

First Impressions

Riley, Kansas

K-State Research and
Extension



Riley Demographics

- Population – 939
- Median Household Income - \$48,214
- High School Education – 95.5%, College Education – 27.9%
- Median resident age is 35.3 years
- Poverty rate is 16.1%

Source: factfinder.census.gov



Web Presence:

- <https://cityofriley.org>
- Very informative
- Easy access with various tabs
- Link to school
- Nice Facebook page
- Consistent use of city logo between Facebook page and website



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- A very “neat” small town
- PRIDE organization very evident
- Yards mowed, few cluttered houses



- Welcome signs coming into town were attractive
- Clean town
- Ditches mowed



- Dollar General, storage units, Baptist Church and convenience store as you enter town



Downtown Business Area

- Impressed by Main Street – recently resurfaced
- Main Street well marked
- Pocket park was delightful with grass, flags and bench



- Downtown had a bank, café, Gambino's, funeral home, saw mill insurance company, gift shop catering business, cake business, newspaper and salon with small health & fitness center



- Mulberry Feet was very welcoming and helpful
- Gambino's had good pizza and salad bar
- Staff at the library was very friendly
- Friendly staff at the museum



- Public restrooms could be found in the city office, library and eating establishments
- Wi-Fi available in the city building and library
- Benches on the street donated by PRIDE



- Landscaping very nice in front of city hall
- Loved the mural
- There were a few empty buildings



Other Retail Areas

- Dollar General
- Short Stop
- Car Wash
- Meat locker that does good business



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- Visitors only mentioned the saw mill
- Schurle Sign
- Tree and Landscaping



- Elevator was mentioned
- Automotive business
- Self storage



Health Care Services

- EMS out of Manhattan
- Other health services out of Manhattan
- 24 unit retirement home called Riley Centre
- Riley Animal Clinic



Housing

- Total Number of Housing Units – 421
- Occupied housing units – 394
- Vacant housing units – 27
- Owner occupied – 81.5%
- Renter occupied – 18.5%
- Median house value - \$117,800



Housing observations

- Wide mix of housing available
- Homes in the southeast part of town are older homes



- Homes in the NW part of town are newer homes
- Several homes for sale in that area



- Saw a few houses for rent
- One set of income based rental apartments (Is this Riley Centre Apartments?)



Schools

- K-8 is located in Riley
- Very attractive building
- Grounds well maintained
- District office next to grade school



- Lots of playground equipment
- Daycare affiliated with the school



- High School located north of town
- Again, very nice facilities



- Nice school website – www.usd378.org
- City website has a link to the school website
- Very helpful with lots of information
- Memory project is a neat idea



- Marker for the former school district



Faith/Religion

- Three different churches in the community



- Fairview Church is located out by the high school
- Churches are active and work together
- Community food basket each Saturday
- Men's coffee group and once a month evening meal provided by the Presbyterian Church



Civic

- Riley PRIDE
- Community Garden
- Sign for free vegetables



- Friends of the Library that help with fund raisers, programs and volunteering for special events
- Lions Club
- Boy Scouts



Public Infrastructure

- Residential area was well-maintained
- New sewer lines are being done a few streets at a time



- Good sidewalks in some areas
- As with any small town, a few junky places



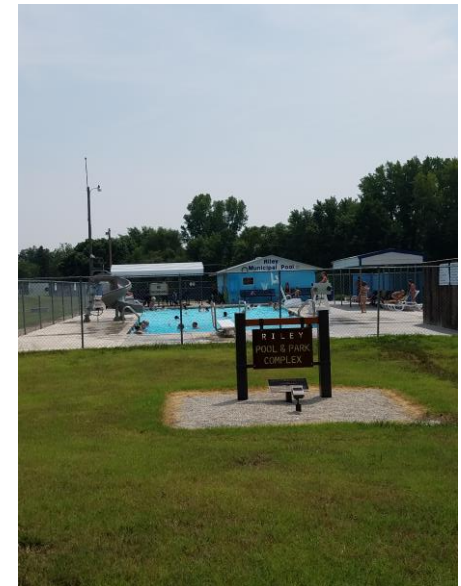
- Visited on Saturday so did not visit city hall
- Doris, the city clerk was very informative about the town
- Police protection is through the county
- Volunteer fire department



- Wonderful new library
- Computers available for public use
- Books exchanged with CKLS



- The park was in the same area as the swimming pool
- Nice picnic area



- Ball Field next to the park
- Nice batting cages
- Also tennis and basketball court

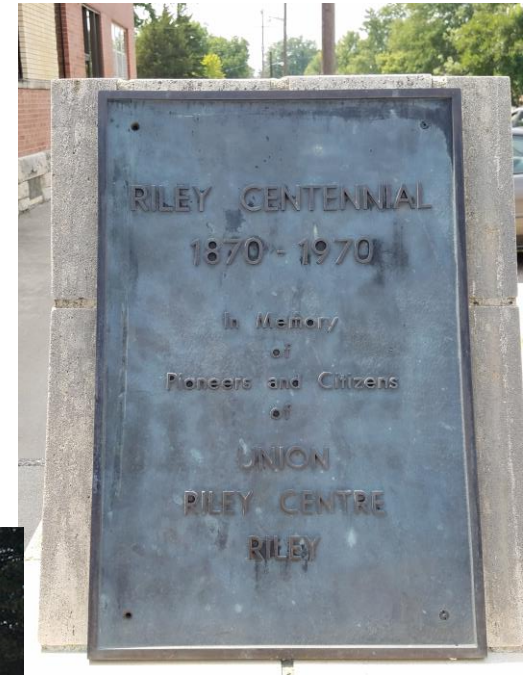


Recreation/Tourism

- Events listed on the website
- Close to Kansas State University
- Close to Manhattan
- Arts & Museum



- Milford Lake
- Fort Riley
- Visitors did not mention Tuttle Creek Lake
- Historical marker



What would bring you back to the community?

- Maybe the pizza place and the cafe



Most Positive Observations!

- Neatness
- Very nice friendly people
- Great daycare
- Good schools



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Everything comes out of Manhattan
- Need for EMS
- Lack of a grocery store
- Too close to Fort Riley – very loud noises!
- No natural gas
- No meals on wheels available
- People working outside of the community

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

- It is a very neat appearing town
- I would maybe like to live there if I worked in Manhattan or Fort Riley
- Nice people, informative city clerk
- Very “small town” feel
- Very positive



Recommendations:

- Signage to direct folks to downtown
- Published information on recreation programs – both youth and adults
- Community clean-up
- Promotion of attractions within the community and area

