

# First Impressions

## Altamont, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership  
with


The Dane G. Hansen Foundation



- 2010 Census 1,092
- 2010 Census 1,080 (down 2% since 2000)
- 2015 Estimate 1,206 (UP 10.4% since 2000)  
(2015 KS Estimate=7.6%)
- 24.6% college educated, 93.6% high school or GED  
– KS 31% college education, 90.2% HS or equivalency
- 72.7% family households, 27.3% non-family
- Poverty rate is 17.3% (KS=13.6%)
- Median Age 31.6 years (36)
- Median household income is \$47,321 (\$52,205)

## Web Presence:

<http://altamontks.com/>

Altamont, Kansas – Small Town Pride 

[altamontks.com/](http://altamontks.com/) ▼

Altamont, KS 67330. Phone: 620-784-5612 Fax: 620-784-5882 cityoffice@altamontks.com. Having problems with your electric, gas or water? Call 620-784-5582

[City Hall](#) · [Utility Department](#) · [Business News](#) · [Flag Day](#)

- The City and school web-sites had all the information you would need.
- The website accurately portrayed the town.

## Chamber of Commerce

<http://altamontchamber.com/>

## FaceBook

<https://www.facebook.com/Altamont-Recreation-Commission-553378811366784/>

## Related sites:

### Community - Altamont, KS - USD 506

<https://www.usd506.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Community%7CAltamont%2C%20KS> ▼

Located in Southeast **Kansas** on Hwy 160 & 1 mile west of Hwy 59. **Altamont** City Office 407 S Huston, 620-784-5612 or cityoffice@altamontks.com. **Altamont** ...

### Labette County USD 506 - Altamont Grade School

<https://www.usd506.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Altamont%20Grade%20School> ▼

**Altamont, KS** 67330. Phone Number: (620) 784-5511. Fax Number: (620) 784-2675. School Mascot: Eagles. School Colors: Navy Blue and Columbia Blue ...

## The “Five-Minute” Impression

- A small, very clean community.
- The houses along the highway are well-kept.
- A sign on the highway directs you to the downtown area.





## The “Five-Minute” Impression

- The east section of town had sidewalks through main street, the west end did not.
- An older community, most all homes are kept up.
- Saw a lot of flags made from pallets.



## Downtown Business Area

- The buildings appear to be in need of “brightening” up. With the exception of the Extension office and city hall, none of the buildings invited me to “come and explore.”
- Landscaping/streetscaping and paint are needed... but may be there in season.



## Downtown Business Area

- Both Rust Junkies and Thrift Shop were busy while we were there in the afternoon, so we weren't greeted, but people were friendly.
- There are public restrooms inside city hall.





## Downtown Business Area

- No water fountains were observed.
- There were plenty of benches.
- Plenty of parking, including handicapped parking and wheelchair ramps. Did not see that handicapped parking was clearly marked.















## Other Retail Shopping Areas (Hwy 160)

- Dollar General, MJ's and Tire Shop
- Each was accessible by vehicle.
- Due to lack of sidewalks on the west side, some residents may have difficulty accessing certain stores, especially Dollar General. The only store with groceries.







## Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- Recycling Center and elevator were industrial, but in different areas.





## Health Care Services

- 2 medical buildings in good shape, a patron said there were no doctors.
- Did not observe sidewalks to them.
- No hospitals or emergency medical services available.
- There are no assisted living facilities.



## Housing

- There are 496 housing units (as of 2015)
- 436 are occupied (88%) (KS= 89.5%)
- 60 are vacant (12%) (KS= 10.5%)
- Owner Occupied: 297 (68%) (KS=66.7%)
- Renter Occupied: 139 (32%) (KS= 33.3%)

**Family Occupied** 72.7%

**Non-Family Occupied** 27.3%

# Housing

- Only 3 “for sale” signs on homes.
- Residents appear to really take pride in their homes.
- I never saw a “bad neighborhood” in town.
- Did not see rental signs, but City Hall and website has a list of people to contact for rentals.





# Housing observations





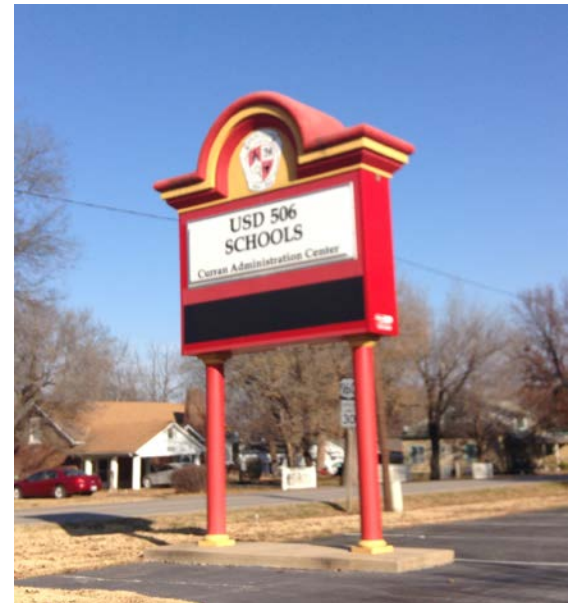






## Schools

- Schools appear to be a big factor for people to be in Altamont.
- Parents As Teachers and Pre-K through HS.
- High School is known for strong trade training and the ability to earn college credits.
- Good information about the schools on school website and linked to city website.





# Schools

- The schools appear to be adequate, although the elementary playground appeared small.
- The schools have summer school for students needing extra help and also another one for enrichment.
- A summer lunch program for children through the schools.





## Childcare

- Documented on the City Website.
- The city appears to have more child care availability than many small towns.
- Pre-K is also available at school.

# Faith/Religion

- Many denominations, 8 listed on city website.
- Buildings are older, but well-maintained.
- A pantry was observed in one church.



## Civic

- Nothing visible.
- Lion's Club sign on highway, summer lunch program.
- One visitor had an extensive list, which may have come from the City's website.





## Public Infrastructure

- There were streetlights and street signs, but sidewalks were not always present.
- Not all streets were paved.



## City Hall

- The ladies in city hall were most helpful.
- The recreation commission has a big role in the community.
- There is a welcome packet for new residents.



## Fire, EMS and Police Services

- There is a fire station and a police station.
- Fire department acts as first responders.





## Library:

- A small library which is open afternoons only. City & Library Website clarifies it is also open 2 evenings.
- Paperback book racks outside the library door do not have an explanation, but I think they are free.
- The City Website speaks of library programming: Movie in the Library, Book Discussion Group, Summer Story Hour and reading program.



# Parks

- The park is small and appears land-locked.
- A swimming pool.
- The sign indicating which way to the park is not easily seen from the highway.
- Rec Commission just got a grant for new playground equipment.



## Recreation/Tourism

- The Recreation Commission has a big role in the community.
- There was a sign directing you to the baseball field from the highway, but I passed by the entrance several times before I figured it out.
- Your leadership team told us that there are no walking paths, but walkers use the track at the high school.





## Recreation/Tourism

- The community is proud of the fishing lake.
- There is an annual International Disc Golf Tournament which brings in a large number of people.
- An annual fishing derby is held for youth.
- Great website links on City Website, but links are broken.
  - Directions
  - Regulations
  - Activities and Events
  - Reservations
  - Visitor Comments
  - Map of Lakes and RV Camping



*The page scrolls and you can see all these items except for the “Visitor Comments” & “Map of Lakes”*

## Events and attractions

- Events were not visible to the visitors; website has a good list on the home page.
- Visitors heard about movies at the library and fireworks.
- Visitors named community events, the lake and disc golf as potential draws to the city.
- A wonderful photo feed on the City Website needs to be more front and center for visitors.

Photos retrieved from Altamont Flickr page  
4-14-17.



## Most Positive Observations

- Well-kept homes
- School System
- Nice appearance of businesses on highway





## Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Downtown needs a facelift.
- Limited time that stores and library are open.
- Limited access through town for those without a vehicle.
- No entertainment for younger groups on a daily or weekly basis.



## What will you remember 6 months from now?

- The great school system and how nice the town is in general.
- The hamburger and fries at MJ's.
- The lake and the friendly people.

<http://altamontks.com/city-lakes/>

Retrieved from Internet 4-13-17



## *Thank our leadership team:*

- Amanda Marney
- Jeff Bohnenblust
- Dan Peterson
- Liz Finley
- Peggy Ybarra

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

- Margaret J. Wheatley

- **Set next steps!**

- Which group will lead the discussion?

- **Contact me if you need resources or help:**

- Nancy Daniels
  - Community Vitality Specialist, K-State Research and Extension
  - 785.410.6352
  - [nkdaniels@ksu.edu](mailto:nkdaniels@ksu.edu)