



Overview of Kitakata City

Materials for Learning about Kitakata City's Municipal Administration

2024.2.5

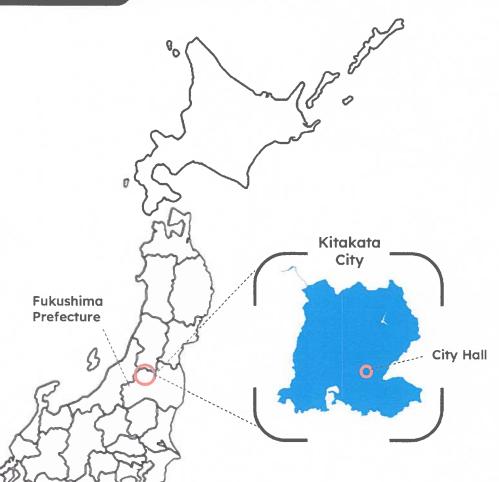
Presented by

Kitakata City Hall Planning and Coordination Division

Geographical Location and Basic Information



Map



Area

 $554.63 \text{ km}^2 = 136,896 \text{ acre}$

Population

approx. 44,000

Climate

avg.temp. 11.4 $^{\circ}$ = 52.5 $^{\circ}$ F

precip. 1,562 mm

Local traditions and distinctive culture deeply rooted in the region

Traditional

"Kura"







As a building that evokes nostalgia and a sense of longing, it creates a unique landscape. Not only used for storage, but also for a wide range of purposes such as shops, residences, and workplaces, it is characterized by its versatility.

Culture

"Ramen"





Kitakata Ramen is widely renowned across the country. Its distinctive feature is the use of noodles made with high water content, using underground water sourced from melting snow. The popular appeal lies in the harmonious combination of the texture of these noodles and the lightness of the broth.

" Matsuri "







The summer festival is a one of traditional event in Kitakata. Featuring lively dances to festival music, spirited drum performances, and grand fireworks synchronized to the festival atmosphere, there are plenty of highlights that attract many visitors every year.

"Soba"







Flavorful soba made using buckwheat flour cultivated in pristine water and a climate with significant temperature variations. Within the city, there are 7 soba-making groups, each with unique characteristics and a passionate spirit.

"Flower"







In spring, 1,000 weeping cherry biossom trees bloom along a stretch of about 3 kilometers, boasting one of the largest cherry blossom avenues in the country. In May, 3.5 million rape blossoms also bloom, and during summer, 2.5 million sunflowers proudly display their vibrant colors.

" Nihonshu"







Sake made with the abundant use of highquality spring water, known for its softness. Kitakata City has garnered numerous awards in national new sake competitions and international contests.

The abundant water, rice, and craftsmanship have contributed to the cultural development of Kitakata City.

Basic info Culture City Hall City Council Issues Policy

Organization structure within the city hall and the Roles of each organization

The number of divisions within a department

Organizational chart Mayor's Special Missions, Comprehensive Planning and **Deputy Mayor** Mavor **Planning and Policy Department** Coordination, International Exchange, Public Relations, etc. Document Management, Regulations and Rules, Personnel Affairs, **General Affairs Department** Welfare Benefits, Staff Management, Financial Management, etc. Disaster Prevention, Environmental Conservation, General Citizen Citizens' Affairs Department Services, etc. Community Healthcare, Disability Welfare, Child Welfare, Elderly Health and Welfare Department Welfare, Infectious Disease Control, etc. Agricultural Policy, Forestry Management, **Industrial Department** Attraction of enterprises, Business Support, Tourism, etc. Maintenance of Roads and Bridges, Urban Planning, Water and **Construction Department** Sewerage Management, etc. Field offices established in former towns and villages. Various **General Branch Office** service counters. **Accounting Manager** Revenue and Expenditure Tasks, Expenditure Review, etc. The parliamentary secretariat Operation of the Municipal Assembly and Committees, etc. Meetings of the Board of Education, Administration of Schools **Director of Education** 5 **Education Department** and Kindergartens, Lifelong Learning, Preservation of Cultural Assets, etc.

KITAKATA CITY

The Composition of the City Council and the Roles of Committees

The number of members belonging to the committee

Organizational chart

Council President Vice President

Standing Committee

A standing committee tasked with a specialized examination of proposals, such as budgets and ordinances, assigned by the chairperson during the plenary session. The committee receives detailed explanations from relevant departments regarding the proposals, as well as petitions and appeals, and conducts a thorough review.

Parliamentary Operations Committee

An institution responsible for deliberating and coordinating matters related to the operation of the assembly and parliamentary reforms during this session.

General Affairs Standing
Committee

Education and Welfare Standing
Committee

Industrial Development Standing
Committee

Parliamentary Operations

Committee

The examination and oversight of matters related to municipal property management, tax affairs, overall revenue budget, and issues not falling under the jurisdiction of other standing committees.

Responsible for the examination and oversight of matters related to the living environment of citizens, health and welfare, medical care, as well as the overall field of education including school education and lifelong learning.

Responsible for the examination and oversight of matters related to municipal road management, public housing, urban planning, water supply and sewage, as well as the fields of agriculture, forestry, commerce and industry, and tourism promotion.

*The Committee for Parliamentary Operations is comprised of 8 members selected from among the council members.

Election Petition Policy Election

Council Examination Mayor

Proposal

The mayor proposes budgets, ordinances, and other matters to the council as draft resolutions, and the city council conducts investigations and deliberations to make decisions. The city follows the decisions made by the council and implements municipal policies. The city council and the mayor hold independent and equal positions, establishing a check-and-cooperation relationship.



Council members are elected by the citizens through an election for a term of four years. The number of council members is stipulated at 22 by an ordinance determining the number of KitaKata City Council members. Currently, there are 22 council members in KitaKata City, divided into 3 standing committees for examination.



Basic info Culture City Hall City Council **Issues** Policy

The population decline issue

Total Population (Estimate)

It is projected that the total population of the 44,760 city will decrease to approximately 55% of the current population by the year 2050. 41,008 37,507 34,141 30,981 27,881 24,846 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050 [vear]

Background factors

- 1 Escalation of the Declining Birthrate Issue
 - Delaying marriage and increasing rates of remaining unmarried

Since the 1980s, the unmarried rate among women aged 30 and above in the country has been increasing, leading to a trend of both late marriage and rising unmarried rates.

Women's societal advancement and diversification of values

In 1985, a law was enacted to equalize employment opportunities for men and women, leading to the increased societal participation of women. However, the challenges of balancing parenting and work may impact the choice to have children.

Additionally, the variety of pleasures and the convenience of single living may contribute to a shift in values regarding marriage and family.

2 Outflow of the labor force to urban areas

Currently, approximately 30% of the total population of Japan resides in the Tokyo metropolitan area. The migration to urban areas, predominantly by young individuals motivated by employment opportunities, is evident. However, improving employment conditions in rural areas remains a challenging task given the current situation.

Basic info Culture City Hall City Council Issues Policy

Key Policies_ Construction of a complex facility

Logo



Overview

" AIDEMI KITAKATA"



2022.4.3~

This facility was constructed with the concept of serving as a hub for diverse interactions and vibrancy, not only for citizens but also for residents of neighboring towns and villages, as well as visitors to the city, spanning from children to the elderly. The aim is to create a space where a multitude of people can engage in various interactions and activities.

Inside the facility, there are children's play areas and childcare support center, making it a symbol of childcare support in the city. Additionally, the facility has a training room for nursing and caregiving personnel, playing a role in supporting local healthcare and care services.

Facility Guide

Indoor Children's Play Area

It can be used throughout the year as an indoor play area. Large play equipment is installed, and instructors are stationed to provide guidance on how to play.



Nursing Personnel Training Room

It is a school operated by the medical association where one can learn the specialized knowledge and skills required for licensed practical nurses.



Caregiver Personnel Training Room

A training facility that cultivates personnel involved in caregiving. It conducts training sessions and meetings.





Outdoor Children's Play Area

Learning Support Room

A space where children can freely spend time, receive homework support, and even have snacks.







