

First Impressions

Olsburg, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership
with

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation



- 2010 Census Population 219
(UP 14.1% since 2000*) **KS- 6.1%**
- 2016 Estimate is 238 (UP 8.7% since 2000 **KS- 8.1%**)
- 13% college educated, 95% high school or GED
 - **KS 31% college education, 90% HS or equivalency**
- 75.8% family households, 24.2% non-family
- Poverty rate is 9.0% (**KS=13.6%**)
- Median Age 33.4 years (**36**)
- Median household income is \$48,750 (**\$52,205**)

* 2000 Census was 192

- **Web Presence:**

- www.olsburgks.com

- “Impressed with the information and pictures.”
 - *As of 2-9-17, “being reconstructed. ” On 2-11-17, seemed intact again.*
 - *Impressive: “41 businesses in Olsburg!” and it is communicated on the website.*

- **FaceBook**

- <https://www.facebook.com/places/Things-to-do-in-Olsburg-Kansas/105586892808265/>

- *Nice posts recently, including one about the visitors to Olsburg and the community meeting– with desserts!*
 - *Found out about the Shannon Creek Barn and the Nelson Farm from “People also liked” and “Liked by this site.*

The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Clean and well-maintained.
The sign at the highway
was eye-catching.



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Good radio reception; minimal cell service (AT&T). Most homes have propane. Some cleanup needs to be done. A number of satellite systems. Well-maintained. Great location—close to Manhattan and KSU.



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Family town. Lots of playground equipment.



Downtown Business Area

- Buildings were well-maintained and had signage.
- Friendly greetings and good service at the businesses.





Note: Some photos were taken in August, others in October, 2016



Downtown Business Area

- There are benches downtown, some could use fixing up.
- Good parking, clean streets and appealing store fronts.



Other Retail Shopping Areas

- Grab-N-Go and gas station was well-kept





Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- Visitors weren't sure about designated Industrial areas.
- Appears to be room for expansion of both residential and commercial areas.



Health Care Services

- Excellent health care services are provided within 30 minutes. (Manhattan)
- Visitors did not observe housing for seniors or assisted living.

Your leadership team told me that most necessary services are available locally, which bodes well for seniors.

Housing

- Visitors didn't observe many houses for sale.
- Some houses were not desirable.
- A nice mix of housing that would appeal to all incomes.
- Did not see any defined rental properties.









Areas for Clean up



Housing data

KANSAS

- Total Housing Units 111
- Total Occupied Houses 91 (82%) (89.5%)
- Vacant Houses 20 (18%) (10.5%)
- Owner Occupied 82 (90%) (66.7%)
- Renter Occupied 9 (10%) (33.3%)

Housing data

Year Structures Built

- 1939 and older: 40.7%
- 1940-1979: 28.6%
- 1980-2013: 30.8%

Schools

- McCormick Elementary is the K-4 attendance Center for Blue Valley School District.
- School is attractive and appears in good repair.



Childcare

- Childcare is available (Emily's DayCare). Visitors were unable to discern affordability or quality.

On website, Link 'n Log Day Care

Faith/Religion

- Methodist and Lutheran churches inside the City limits. Very nice looking structures with well-kept yards.



Civic

- Evident through information at City offices.*
- 4-H, Extension Unit, Quilters, Legion Post 284.
- PRIDE & Senior Center



Public Infrastructure

- Well-maintained public areas and sidewalks, with restrooms in the park area.
- Streets showed evidence of snow graded, but not salt or sand application.



City Hall,

- Jackie at City Hall was wonderful! Took us to lunch and introduced us to the mayor, City treasurer and Fire Chief. She is a great asset to the City.
- Lots of information at City Hall. Friendly reception.



(City Hall Photo from website)
Retrieved February 2017



Fire, EMS and Police Services

- Heard from the Fire Chief that they are getting ready to move to a bigger building.
- The Sunday visitor saw evidence of the fire volunteers gathered near the station.



Library

- Thanks to Jackie, everyone knew where the library was and that it was well-used by the community on the day.
- Is open once a week and has a great summer reading program.



City Parks

- The park area was fabulous! Very well maintained with lots of nice options, swimming pool, good equipment and benches.



City Parks

- Lots of options.
- Loved the train!



Recreation/Tourism

- Visitors were aware that there are lots of great events through the year (web presence & Jackie). Those aren't evident to a visitor "out of season."
- Swedish heritage is evident in the Dala horse logo.
- Visitors were not aware of Greenwood Park Camp Grounds before they came, but felt it would draw visitors.



Other?

- Nice community restaurant and gift shop for visitors in town.



Most Positive Observations!

- Friendly people!
- A “Big” small town: good proximity to larger services, swimming pool and parks.
- Lots of community pride— events, safe, close to a major university.



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Some housing is inadequate for residents.
- Concern about internet/TV providers in the area, satellite systems on houses.

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

- “Olsburg— a Community with Pride.”
- The City Clerk taking time for us on a weekend.
- Lovely park and play areas.
- A very nice community.



Next Steps:

Thank our leadership team:

- *Jeannie Johnson*
- *Charlotte Braddock*
- *Cindy and Gary Jeffrey*
- *Jeannine Lamb*
- **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