

First Impressions

Lincoln, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership
with

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation

The logo for the Dane G. Hansen Foundation features a stylized tan arch above the text "DANE G. HANSEN" in a bold, dark blue serif font. Below this, the word "FOUNDATION" is written in a smaller, dark blue serif font, with each letter separated by a wide space. A second, larger tan arch is positioned behind the word "FOUNDATION".

DANE G. HANSEN

F O U N D A T I O N

Lincoln Demographics

- Population – 1,297
- Median Household Income - \$40,650 (KS - \$52,205)
- High School Education – 90.1% (KS – 90.2)
- College Education – 15.6% (KS – 31.0%)
- Median resident age is 45.3 years (KS – 36.0 years)
- Poverty rate is 13.1% (KS – 13.6%)

Source: factfinder.census.gov



Web Presence:

- www.lincolinks.org
- www.lincolncoks.com
- www.livelincolncounty.com
- Detailed website, lots of good links, however it looks dated and needs updated



POST ROCK CAPITAL OF KANSAS

The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Lacked directional signage from highways to downtown
- Interesting rock attractions
- Post Rock is appealing
- Full Main Street with lots of activity at 12:30 pm



- Liked the color/printed “Welcome to Lincoln” signs
- Initial housing on entering community was not kept up



Downtown Business Area

- Beautiful limestone buildings
- Aging infrastructure but most places look well kept
- Attractive way finder signage



- Observed law offices, eating establishments, hair shop, grocery store, athletic store??, museum, pharmacy
- Clothing store – WOW!! Thrift store, gift store/frame shop, grocery store, hardware, restaurants. Services – hair, lawyer, tax/accountant, banks.



- Sidewalks and Main Street clean and in good condition
- Wide Main Street – very eye appealing
- Trash cans present, stone and other benches in front of several businesses.
- Nice planters in front of the art center



- Good customer service and everyone happy to share info
- Number of vacant buildings which could use some TLC
- Lacked public restrooms



Other Retail Areas

- Along K-18 HWY
- Convenience Store
- Hotel



- Mini storage, photography studio (residential area), possible greenhouse/nursery couldn't tell if in operation
- Dollar General
- Pizza Hut



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- Industrial Park off of K-18 Highway
- Observed the sign however they were unsure of businesses located there. Business signage was poor.



- Seems industrial/commercial businesses are scattered.
Keevers by old high school, Implement dealer/NAPA by the highway, collision repair shop, Farmway elevator on west side – old – tear down??



- Some industrial/commercial/residential/agricultural areas could use some clean-up to improve appearance



- Quartzite Stone



Health Care Services

- Nursing home/assisted living facility observes as you enter town
- Hospital small with no room to expand
- Clinic located with the hospital



- Noted a chiropractor, vision center, dentist, and pharmacy
- County Health Department



- Senior Center
- Lincoln Manor
- What is available for adult physical activity?



Housing

- Total Number of Housing Units – 699
- Occupied housing units – 577
- Vacant housing units – 122
- Owner occupied – 76.9%
- Renter occupied – 23.1%



Housing observations

- Rental apartments available – several complexes with duplexes and apartments
- Public housing – small but well kept



- Variety of well maintained properties
- Wide mix of housing
- Few houses for sale



- A number of run down apparently abandoned residences
- Not many nice yards in residential area.



- Small RV Park
- Infrastructure in place for new housing development



Schools

- Nice elementary school and a new high school in two separate locations.



- Elementary school has updated play equipment and appears structurally sound.



- Sports complexes located close to high school – baseball field, football field
- Baseball field has nice dugouts and adequate grandstands



Childcare

- Did not observe the preschool/headstart building
- Were told there are 3 facilities in town – 1 large, 1 newly opened, and 1 other



Faith/Religion

- Beautiful churches
- Several denomination choices as well as a community church



- Observed Community Church, Baptist, Hall Chapel/Mortuary, Methodist, Wesleyan, Christian, Catholic.
- Catholic Charities van comes to Lincoln



Civic

- PRIDE Group – noticed “Yard of the Month” sign
- TOPS
- Community Foundation



- Arts Council, Legion, VFW Auxiliary



- 4-H
- Public Transportation



Public Infrastructure

- Streets common for a small town – tar and asphalt
- Streets were signed and there was ample parking



- Beautiful public buildings
- Nice city brochure
- Lincoln County Magazine – WOW!!



- They had a nice fire station – is EMS located there also??
- The sheriff department looked nice but small
- Public transportation service



- One team found the library the other did not
- It's a nice historic building



- Nice stone benches, great scout cabin, camping area, nice play ground equipment. Nice shade!



- Ball field, swimming pool and park all together. Pool small but adequate with lanes and a slide. No pool house. Park needed mowed.



- Another ball field on the west side of town – not well maintained
- Tennis courts



Recreation/Tourism

- Finch Theater
- Lincoln Art Center



- Post Rock Scout Museum
- Drug Store Museum



- Lincoln County Museum
- Marshall Yohe House



- Lincoln Recreation Commission
- Short Distance from Wilson Lake



- Memorials by the historic Courthouse



Restaurants, specialty shops or attractions which would bring you back?

- Would come back for a community event but not much else to make me drive to Lincoln
- Lincoln Arts Center, clothing store, frame store/Kansas Shop, Finch Theater – both live and film shows!



Most Positive Observations!

- Peaceful community, felt safe for families and children
- Charm of the stone buildings
- Nice downtown for a small town
- Business owners very friendly and have pride in their town



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Drawing people off of the highway
- Keeping the website current
- Cleaning up or repurposing abandoned/condemned buildings
- Lack of businesses and resident exodus



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

- It was a great town. We ate good food, played in the park and visited the museum and learned a lot about Lincoln
- Nice attractive Main drag downtown. Lincoln Arts Center, Finch Theater, Pharmacy Museum
- High School is awesome – school structure is important



Recommendations:

- Updates to the websites with additional pictures
- Sidewalks for walking and some sort of activity center
- Promoting the slogan and using to your advantage
- Clean up of some properties
- Signage to pull folks downtown

- 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/>