which dozens of citizens provided input.

The organization is now in the process of developing recommendations for sidewalks, bikeway facilities and trails, such as greenways. Members of the public are encouraged to follow the progress at the project’s Facebook page, Kingsport MTPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and watch for another public workshop in the spring. The plan ultimately will include a list of projects, with particular emphasis on those identified as having the highest priority. All projects identified in the plan will be eligible for state and federal funding going forward.

The plan will promote the continued improvement of active transportation in the greater Kingsport region, affording the public meaningful and accessible transportation choices for getting to the places they live, work, learn and play.

## Long-Range Transportation Plan

The Kingsport MTPO kicked off an update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in December 2020. The LRTP is a federally mandated 25-year blueprint created to identify what transportation investments will be needed to support the region’s goals for development by 2045.

By federal mandate, the plan will be adopted by June 7, 2022, and will consider multimodality; local demographics; coordination among local, state, and federal government agencies; fiscal constraint; environmental resources; and community input in order to develop a holistic and comprehensive analysis for transportation needs for the region’s future.

Thus far, the plan has commenced with the determination of existing conditions, contemplation of revised goals and objectives and public outreach, which included the launch and completion of the first of two public surveys.

Interested citizens can track the project’s progress by visiting the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan virtual meeting room. Go online to [Kingsport2045LRTP.com](http://Kingsport2045LRTP.com) to check it out!



City of Kingsport crews paved 10.26 miles from January to December 2020 with 8.91 miles paved by contractors for a total of 29 newly paved roads: Auditorium Drive, Avalon Street, Birdwell Street, Blakemore Drive, Carter Street, Charles Street, Clinton Street, Deerfield Avenue, Desoto Street, Drumcastle Avenue, Exeter Place, Fain Avenue, Fairview Avenue, Fordtown Road, Fort Henry Drive, Hampton Avenue, Harris Avenue, Hillmont Drive, Hilltop Street, Hollywood Drive, Lake Street, Mimosa Drive, Mitchell Road, Olympian Way, Pendleton Street, Pickens Road, Pierce Street, Sharondale Avenue and Walnut Avenue.

In 2021, the city plans to pave the Eastern Star Road area and around Tri-Cities Airport. For more information, visit [pavekingsport.com](http://pavekingsport.com).



# A place to innovate and thrive

*From residential development to retail, the City of Kingsport continues to thrive because of our strong partnerships and what our community has to offer in the region.*



## Industry

- Site selection
  - Connect with NETWORKS Sullivan Partnership to identify, analyze, develop and market cost-effective sites to help the city and county provide attractive locations for commercial and industrial customers.
- Kingsport offers:
  - Great access to interstate system.
  - Utility system with capacity for future growth.



## Retail

- Work with existing retail locations to retain current businesses and attract new ones.
- Provide support by:
  - Assisting in data-driven marketing.
  - Conducting individual location analysis of demographics, traffic patterns and volume, drive time analysis and trade area for specific business.



## Housing

- New residential developments in:
  - Highland
  - West Kingsport
  - Downtown
  - Rock Springs
  - Colonial Heights
  - Fordtown
- 300+ lots under construction
- 350+ lots at design stage
- Additional lots in conceptual design stage



Concept site plan

## Brickyard Park

- Request for proposals expected to be sent at end of April for new residential development with multiple amenities, and interest has been generated among local, regional and out-of-state developers.
- The new Scott Adams Memorial Skatepark has reached final design stage with construction expected to start in 2021.
- Future plans include walking trails, bicycle pump track and event space, all connected to downtown by a new pedestrian bridge.

## Buxton Web-based Analytics

- Helps Kingsport, its residents and businesses turn data into smart decisions about marketing, acquisition, site selection, real estate, market planning and tenant recruitment through a sophisticated yet easy-to-use platform.
- Allows city to understand retail, restaurant and consumer services customers and optimize strategy.
- Analyzes commercial real estate property and matches key success metrics to make data-driven decisions.

**Buxton**

## Entrepreneurship

**Sync.Space** works with the City of Kingsport, private companies and nonprofits to recruit start-up businesses and provide guidance and resources from business plan development to marketing support.

The city's Economic Development Department and Sync.Space work together to show what Kingsport has to offer, such as low cost of living, facilities and programs, technical expertise and a qualified workforce. The partnership includes:

- Access to programs to encourage, coach, train and assist in development of advanced manufacturing processes and products.
- Access to public and private programs and initiatives to support next generation of entrepreneurs.

**The Inventor Center**, a public-private partnership led by the City of Kingsport with Engage Kingsport and the ModelCity Makerspace, provides a place for inventors to:

- Develop prototypes and production capabilities.
- Receive professional assistance to improve product and get guidance on start-up production and warehousing.

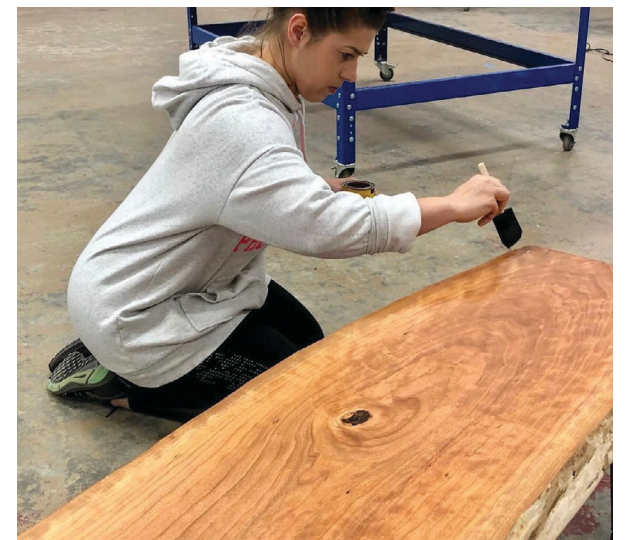
By supporting entrepreneurship, the City of Kingsport enriches our long-term economic health. Successful startups bring a diverse economy, degree-based jobs, advanced manufacturing jobs, financial investment and new residents. By investing in our



The Inventor Center



*In March, Sync.Space and FoundersForge partnered on a StartUp Bootcamp Meetup to foster the local entrepreneur community.*



*The Inventor Center in January hosted a Makers Bootcamp to provide participants insights on production and marketing.*

## Downtown

- Multiple developers are evaluating opportunities for restaurants, housing, including townhomes and lofts, and consumer services in Kingsport's 250-acre downtown area.
- Continued development of Brickyard Park public amenities and proposed residential development is expected to attract more people to downtown businesses.
- Restaurant options include Americana, barbecue, specialty, Mexican, breweries and distilleries.
- Businesses include consumer services, financial, outdoor and specialty.

## Economic Development Director

The City of Kingsport hired a new economic development director in 2020. While John Rose is new to the position, he is not at all new to Kingsport and has lived in the community for 20 years. Rose most recently worked as a consultant to help develop properties, and he has experience in construction and real estate. In his new role with the city, Rose supports City Manager Chris McCart and works closely with Elizabeth Rowe, the city's development coordinator, to advance Kingsport's economic development efforts.

citizens, Kingsport becomes a place for ideas to become a reality.

Examples of jobs generated by startups and inventors include digital media experts for design and marketing; engineers; programmers and operators for 3D printers and CNC (laser cutting) machines; and trades positions such as carpenters, welders, fabricators and electricians.



Educating during a pandemic revealed high levels of adaptability and versatility, as students and educators worked diligently to continue the learning process in new and creative ways. The district's technology 1:1 plan that provides a device for all students in grades 4-12 allowed students and teachers to connect for online instruction and virtual interactions. Students in Pre-K-3rd grade received at-home instruction via a range of methods, including online meetings and paper/pencil academic work. Educators, students and families found ways to ensure that learning continued through such unusual circumstances.

When students shifted to learning at-home through virtual instruction during the Spring 2020 semester, School Nutrition Services (SNS) staff joined forces with the KCS Transportation Department to deliver free meals on all regular bus routes each school day. Over a nine-week period, 313,703 breakfast and lunch meals were delivered to homes on bus routes or picked up at a school curbside by families. The free meals program was extended until the end of the 2021 school year.

The school system accomplished a range of safety work, including adding plexiglass barriers in all schools where face-to-face interactions could occur, adding floor markings to help control travel paths and adding hand-sanitizing stations throughout all KCS facilities.

School clinics were updated to support COVID-19 procedures, all water fountains were shut off and bottle filling stations were added, and signage was installed throughout the district to inform and encourage best-practice safety measures.

Throughout the school year, over 1,200 technology devices were purchased for students, teachers and classrooms. Internet upgrades and increased WiFi access points took place at schools to increase connectivity.



# Kingsport City Schools™



### Recognition

- National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) recognized Kingsport as 2020 Best Community for Music Education (BCME).
- Kingsport City Schools Hall of Fame Class of 2020 inductees included Joyce Cooper and Jim Welch.

### D-B EXCEL

- Digital Arts students designed only ornaments from Tennessee for National Christmas Tree display at the White House.
- Underwater Robotics team, R-Mateys, qualified for Marine Advanced Technology Education International ROV Competition for second consecutive year.

### Elementary and Middle Schools

- Student journalists from John Sevier Middle School's newspaper, The Sequoyah Scribe, selected international awardees by Youth Journalism International.
- Andrew Johnson and Andrew Jackson elementary schools earned a *Leader in Me* Lighthouse School status by FranklinCovey, a leadership group that provides a program for students to plan ahead, set and track goals and learn conflict resolution.
- Abraham Lincoln Elementary School became 2020-21 Gold Level RTI2-B Model of Demonstration School by Tennessee Behavior Supports Project (TBSP) at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

## Dobyns-Bennett High School Accomplishments

- Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) School of the Year for Excellence in Architectural Design for new 70,000-square-foot, 400-seat Science & Technology Center

- U.S. News & World Report 2020 Best High Schools in the United States
- Newsweek 2020 America's Best STEM High Schools

- GreatSchools 2020 College Success Award
- Air Force Junior ROTC Unit of Distinction for 13th consecutive year

### Athletics

- Inaugural Douglass High School Commemorative Boys' and Girls' Basketball Games host
- Home of some of the most successful athletic programs in America:
  - No. 1 winningest high school baseball team in country
  - No. 1 winningest high school basketball team in country
  - No. 2 winningest high school football team in Tennessee
  - Girls' cross country team TSSAA champion
  - Girls' cross country individual TSSAA champion
  - Two individual wrestling state championships
  - Boys' Track & Field Indoor High Jump individual TSSAA champion
  - National Athletic Trainers' Association Safe Sports School Award
  - Competitive marching band appearance in 2020 Tournament of Roses Parade for fifth time in school history



### 2020 Graduating Class

- Average ACT score: **22** (*State of Tennessee: 19.9*)
- **7** National Merit Scholarship Program Semi-Finalists
- **10** National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students
- **2** U.S. Presidential Scholars Program candidates
- **2** East Tennessee State University Roan Scholars
- **6** AP Capstone Diplomas recipients
- **174** AP Scholars
- **111** students with GPA exceeding 4.0
- **\$16** million+ in scholarship offers
- Graduation rate: **94.3%** (*State of Tennessee: 89.7%*)

KCS serves more than 7,600 students in grades Pre-K-12. Students attend one of eight elementary schools, two middle schools, Dobyns-Bennett High School, Cora Cox Academy or D-B EXCEL, a high school program of choice. KCS is recognized by leading organizations as among the top school systems in Tennessee and the United States. KCS employs over 1,250 adults, making it one of Kingsport's largest employers, and 465 teachers and/or administrators hold advanced degrees and seven are nationally board certified.