

First Impressions

Hoxie, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership
with

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation



Demographics for Hoxie:

- Population – 1,201
- Education: High School – 87.4%, BS – 21.5%
(KS: HS – 90.3%; BS – 31.6%)
- Median age of years – 46.9 (KS – 36.2)
- Poverty rate is 6.9% (Kansas – 13.3%)
- Median household income is \$49,167
(KS- \$53,571)

Source: <https://factfinder.census.gov/>



Web Presence:

- Very informative
- Good idea to have an outside web service
- Since visit – information about Hoxie is hard to find
- Website has dated information or pages are not active

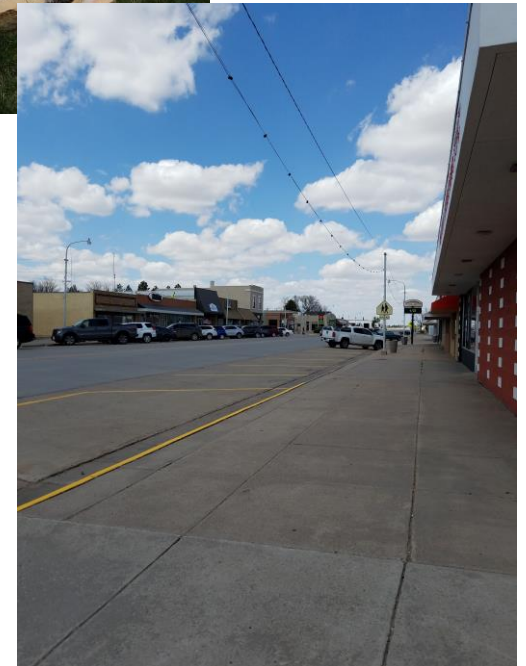


The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Very clean and neat
- Yards well kept
- They have plenty of water



- Consistent welcome to Hoxie signage at all entrances
- The signage was good around town



- Coming from the south there was one business that wasn't neat
- You can tell it's a farming community because of the 3 large implement dealers



Downtown Business Area

- Many different facades and architecture styles but it all blended well
- A few empty storefronts but were well maintained



Types of Businesses Observed

- Joslyn's Food Center – very neat, clean and organized
- Food displayed professionally
- Vegetables looked like they were out of a magazine



- Visited 3 gift shops which were very neat
- Newspaper office
- Restaurants, hardware stores



- Many service businesses – insurance, banks, salons
- Pharmacy with soda fountain



Customer Service

- We were greeted and folks were welcoming
- Lots of conversation and helpful but no pressure sales.



Public Amenities, Streetscaping and Landscaping

- No public amenities were noted
- A few pots yet to be planted, roses bushes will be pretty when greened up and blooming



- Everything was neat
- Wide Main Street
- Lots of truck traffic



Other Retail Shopping Areas

- HWY 36 – Convenience store, Dollar General, Liquid Assets, Red's Ice Cream
- Attractive and easy access



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- No defined area but expansion is possible
- Three large implement dealerships, all on HWY 24



- Not noted by visitors - businesses on HWY 23



Health Care Services

- Sheridan County Health Complex was confusing
- Clinic and emergency room were well marked
- Hospital entrance poorly marked



- Long term care was attached to the hospital
- Did not note a senior center
- EMS on HWY 24



- Dentist and chiropractors noted
- Missed the optometrist
- Did not find County Public Health



Housing

- Total housing units – 595
- Owner occupied housing units – 73.4%
- Renter occupied housing units – 26.6%
- Occupied units - 564
- Vacant units – 31
- Median home value - \$90,000

Source: <https://factfinder.census.gov/>



Housing observations

- Average age of housing is newer than most NW Kansas communities
- A little over $\frac{1}{4}$ of housing units were built in the 70's
- New construction is happening



- Not many for sale signs
- Rental housing is not easily found



- 2 Realtors downtown
- Ridgewood Manor – income based housing
- Senior Living



Schools

- Elementary School just off of Main Street
- Fundraising for new playground equipment



- Jr/Sr High on the east side of town
- Nice new track
- Greenhouse for FFA



Preschool/Head Start/Childcare

- We observed several day cares
- Shortage noted in conversations with locals

Faith/Religion

- Many denominations of churches
- Neat and clean in appearance
- Did not note any church sponsored activities



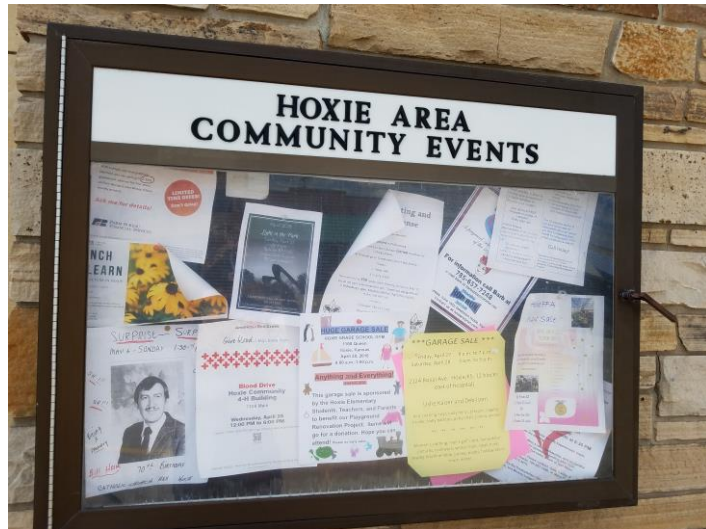


Civic

- Masonic Lodge
- Elks
- Boy Scout House



- Advertising for upcoming blood drive
- Told recreation commission is active all year with many different activities



Public Infrastructure

- Many unpaved streets
- Lack of sidewalks
- No restrooms



- A few areas were not as kept up as most of the town



- Pleasant atmosphere at city hall.
- Well received by city treasurer
- City clerk did not come out to visit
- Did not notice any city information available



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



- The library is a definite plus for the community
- The retired teacher was very information and enthusiastic
- Hope to remodel in the future



- Found the park with the walking trail
- Found park with camper hook-ups on the south side of town (Buffalo Bill Park)



- They did not find the city park and pool
- Shelter and tables could use some paint



- They did not find the ball fields



- They did not note the fair grounds with hometown carnival



- The Elks Lodge was noted but not the golf course



Recreation/Tourism

- Slogan – Good Crops & Great Families
- Oscar the long horned bull was noted

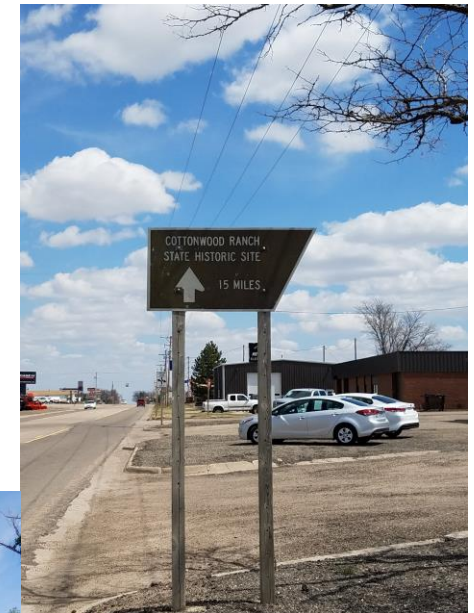


- There are several digital signs which promote local activities and events
- The blood drive was being advertised



Significant Natural or Man-made attractions

- The landscaping of surrounding countryside was beautiful
- Small campground on south end of town
- Sheridan Lake close by



- They did not mention the historical museum, the Main Street Arts Council, or any of the 3 lodges in the area
- Nor the Court House or Veterans Memorial



Restaurants, Specialty Shops, attractions to bring one back to the community

- JD's Restaurant was friendly and the food was excellent
- The gift shops were amazing
- The soda shop is enough to bring us back



Most Positive Observations!!

- The cleanliness of the town
- The businesses were well stocked, especially the grocery store
- The cemetery was very well manicured with lots of water hydrants



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Jobs
- Publicizing their strengths
- Being too heavily dependent on the ag economy



What will you remember the most in six months from now?

- 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



Recommendations:

- Website improvements and greater use of social media
- Way Finder signage
- Development of a city or local area brochure
- Street improvement plan
- Better signage at the Health Complex
- Promotion of adult recreation and activities
- Clean-up of some properties on East HWY 24 and South 23

Kansas PRIDE is helping communities create the
type of place they want to call “Home”



- The Dane G. Hansen Foundation wants to help communities in Northwest Kansas become the best they can be and take great PRIDE in who they are and what they can be.



- <http://danehansenfoundation.org/>