Roane County is home to inviting waterways, a robust recreational life and breathtaking vistas. Whether you live here or visit, you’ll enjoy family-friendly festivals, bluegrass music, stunning Watts Bar Lake with world-class fishing, and historic towns and museums.

We partner as a community to achieve the best life for our residents, for the business community and for the many visitors who are attracted to our desirable location.

The best of Tennessee.

It all comes together in Roane.
Uncover our fascinating past.

Soak up history that changed our world.

Since its creation in 1801, Roane County and its five unique, historic communities—Harriman, Kingston, Oak Ridge, Oliver Springs and Rockwood—have attracted visitors and commerce to a place filled with beauty and opportunities.

Look over the rich land we call Roane County. Picture settlers building a way station such as Fort Southwest Point in the late 1700s. Imagine their delight at the view from the fort’s position on a bluff overlooking the confluence of the Tennessee, Clinch and Emory rivers. Explore this Kingston fort, which serves as Tennessee’s only colonial-era museum standing in its original location.

On 1,200 acres, Oak Ridge’s award-winning Heritage Center repurposes a complex formerly of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The DOE and the Oak Ridge community initiated a Reindustrialization program to utilize facilities originally used for research and development by the DOE. The program begun here serves as a nationwide model with great success.

Discover the mystery of the Secret City and the Manhattan Project, Oak Ridge’s Atomic Age story. Learn how more than 75,000 people quietly assembled to create a workforce and a town that didn’t appear on any map. Talk with National Park Service rangers and tour “secret” sites to find out what lay behind X-10, Y-12 and K-25 and this industrial complex in the hills of East Tennessee, now established as a national historical park.
Listen to the quiet.
Give in to the adventure.

Nature’s all around you in Roane County. Watts Bar Lake brims with striped, largemouth and spotted bass, catfish and crappie. Duck hunting is popular during winter. It’s prime for birders: great blue herons, osprey and bald eagles. From the dock, watch geese gliding and listen to a nighttime frog serenade.

Roane County offers more than 56,000 acres of recreation that include water, parks, trails, golf courses and wildlife areas. Among the county’s wildlife management areas, Paint Rock provides hunters and anglers 1,600 acres along Watts Bar Lake. Bird-watchers enjoy Gupton Wetlands in the new Lakeshore Park, or Thief Neck and Long Island, accessible by boat. Mount Roosevelt presents 11,000 acres and a striking view of the Tennessee River Valley, windmills on Windrock Mountain and the Smoky Mountains.

Boating wakes up your senses. Feel the wind on your face, hear the rustle of leaves, see flags flutter and watch wavelets on the water.

GET MOVING IN ROANE

- Take in the scenery of the Clinch, Emory or Tennessee rivers from a rental paddleboard or kayak.
- Rent a pontoon boat and tube all day, or relax on a quiet island beach or in a cove.
- Get away on a boat to Knoxville or Chattanooga, or all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.
- Fish a tournament almost any weekend, or grab a pole and catch a big fish from one of our many fishing piers.
- Hike or bike more than 60 miles of trails.
- Pack a picnic lunch and head to one of our ten lakeside parks.
- Play a round of golf at any of our five courses, or throw an ace shot at a disc golf course.
- Enjoy a trail by horseback, or open rides indoors at the Expo Center, with boarding available for travelers.
- Set sail for wide-open spaces and enter your sailboat in the spring regatta.
We know how to enjoy life.

Here, time out is a good thing.

Take a trip to any of our downtown areas and spend time browsing through antiques and specialty shops. Enjoy delightful treats at one of our bakeries, or a milkshake at the old-fashioned soda fountain. Visit the antebellum courthouse in Kingston, or the historic railroad depot in Oliver Springs, both archival libraries for the county.

Enjoy performing arts and concerts at Roane State's O'Brien Theatre or the Princess Theatre in Harriman, a restored 1920s-era, art deco cinema. The newly restored 1915 Alston Garage in Oliver Springs is now a community theater and historical museum.

Listen to live music at venues such as Bradbury Community Club, with bluegrass every Tuesday and third Saturdays. Ladd Landing Listening Room has a laid-back vibe that pairs well with its singers/songwriters. Lakeside restaurants offer music or karaoke. Stop by Riverfront Park in Harriman for the easy sounds of the Babahatchie Band on a summer Sunday.
Festivals here are full of music—like Rockwood’s Thunder Road Festival, Harriman’s Polk Salad Festival and Oliver Springs’ October Sky Festival. Kingston’s Smokin’ the Water is a day-long, waterfront celebration with one of the largest 4th of July fireworks shows in East Tennessee. It’s Celtic music in May at the Tennessee Medieval Faire. Downtown Harriman and Rockwood rock during summer Cruise-ins, with classic cars and motorcycles.

Watts Bar Lake was home to the 2010 National Bass Federation Championship, with annual events such as the APBA Pro Series National Championship boat races, Rockin’ on the River, the Tennessee Team Trail and fishing tournaments nearly every weekend spring through fall.

Athletes “race for the cannon” in the Storm the Fort Half Distance and Spring Triathlon. Race in the Oak Ridge Omnium or Three River Rumble, a multi-day, three-city bike race that includes a State Championship Criterium course in downtown Rockwood. Stay on your toes with 5Ks, including the Moonlight for Sight in October along the waterfront in Kingston.

A life well lived.
A vibrant community.
It’s how you have fun that counts.
Get away, enjoy your stay.

Relax where New England architecture meets East Tennessee natural beauty at the lovely Whitestone Country Inn. Go for a weekend getaway, a reunion or a wedding, or to create new memories. Soak up Southern dining done right. Take a carriage ride past the lakeside chapel and gazebo. Watch wingspan of osprey, and hike rolling meadows with Scottish Highland cattle.

Camp Kingston’s Riley Creek, with sites for RVs and tents on beautiful Watts Bar Lake. Caney Creek RV Resort, lakefront in Harriman, keeps you moving with trails, canoes, paddleboards and a swimming pool. Rent a lakeside cabin or home through Tennessee Lakefront Cottages.

Located on the Devil’s Triangle and near Windrock Park, Windmill Inn Bed & Breakfast in Oliver Springs caters to bikers and all-terrain riders.
A place to relax.
A place to call home.

Natural beauty and recreation are part of the good life here in Roane County. Surrounded by water with four true seasons and generally mild temperatures, we’re in the Tennessee Valley, set against the backdrop of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Home to Watts Bar Lake, water sports and fishing are among recreational favorites and can be enjoyed year-round.

Off the water, there are 16,000 acres of public parks and wildlife areas that include 30 miles of paved or marked trails and 15 parks. For the sports enthusiasts, there are also 5 golf courses, 2 disc golf courses and a number of sports complexes. And, with more than 450 festivals and events every year, you’ll always find something to do.

LIVING IS EASY HERE.

Roane County’s 700+ plus shoreline miles are among the least developed in the state. You’ll find affordable lake property in abundance. A must-see historic district is Harriman’s Cornstalk Heights, with more than 100 Victorian homes on the National Register of Historic Places.

- Ladd Landing, Kingston: Community with 800 acres overlooking the Clinch River, with town center, bike paths, restaurants, retail shops and many conveniences.
- Grande Vista Bay, Rockwood: Waterfront and gated, 1,200 forested acres, boat slips and recreational amenities.
- The Preserve at Clinch River, Oak Ridge: Parks, walking trails, a town center and lots of leisure opportunities.
- Whitestone, Kingston: Chose living at The Pointe, from residential to family farms with Whitestone amenities.
- Cornstalk Heights Historic District, Harriman: 100+ Victorian homes on the National Register.
- Green Ridge Trails, Harriman: Relaxed country living in a gated wooded community atop the Cumberland Plateau.
High tech and low taxes.

We’re in a good place.

You’ll find a convenient, affordable lifestyle in Roane County, with easy access to quality healthcare, an active volunteer community, and opportunities for second careers for retirees. Financially strong, Tennessee has low taxes, with the lowest debt per person in any state. We have no state income tax or transfer tax.

Roane County’s largest employer, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, has a $1.65B budget, employing 4,400 engineers, scientists and PhDs. Our Innovation Corridor focuses on cutting-edge classroom technology to develop workforce-ready graduates. The school system is aligned with post-secondary opportunities designed to meet growing workforce demands, closing the skills gap and continuing the 75-year legacy of having a workforce unmatched in skill.

- Middle College: A program of Roane State with Roane County schools. It is a dual enrollment program that enables students to graduate high school and college at the same time.
- Roane State Community College, Harriman: With Oak Ridge and seven other locations
- Tennessee College of Applied Technology, Harriman: Premier provider for workforce development
- The University of Tennessee, Knoxville: Nine undergraduate and eleven graduate colleges
Success is here.

We’re a natural choice for economic development.

With Tennessee’s Innovation Corridor as the gateway to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, Roane County’s local infrastructure, strong economic climate and high quality of life make it an attractive choice for expansive opportunities. Situated within 500 miles of 75 percent of key U.S. markets, the county lies within a day’s drive of two-thirds of the U.S. population.

Roane County has three locations that have met the stringent requirements for development to become a Select Tennessee certified site by completing all the necessary initial due diligence for site selection.

Roane County’s transportation infrastructure is geared toward progressive commerce with a number of interstate interchanges along I-40, nearby access to I-75, two major U.S. highways and the Tennessee, Clinch and Emory rivers, with four river terminal facilities.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), the nation’s largest science and energy laboratory, is in Roane County. ORNL is soon to be the home to “Summit,” the world’s fastest supercomputer, which tackles national challenges for the DOE, such as climate change and solutions for sustainable energy and transportation.

Volkswagen’s Southeastern Regional Distribution Center is located in the Roane Regional Business & Technology Park. The $40 million, 459,000-square-foot center, the world’s only Silver LEED-certified distribution facility, distributes Volkswagen’s Passat parts.

SELECT TN CERTIFIED SITES

- Cardiff Valley Road Site, 45 acres in Roane County Industrial Park, with extensive infrastructure for heavy industrial companies
- Horizon Center, Development Area 6 Site, with an availability of over 150 acres, easy transportation access routes and near Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Jones Road Site, 40 acres accessible to strategic transportation corridors, perfect for light to medium manufacturing or distribution centers, located in Roane Regional Business and Technology Park, with a dedicated interchange on Interstate 40
It’s like no place you’ve ever been.

And the discoveries stay with you.

In the 1700s, Westward-bound settlers traveled Avery’s Trace and discovered fertile land with magnificent mountains and rivers, now known as Roane County. Today, you’ll still find discovery in our unique communities, settled among our abundant natural resources.
Roane County’s outstanding location, ready infrastructure, educated workforce, available industrial sites and established resume of success in retail, tourism and industry have been key factors in its economic growth and success.

We bring growth-oriented businesses with strong fiscal discipline, infrastructure and workforce-ready people to East Tennessee. As Roane County’s Economic and Development organization (Roane ECD), our mutual success drives regional job growth and perpetuates business success.

We attract travelers who seek unique heritage and the best outdoor recreational experiences to Roane County.

We connect leaders and organizations for the benefit of local and regional business growth.

We empower leaders, parents and students to invest in education so they are better prepared to fulfill the workforce opportunities of Roane County’s future.

We offer natural beauty, historic charm and low-cost living, distinguishing Roane County as one of the best retirement destinations in the nation.