



2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

STATE OF THE CITY

KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE





2017 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

STATE OF THE CITY

VISION:

To become the premier city in Northeast Tennessee to live, work, raise a family and for businesses to grow and prosper.

MISSION:

To be the best possible Kingsport, a place that is attracting and retaining new and existing residents, visitors, businesses and developers.



TOP 5 PROJECTS



ACHIEVEMENTS



FINANCIAL HEALTH



EFFICIENCIES/PAVING



KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS



CELEBRATING OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR

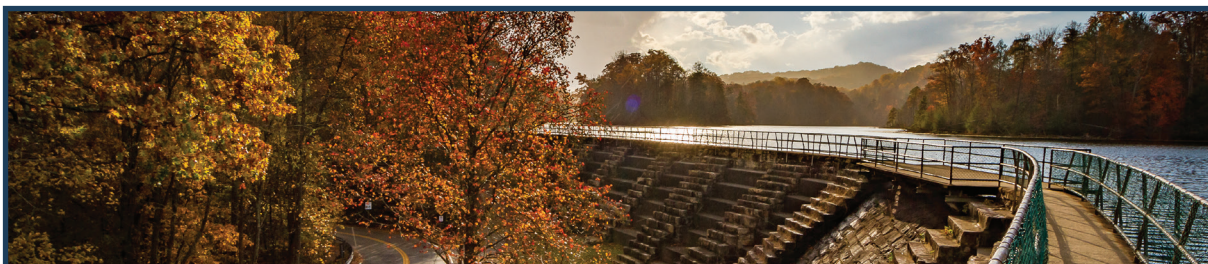
For more information, download the budget book by searching 'Budget Book' on KingsportTN.gov

Cover Photo: *Derek Cress Photography*

TOP 5 PROJECTS

SHARING A VISION FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

It's Kingsport's centennial year. We have enjoyed celebrating our past and our present, so now it's time to reach for the future. Over the last year, the Summit Advisory Commission diligently worked to bring all the community's input together to formulate the five most impactful projects. These projects are collaborative in nature, provide sustained economic impact and improve the quality of life.



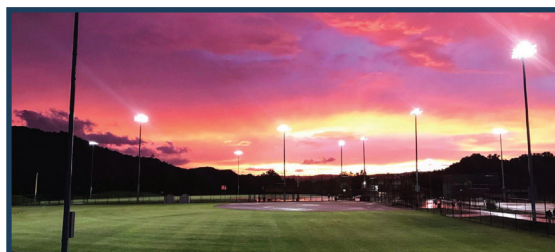
BAYS MOUNTAIN PARK: THE TRAIL FORWARD

Bays Mountain is the most desirable, high-profile destination the city offers, worthy of the noblest effort for generations to come. It's a crown jewel of our city, full of outdoor adventures with hiking and zip lining, a variety of animal habitats, a picturesque lake, and even a planetarium.



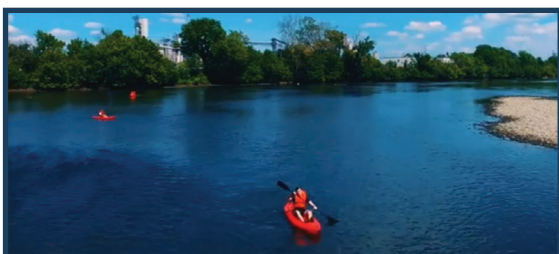
NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION: LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

Neighborhoods are the core of a city, and Kingsport's are rich with character and tradition. Through the neighborhood commission, the city and its citizens can build stronger neighborhoods and increase engagement.



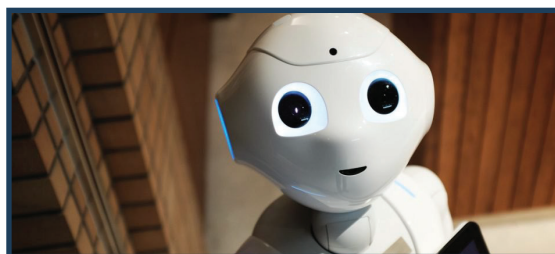
DOWNTOWN PLAYGROUND: OUTDOOR VENUE AT BRICKYARD PARK

The General Shale Complex has the potential to become a premier destination for Kingsport. In addition to Brickyard Park that brings in regional and national youth sports tournaments, the next phase will be to create a multipurpose outdoor venue.



REDISCOVER THE RIVERFRONT

The Riverfront has been a long desired area for development. The natural beauty of the river is a great location for outdoor activities, the greenbelt, and retail and restaurant establishments. This KOHO District (Kingsport On the HOlston) has much potential.



INNOVATE KINGSPORT: PRODUCT CREATION CENTER

In an effort to capture the best and brightest in the workforce, the product creation center would be the hub, serving as a makerspace, a product creation arena and more.



ACHIEVEMENTS

KINGSPORT WATER PLANT ONE OF THREE TO RECEIVE STATE AWARD



The Kingsport Water Treatment Plant has received the EPA Partnership for Safe Drinking Water's Directors Award for 2017. The award recognizes dedication to improved water quality through plant optimization. This is the eighth consecutive year the water plant has received this award.

CLEAN WATER AWARD FOR KINGSPORT



The National Association of Clean Water Agencies Peak Performance Award is given to clean water agencies that maintain compliance for the calendar year. Most people do not associate the wastewater treatment plant with 'clean water,' but we are all about clean water! The WWTP treats (cleans) over 3.5

billion gallons of water and returns it to the river to be used downstream for recreation, drinking, and many other uses.

KINGSPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT: ACCREDITED ONCE AGAIN



The Kingsport Fire Department (KFD) received its fourth consecutive designation as an accredited agency. When they first received this designation in 2001, they were one of forty fire departments in the nation to receive this accreditation.

KINGSPORT: FIRST & ONLY SAFE COMMUNITY ACCREDITED IN TENNESSEE



The City of Kingsport and the Sullivan County area is one of only 18 accredited Safe Communities in the United States with a shared mission of preventing injuries and saving lives.

Kingsport is the first community in the state of Tennessee to receive this honor. Safe Communities America is a rigorous accreditation program of the National Safety Council that supports and recognizes communities across the United States committed to decreasing injuries and deaths and improving overall safety at the local level. Reaccreditation for Kingsport to continue to be a safe community happens in 2017. Find out more about Safe Communities by visiting safecommunitiesamerica.org.

KINGSPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT: MEETS NATION'S HIGHEST STANDARDS



In early 2017, Chief Quillin accepted the "Meritorious Advanced Gold Standard with Excellence Reaccreditation" on behalf of the Kingsport Police Department. This award is reserved for agencies that have been continuously accredited for 25 years or more.

GIGKINGSPORT



Kingsport has the capability of up to 10 gigabytes and beyond – we're GigKingsport!

GigKingsport is a partnership with Spectrum Enterprise, a national provider of scalable, fiber-based technology. Spectrum Enterprise has made a significant investment in Kingsport to provide better and faster services to the business community.

TOWER LOOP HIKE FEATURED IN THE TENNESSEAN

This Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium hike was included in the list of hikes everyone should take in 2017!



Bays Mountain Tower Loop

- Level: Easy
- Family friendly hike of 2.3 miles with lakeside scenery and the beauty of Bays Mountain backdrop.

Bays Mountain has over 25 miles of hiking trails of all levels of difficulty. Hiking trail maps are available.

For more information and to check out a trail map, please visit www.baysmountain.com.

#1 INDOOR POOL IN STATE



The Kingsport Aquatic Center was featured in a national travel article on MSN. The article featured one indoor pool in all 50 states to help ease the winter chill. With three indoor pools at KAC, swimmers enjoy water aerobics classes, water

therapy classes or add laps toward their own centennial swim challenge of swimming 100 miles in 2017.

BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS STRONG IN KINGSPORT



Kingsport has a commitment to ongoing support with beautification efforts, realizing the importance of making a good first impression.

A few recent landscaping beautification projects include:

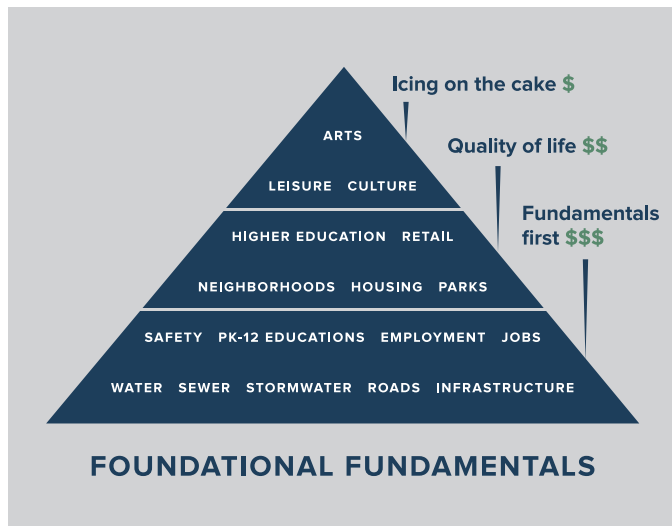
- Wilcox & John B Dennis Intersections
- Wilcox Corridor
- Stone Drive Median at Eastman Road
- J. Fred Johnson Park



35 RIBBON CUTTINGS & 4 GROUNDBREAKINGS.



FINANCIAL HEALTH



HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

The decision-making process in Kingsport is handled with great care. Using a three-tiered pyramid model, city officials are able to effectively illustrate the hierarchy of needs as it pertains to Kingsport's capital budget and the priorities of maintaining and improving our city.

KINGSPORT SETS ONE OF THE LOWEST TAX RATES IN CITY HISTORY

TAX RATE

\$1.975
PER \$100

With reappraisals recently completed in Sullivan County, taxpayers in Kingsport are reaping the benefits of higher property values that enable the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to set the **fourth lowest tax rate in city history**. The new rate is \$1.9750 per \$100 of assessed value, while the previous rate was \$2.07.

AA BOND RATING FOR PUBLIC BONDS

PER S&P GLOBAL RATINGS



What's that mean?
Our city has a strong economy. Our city government practices good financial policies and presents a balanced budget.

AA2 RATING FOR IMPROVEMENT BONDS

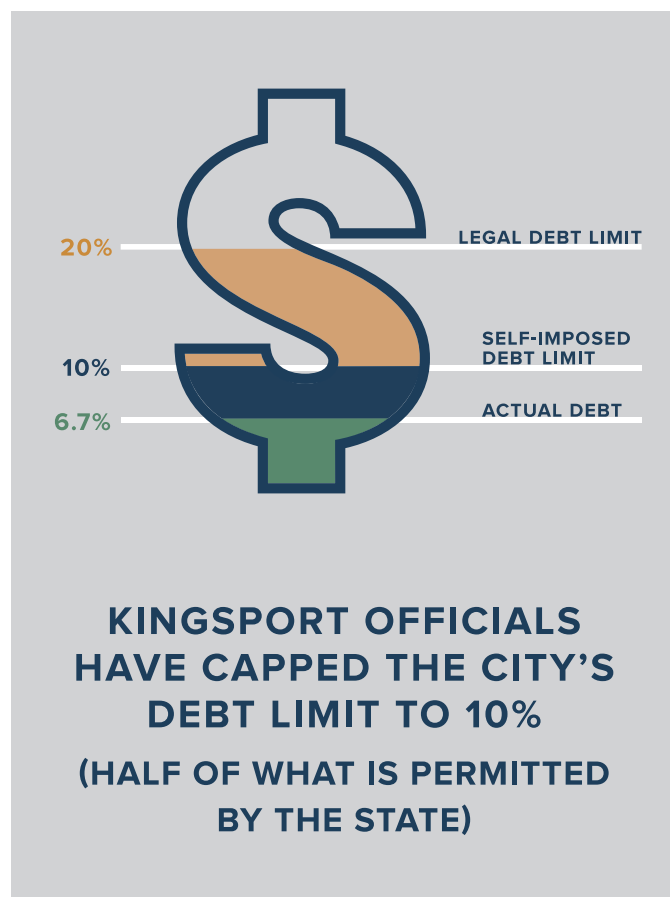
PER MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE



What's that mean?
The Aa2 rating primarily reflects the city's large, expanding tax base. The rating also reflects the city's satisfactory financial position.

HEALTHY DEBT

Tennessee state law limits any city's debt ceiling to 20%. For the benefit of its citizens, Kingsport officials have capped the city's debt limit to 10%, half of what is permitted by the state. Currently, we are at 6.7% which is a testament to our leadership's commitment to fiscal responsibility and a conservative approach to borrowing and spending.



OPERATING EFFICIENCIES

Kingsport city staff has demonstrated sustained operating efficiencies from fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2017.

- Kingsport's population grew 11.95% while general fund expenditures per capita increased only 10.05%.
- Bristol's population increased by 4.43% while their general fund expenditures per capita increased 19.80%.
- Johnson City's population increased by 4.55% while their general fund expenditures per capita increased 15.67%.

Kingsport is making a concerted effort to keep expenditures within its growth limits.



EFFICIENCIES

YourGov – A Tool To Report Potholes, Streetlight Outages & More

YourGov is an innovative citizen request application that allows community members to conveniently report non-emergency issues and service requests using the web or a smartphone.

YourGov is free and is available for use anytime. To visit YourGov online, go to kingsporttn.gov and click on the YourGov tab located on the homepage. If smartphone users would like to download the app, please visit the iTunes store or Google Play store.

The YourGov app is not to be used for emergency situations. If there is an emergency, citizens should call 911.



Download YourGov.
Help the city fix non-emergency issues faster than ever.

GOING GREEN - CUSTOMER SERVICE

Did you know you can enroll to have your water/utility bill emailed to you every month?



In response to residents requesting to go paperless for their monthly water/utility bill, the City of Kingsport is pleased to offer residents this service. Not only is the paperless service more convenient for customers and environmentally friendly, it is also helping the city cut costs.

Each month, roughly 35,000 residents receive a paper bill costing the city \$17,000.

If just 25% of city residents signed up for the paperless billing, it would save the tax payers over \$52,500 a year.

If you're interested in signing up for paperless billing for your water/utility bill, you can do so in three ways:

1. Sign up through your 'Click2Gov' account.
2. Sign up over the phone by calling the Customer Service Department at 423-245-1019.
3. Sign up by visiting the Customer Service Department at City Hall, located at 225 West Center Street.

For more information on paperless billing for your water/utility bill, please call:

423-245-1019

PAVING

PAVEKINGSPO

Paving is a foundational fundamental for our city, meaning it is a basic need for residents. Roads kept in excellent condition keep all residents and visitors traveling safely. Maintained roads also support and obtain economic growth and development.

To get objective data about the streets, Kingsport used a data driven system to assess every street in Kingsport. Using ground-penetrating radar, the city received an industry standard rating for all streets.

The data collected shows Kingsport to have 58% of roads 'at or above fair' rating. While this percentage is positive, it means 42% of roads are 'rated as poor and below.' These roads will receive paving attention first to bring them up to satisfactory standards.

Kingsport's goal is to manage a resurfacing effort that maintains streets 'at or above fair' rating over a 20 year period.

FUNDING SOURCE FOR PAVEKINGSPO

In the past, paving was underfunded. Kingsport was on a 50-55 year paving cycle, which is almost double the recommended cycle.



The AEP Franchise Fee comes from a renewed 20-year contract with Appalachian Power (AEP). Through this agreement, the board finally was able to identify the funding source that will maintain city streets at a very high level.

The City of Kingsport had a 99-year contract with AEP and since 2011, the city and AEP have worked together to formulate a plan moving forward, as the original contract ended in 2016.

Companies, such as AEP, providing residents and businesses a service in a specific geographic area that have been granted the right to serve, are able to provide a funding source back to the community through the city.

Annual funding for paving breaks down into two segments. The first 90% of the funding is for asphalt maintenance. This includes repair of lowest scoring roads in neighborhoods, heavily traveled roads and isolated lowest scoring roads. The remaining 10% funds beautification efforts for Kingsport. This includes concrete maintenance, such as concrete streets and sidewalk repair, and mowing and landscaping crews.



KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS

MISSION

(What we are hoping to accomplish):

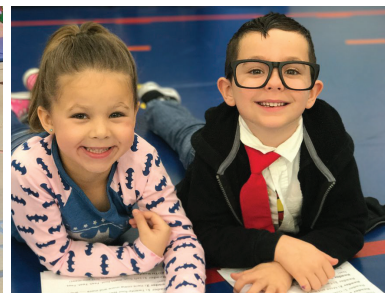
The mission of KCS is to provide a student-focused and world-class education that ensures college and career readiness for all students.

VISION

(Our desired future): Student Focused ... World Class

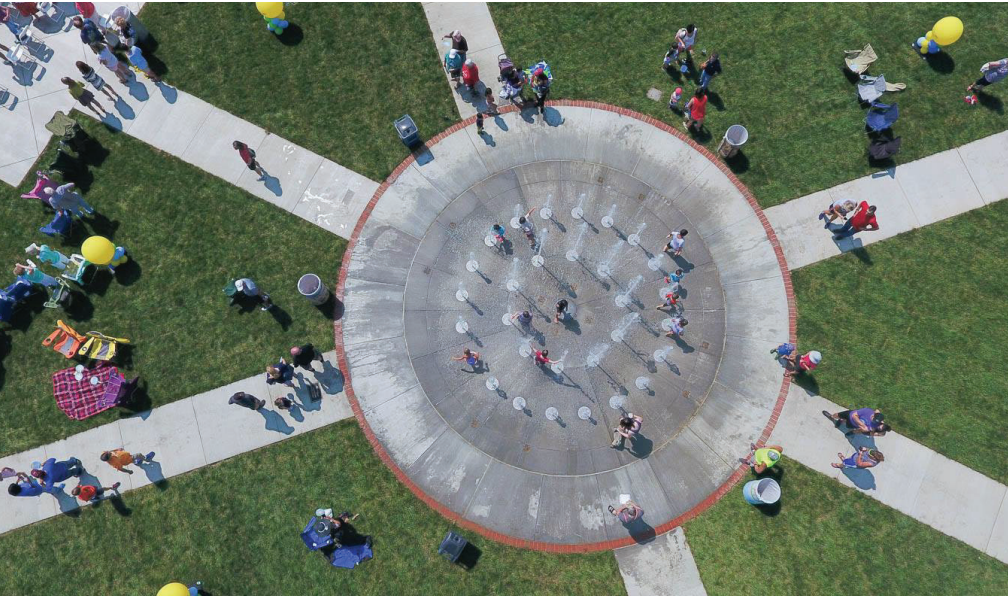
2016-17 MAJOR AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

- Eight KCS administrators appointed to the 2016 Board of Examiners for the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence
- One administrator named a fellow for the 2017 cohort of the Governor's Academy for School Leadership
- Principal named 2016-2017 National Distinguished Principal by National Association of Elementary Schools Principals K-8 (Sevier)
- Three KCS educators named as district-level Teachers of the Year, with one also named a First Core Region Teacher of the Year finalist
- Named to U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools list, Washington Post's Most Rigorous High Schools list, Newsweek's Best High Schools list, and Music Merit Award School by NAMM (D-B)
- 2017 graduating class received \$15,000,000+ in scholarship offers, had four National Merit Finalists and four National Merit Commended students, one Presidential Scholar finalist, and four service academy appointments (D-B)
- One hundred eighteen students posted scores of 30+ in ACT exams (D-B)
- AFJROTC earned its 10th consecutive Distinguished Unit Award (D-B)
- Science Olympiad team placed 1st in the region and 4th in state-wide competition; 15 students competed in 23 events encompassing all areas of science and technology (Robinson)
- MathCounts team placed 1st in chapter-level competition and 3rd in state-wide competition with one student placing 1st in individual competition at the state level (Robinson)
- Science Olympiad and MathCounts teams hosted Governor Bill Haslam during his "Capitol to Classroom" tour (Robinson)
- Four students advanced to state-level National History Day competitions, with one student advancing to compete in national-level competition (Sevier)
- Sequoyah Scribe won Youth Journalism International Awards in feature writing, multimedia sports, news, sports news, sports opinion and tech journalism (Sevier)
- Marching Band swept all regional championships and earned a finalist spot at Grand Nationals (D-B)
- Both Boys and Girls Cross Country teams won state championships (Sevier)
- Girls Cross Country placed 2nd in the state with one student winning the state meet (D-B)





CELEBRATING OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR



KINGSFORT CENTENNIAL PARK CELEBRATION

A legacy project for everyone – the young and the young at heart! The park is a gift to the city for future generations.



NEW YEAR'S EVE STREET PARTY

A New Year's celebration for the history books! Held in Downtown Kingsport, the evening was filled with games, pony rides, food trucks, fire breathers, live DJ, and a Kingsport mannequin challenge! We even dropped a '100' at midnight!



KINGSFORT POPS

Symphony of the Mountains provided everyone with amazing musical entertainment at our July 4th event and Honda Kingsport gave away a brand new car! Coupled with an amazing fireworks show, it was a great way to spend a night in Downtown Kingsport!

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

The March 2 birthday event for the city was a huge success – we had thousands of people celebrate our city's date of incorporation with us, including seven of our very own Kingsport centenarians! Attendees took part in the many activity booths, such as rock painting, book signing, and announcing their '100' for the year.

