

First Impressions

Team Report Form



Community Visited: Hoxie

Date Visited: 4/17/18

Pre-visit web search: How easy was it to get information on the community you were visiting? Did it accurately reflect what you saw? Did you have difficulties obtaining information on the community through a web search?

Very informative. Good idea to find an outside web service (lovesmalltown). Easy to find information.

1. The “Five-Minute” Impression: After taking a five-minute drive through the community without stopping, the following reactions were noted.
It is a very clean and neat community. Yards are well kept. They have plenty of water. You can tell it’s a farming community because of the 3 implement dealers.

The following observations were noted when entering the community from major entrances (signs, streetscapes, buildings, etc.)

Welcome signs were visible. The signage was very good around town. Coming in from the south there was one business that wasn’t neat.

2. Downtown Business Area

Describe the buildings, signs, infrastructure, etc.

The few empty store fronts were maintained rather well. There was one store front that had a refrigerator in front of the door. There were many different facades and architecture styles but it all blended well.

Explain what type of businesses you observed and give a description of the variety and quality of merchandise displayed.

Joslyn’s Food Center – Very neat, clean, organized. Food displayed professionally. Vegetables looked like they were out of a magazine. Newspaper open. We visited 3 gift shops which were very neat. Implement dealerships, restaurants, hardware store.

Describe the customer service received when you entered those retail businesses. (Were you greeted? Did you have to ask for assistance?)

We were greeted and they were very welcoming. Lots of conversation and helpful but no pressure sales.

What public amenities (drinking fountains, benches, public restrooms, trash receptacles and wi-fi, etc.) were available?

None was evident.

Comment on landscaping and streetscaping. Did you have difficulty finding parking? Could you access multiple services from where you parked?

Everything was neat. Parking was ample. Access to multiple areas was available. Evidence of no stop signs.

3. Other Retail Shopping Areas

Describe other retail shopping areas. Were the areas attractive and easy to access?

Attractive and easy access.

4. Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

Is there a defined area where manufacturing industries could easily locate/expand? If so, describe.

No defined area, but expansion is possible. There were three large implement dealerships.

5. Health Care Services

Comment on the availability and apparent quality of hospitals and emergency medical services.

Health care available. Clinic and emergency room were well marked but not the entrance to the hospital. The health complex was confusing.

Comment on the availability and condition of facilities for physicians, dentists, optometrists, public health and other healthcare providers.

Dentist and chiropractors were sighted. Did not see any public health office. We assumed doctors, etc. were in the health complex.

What long-term care services, assisted living or nursing facilities exist in the community?

Long term care was attached to the hospital.

6. Housing

Give a brief description of the existing mix of housing stock. Does the local market have housing that would appeal to all income wages? What challenges do you see in regards to finding acceptable housing? (Neighborhoods, size, properties for sale, etc.)

For sale signs were not in abundance. There was new construction going on – duplexes and single family housing. There were 2 realtors on Main Street. Rental housing signs were not easily found.

What kind of rental properties did you observe for persons interested in building or simply living in the community prior to buying housing?

All signs of building going on but there was no signage if they were for rent or sale.

7. Schools

What schools are present? (Head Start, Preschool, K-8, High School, Post-Secondary, etc.) Do the schools appear to be adequate in size? Are the buildings and grounds well-maintained?

K-12, adequate in size and well maintained. Nice new track. Greenhouse for FFA.

Were you able to find online information that helped assess the quality of the educational system?

Yes

8. Childcare

What childcare service are available? Is it affordable?

We observed several day cares but there is a shortage where grandparents and neighbors have to help.

9. Faith/Religion

Comment on the number of denominations and the physical appearances of the churches represented in the community. Did you observe any evidence of church-sponsored community services?

Many denominations available and they were neat and clean in appearance. We did not observe any church sponsored services.

10. Civic

Tell about the variety of nonprofit organizations and clubs within the community.

Masonic Lodge, Elks, Boy Scout House

Did you observe any evidence of civic organization activity?

Blood drive, Recreation Commission is active all year round with many different activities.

11. Public Infrastructure

Comment in general on the streets, street signage, sidewalks, parking, lighting, restrooms, landscaping, and streetscapes in areas **other than downtown**.

Many unpaved streets, lack of sidewalks and no restrooms. A few areas were not as kept up as most of the town.

Comment on city/town hall (How were you received? Was there information about the town available?)

Pleasant atmosphere. Received very well by city treasurer. The city clerk did not come out to visit. Did not notice any city information available.

Police/fire protection:

Police and Sheriff Departments were visible. Did not see fire protection.

Library:

The lady was very informative and enthusiastic. Hope for remodeling in the future. A definite plus for the community.

City parks (walking tracks, ballparks, playgrounds, sports complex)

High school track and football field and playground by the school. Park with a walking trail. Jars around town to raise money for playground.

12. Recreation/Tourism

Is the community well-known for any particular attraction or event? Do they have a community slogan that capitalizes on that asset?

Oscar the long horn bull.

Good Crops & Great Families.

Did you see any indication of significant events taking place in the community that would be of interest to both visitors and residents?

Blood drive.

Digital signage had local information.

Elaborate on any significant natural or manmade features that have the potential of drawing people to the community. (Public art, museums, lakes, campgrounds, regional heritage locations).

The landscaping of surrounding countryside was beautiful. A small campground on south end of town. Sheridan Lake is close by.

Is there an obvious visitor's center, chamber of commerce office, main street office, or other facility that serves the needs of visitors? Comment on the staff, facilities, signage, visibility, etc.

Not obvious to us.

Are there any restaurants, specialty shops or attractions that would bring you back to this community in the near future?

JD's Restaurant was friendly and food was excellent. The gift shops were amazing. The other restaurants were also reported to be great. So we would probably try them another time. The soda shop is enough to bring us back.

13. Wrap-up

What are the most positive things you observed about the community?

The cleanliness of the town. The businesses were well stocked especially the grocery store. The produce and meat sections were amazing. The cemetery was very well manicured with lot of water hydrants.

What are the biggest obstacles/challenges facing this community?

Jobs and publicizing their good points. Most of our information was gathered by visiting with people in City Hall, County Treasurer, businesses and especially the library.

What will you remember most about this community six month from now (positive or negative)?

The cleanliness and friendliness of the grocery store. Oscar the bull. The retired teacher that works a couple mornings a week at the library. The stained glass window at the Court House. Unpaved streets.



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