First Impressions

Compiled Report Form

Community Visited: Miltonvale Date(s) Visited: October 27, 2017

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?

*Informative city website*

*Could find a dew things through Facebook*

1. The “Five-Minute” Impression: After taking a five-minute drive through the community without stopping, the following reactions were noted. The following observations were noted when entering the community from major entrances (signs, streetscapes, buildings, etc.)

*The community layout was a little confusing with lack of signage. The available signage was small or difficult to read. The welcome to Miltonvale Lions Club sign was difficult to read. Several houses could use some work. We really like the street signs.*

2. Downtown Business Area

Describe the buildings, signs, infrastructure, etc. Explain what type of businesses you observed and give a description of the variety and quality of merchandise displayed. Describe the customer service received when you entered those retail businesses. (Were you greeted? Did you have to ask for assistance?)

*Overall the downtown was very nice. Store fronts were very appealing. We weren’t sure what all businesses were – not all had signs or hours of operation. The Purple Door wasn’t open but looked nice through the window. Various businesses available: restaurants, cabinet store, post office, salon, gas station. We ate at the Kountry Kafe and received great food and service. We weren’t sure if it was open though because we didn’t see any hours listed.*

What public amenities were available (drinking fountains, benches, public restrooms, etc.) Comment on appealing landscaping and streetscaping. Did you have difficulty finding parking? Could you access multiple services from where you parked?

*There were some benches and we found locked restrooms at the park. It looked like there may have been more restrooms at the ball diamond. When we parked downtown we were able to access many of the businesses from one location.*

1. Other Retail Shopping Areas

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

*We didn’t see other retail shopping outside of downtown.*

4. Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

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

*Maybe on the outer edges of town there would be room available for industries to build.*

5. Health Care Services

Comment on the availability and apparent quality of hospitals and emergency medical services. Comment on the availability and condition of facilities for physicians, dentists, optometrists, public health and other healthcare providers. What long-term care services, assisted living or nursing facilities exist in the community?

*There is a medical clinic available with services once a week. The outside of the building looked well kept. We didn’t see any long-term care or assisted living facilities.*

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.)

*It looked like there were a few houses for sale/rent as posted in the Kountry Kafe. The city office also said they are able to help people find rentals.*

*There were several houses in need of repair and yards that could use picked up. There were also quite a few with no trespassing signs.*

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

*The city office said there are apartments available for rent.*

7. Schools

Do the following schools appear to be adequate in size or do you see the use of temporary classrooms? Are the buildings and grounds well-maintained?

*It looked like they had a Jr/Sr High school and elementary. The grounds were well kept but it wasn’t clear where they were located.*

What type of information could you find on the school website?

*They have a school calendar of events, athletics, staff, menu and extra-curricular activities. Current and updated for the most part.*

1. Childcare

Were you able to determine if childcare was affordable and available?

*Did not see any child care services.*

1. 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?

*St. Anthony’s Catholic Church & Miltonvale Weslyn Church with directions from highway. United Presbyterian Church – didn’t see any hours posted.*

*Overall the churches we saw were very attractive.*

1. Civic

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

*Lions Club signage. It seemed the Lions Club may be active, especially with the ball field.*

1. Public Infrastructure

Comment in general on the streets, street signage, sidewalks, parking, lighting, restrooms, landscaping, and streetscapes in areas other than downtown. Did you observe land-use planning?

*Very nice new street signs. Overall the streets were nice. We did not observe land use planning.*

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

*We were very well received at the city building. Info available on bulletin boards around community (city office, Kountry Kafe).*

Police/fire protection:

*Nice fire and EMS building*

Library:

*We were told there used to be a library but there isn’t one anymore.*

City parks (walking tracks, ballparks, playgrounds, sportsplex)

*Frisbie golf, nice. The community has nice basketball courts, volleyball, pool and rec area. The park and stage are very special for a small town. We were surprised to see RV parking tucked away behind the football field.*

1. Recreation/Tourism

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

*It seems like Tootleville would be a big attraction and it looks like there may be a Tootlefest per Facebook. The community could use better signage to such a great asset.*

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

*Trunk or Treat*

*Tootlefest advertised on Facebook with a glow run.*

Elaborate on any significant natural or manmade features that have the potential of drawing people to the community.

*We thought the red phone station was unique and special. Tootleville, fountain, stage are all great features to have and draw people in.*

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.

*The staff and signage for the city office were nice and helpful. It looked like they had some brochures and info available.*

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

*Warkentin Cabinets*

*Purple Door was closed but looked like it would be a nice ship.*

1. Wrap-up

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

*Park/Tootleville, Community Center & city office staff*

*Street Signs*

*Friendly people and lots of pretty fall trees*

What are the biggest obstacles/challenges facing this community?

*Lack of signage*

*Unkempt housing and yards*

*The community has a lot going for them but need to advertise their assets better.*

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

*Tootleville & Park Area & Fountain*

*Kountry Kafe – nice staff and good food*

*Insurance Office was very nice inside and out with friendly people*

First Impressions was developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension and adapted for use by K-State Research and Extension.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension Service

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