

First Impressions

Marquette, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership with
The Dane G. Hansen Foundation



- 2010 Census Population 641
(UP 18.3% since 2000*) **KS: 6.1%**
- 2015 Estimate is 747 (UP 37.8% since 2000 **KS: 8.1%**)
- 14.7% college educated, 89.9% high school or GED
 - **KS 31% college education, 90% HS or equivalency**
- 61.1% family households, 38.9% non-family
- Poverty rate is 17.4% (**KS=13.6%**)
- Median Age 39.2 years (**36**)
- Median household income is \$46,071 (**\$52,205**)

* 2000 Census was 542

- **Web Presence:**

- <http://www.marquettekansas.com/land>
- <http://www.marquettekansas.com/>
- <http://www.freelandks.com/>
- <http://www.ksmotorcyclemuseum.org/>
 - Excellent info with lots of useful information.
 - The website doesn't do the town justice.
 - JR's is listed and is no longer in business
 - Saw "Free Land"

- **FaceBook**

<https://www.facebook.com/places/Things-to-do-in-Marquette-Kansas/107661409256681/>

The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Nice signs, crafted with care.
- Welcome signs need some attention.
- Plenty of Signs.



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Downtown was well-maintained and it was nice to see historical buildings kept up so well.
- Most homes were neat and most yards well-maintained.
- Dilapidated homes were some of the first we saw.



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Impressed with the overall look of the town- mostly well-maintained homes.
- The area with the new homes was very nice, but the streets need to be finished.



Downtown Business Area

- Very impressive with all the old buildings having photos in the windows and murals on the sides.
- Benches with shade on corners.
- Liked the brick sidewalks.



Kansas Motorcycle Museum



Downtown Business Area



Downtown Business Area



Downtown Business Area

- Piper's Fine Foods, Marquette Lumber & Hardware, City Sundries, City Hall, Ranch House Bar & Grill, Kansas Motorcycle Museum, Range School Museum and the Railroad Museum, Rusty Tin, Washington Street Emporium.
- Friendly staff, friendly residents. We never had to speak first



Downtown Business Area

- The woman in the grocery store is very proud of her town and went above and beyond to make sure we didn't miss anything.
- Volunteer (Denny) was very informed at the motorcycle museum, which is nice because you can see how much they care for their community.
- The owner of Artspace took time to share some of his collection.



Downtown

- The workout center is a nice touch. They turned an old junky basement of a museum into a fitness center. Healthy living is necessary and this is a move in the right direction.
- Customer service was top notch.



Other Retail Shopping Areas

- Many Kansas towns have a downtown and a row of businesses by the highway. Marquette's business is downtown.
- Visitors took the opportunity to comment again about how great your downtown is and on the well-stocked grocery store.



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- 2 Visitors saw the Industrial Park sign.
- Probably more important that it is on the website; we didn't see it there.
 - <http://www.marquettekansas.com/land>
 - <http://www.freelandks.com/>



(Both websites speak of Westridge home locations, neither speaks of Industrial Use.)

Health Care Services

- EMS, but no hospital.
- Lindsborg, Salina and McPherson are close.
Lindsborg hospital and Rural Health Clinic are listed on “Information” on city website
- No physician or other health care offices were observed.



Long-Term Care, Assisted Living

- Riverview Estates looked nice.



Housing

- Did not see many for sale signs or rentals. Locals reported that there are very few rentals in town, but they do have some.
- Seldom saw houses in desperate need of repairs.



Housing

City Website shows Housing on “Information” Tab

- Marquette Housing Authority: Scott Johnson
- Marquette Cottages: Scott Johnson 785-546-2292
- Riverview Villas: low to moderate income housing Contact person, Contact Terri at 785-546-2490 for more information
- Pioneer Mobile Home Park: Contact Bob Dauer 785-546-2135
- Westridge Addition: Marquette Development Company, Contact Housing Director, Kris Hudson-785-227-2462 or City Office--785-546-2205

Question: Does the City Clerk have a list of landlords and houses for sale?

Housing

- Saw Apartments available through Marquette Housing Authority and Marquette Cottages.
- Pioneer Mobile Park looked okay.



Housing

- A nice mix for variety of income wages.
- Many of the yards were well manicured —only a few are not being cared for.



Housing

- Westridge Addition had beautiful homes with more lots available.
- “I think this would be a great place for a family to start out if they wished to build.”



Housing data

KANSAS

- Total Housing Units 332
- Total Occupied Houses 296 (89.2%) (89.5%)
- Vacant Houses 36 (10.8%) (10.5%)
- Owner Occupied 224 (76%) (66.7%)
- Renter Occupied 72 (24%) (33.3%)

Observation:

30 homes were built 2000-2009 (9.0%)

45 homes were built in 1990's (13.6%)

Schools

- City's website (including the "Free Land" pages) still list Marquette Elementary School or talk of walking to school
- Visitors were aware that the site was closed and appreciated that it is being put to good use.
- The playground is well-maintained.



Childcare

- City website (“Information” tab) shows “Skye Farris 785-546-2596, 2432 5th Ave”

Leadership team told me about 2 child cares and 2 days of afterschool tutoring, but it wasn't apparent on the website or in my visit.

**“Information” tab has a wide range of information and the visitor didn't find this entry*

Faith/Religion

- Valley Community Church
- United Methodist Church
- Elim Lutheran Church
- Visitors did not see church activities. (This is usual)



Civic

- Visitors named a lot of civic groups.
- A list of 16 organizations is on the City Website.
- Visitors did not see evidence of civic activities (this is usual), but heard about Cookie Sales, Melodrama, Lions Club activities from residents.



Civic Group Activities

- *Plenty of people find out about the May Motorcycle event— but it isn't from the city website.*
- *Most of the City website photos are beautiful photos of your wonderful infrastructure. This photo on the “Civic Organizations” tab, depicts the small town life that people long for, but we don't know what the event is or when it occurs.*



- *More photos showing “life in Marquette” including the busy Main Street, would help us picture how cool this place is.*

Public Infrastructure, City Hall, Police Services

- Plenty of signed streets rather than unmarked intersections.
- There is a water drainage issue near the arena.
- We were greeted politely and professionally at City Hall.
- There is a part-time police officer and backup from McPherson.



Fire and EMS

- One visitor was concerned about whether the fire department was adequately equipped.
- There is an EMS service.



Library

- Lovely library downtown in a historic bank building.
- The school library is open for children one evening each week.



City Parks

- Landscaping for the public parks is very nice.
- Nice to see a pool.



City Parks

- Tennis courts looked a little run down.
- There was a nice walking trail and sports facility for track and soccer.
- Small skate park
- Fair Grounds
- Ball park



Recreation/Tourism

- Known for the Kansas Motorcycle Museum
- “Beautiful Downtown Marquette”

Marquette Visitors were not aware of Kanopolis Lake; it is probably more important that Kanopolis campers are aware of Marquette.



Other?

- Kansas Motorcycle Museum
- Range School Museum
- Falun Railroad Museum
- Walking trail and pond with the fountains
- Prairie Trail Scenic Byway.



What would bring you back?

- City Sundries
- Rusty Tin
- Emporium
- Motorcycle Museum



Most Positive Observations!!

- Downtown- evident pride in the buildings, murals and photos downtown.
- Fred Peterson. (*Visitors didn't know his name, but you do— and you speak of him with appreciation.*)
- Clean and painted buildings downtown and living spaces for the elderly.
- Calm atmosphere- downtown is busy but not crazy.
- Hospitality and friendly people. Downtown is beautiful and in great condition, not many vacant stores.

Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- No school.
- Community support of local businesses.
- Two visitors critiqued the inner working of city employees. It should be noted that your visiting team included City employees.
- I didn't see a gas station, only pump I saw was at MKC; I assumed you had to be a member or have a card.



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

- Downtown
- Community pride
- Motorcycle and other museums
- Friendly people (Including a bank robbery story!)
- Didn't see much negative.

Thank you to our leadership team:

Fred Peterson

Janis Larson

Kerry & Mary Kay Lindh

Denny & Gayla Swisher

Lindsey Friesen

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