

# First Impressions

## Team Report Form



Community Visited: Wilmore

Date Visited: **April 26, 2024 (4)**

1. **Pre-visit web search:** How easy was it to get information on the community you were visiting? Did it accurately reflect what you saw? Did you have difficulties obtaining information on the community through a web search?

- I found information on Wikipedia, a great article on onlyinyourstate.com, I found a private Facebook group, and an article by Wichita Presbyterian Manor.
- Very limited. Not locally produced.
- Not much information online about the town.

2. **The “Five-Minute” Impression:** After taking a five-minute drive through the community without stopping, the following reactions were noted.

- Wilmore was a nice little Kansas town, houses were maintained and well kept.
- I loved the barn quilt road signs. The barn quilts were all over town giving a very cohesive look to the town!
- No or very few businesses. Very well kept yards makes me believe in a high level of community pride.
- Nice, quiet, clean and welcoming.

The following observations were noted when entering the community from major entrances (signs, streetscapes, buildings, etc.)

- I didn't notice any signage other than the green highway signs.
- Barn quilts on all poles.
- Welcome signs, quilt pattern signs.

3. **Downtown Business Area** Describe the buildings, signs, infrastructure, etc.

- Businesses are not well marked when entering from the northwest.

- Observed a library, post office, volunteer fire department, church, and community center.

Explain what type of businesses you observed and give a description of the variety and quality of merchandise displayed.

- There was a post office, church, propane company, library.
- A co-op was observed but there was a questions as to whether it was open. Library, community building, post office, carousel – doors were open, very inviting to stop and ride. Also noticed the Comanche Pit Stop – no open sign was seen, but several vehicles were in the front.
- There was a co-op.

Describe the customer service received when you entered those retail businesses. (Were you greeted? Did you have to ask for assistance?)

- The carousel did not charge but was great customer service! Operator visited with us and told us about how the carousel came to be in Wilmore.
- The carousel – greeted with friendly service. Free carousel rides.

What public amenities (drinking fountains, benches, public restrooms, trash receptacles and wi-fi, etc.) were available?

- None noted.
- Centennial Park – basketball court, baseball field, picnic area.

Comment on landscaping and streetscaping. Did you have difficulty finding parking? Could you access multiple services from where you parked?

- Very nicely mowed. The public park was clean, mowed and well maintained.
- Parking was mostly street side.
- Most spaces in town were well maintained and taken care of.

#### 4. Other Retail Shopping Areas

Describe other retail shopping areas. Were the areas attractive and easy to access?

- Noted that there might be wifi available. Haviland Telephone company was named on a small building, but unsure if they provide only phone service or internet in town.
- Nothing noticed.

## 5. Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

Is there a defined area where manufacturing industries could easily locate/expand? If so, describe.

- None noted.
- None.

## 6. Health Care Services

Comment on the availability and apparent quality of hospitals and emergency medical services.

- Volunteer fire department building – maybe could provide some emergency assistance.
- Nothing observed.

Comment on the availability and condition of facilities for physicians, dentists, optometrists, public health and other healthcare providers.

- None observed.
- Nothing observed.

What long-term care services, assisted living or nursing facilities exist in the community?

- None observed.
- None.

## 7. Housing

Give a brief description of the existing mix of housing stock. Does the local market have housing that would appeal to all income wages? What challenges do you see in regards to finding acceptable housing? (Neighborhoods, size, properties for sale, etc.)

- The houses were kept up like in other small towns. There was one house that had a for sale/pending sign out front.
- One house for sale. An online search showed it was under contract and was \$50,000.
- Single family housing, no multi-family housing noticed.
- Housing stock is lower with mixed levels of maintenance.
- Limited – one house for sale.
- The town is in the middle of farmland with limited access to housing.

What kind of rental properties did you observe for persons interested in building or simply living in the community prior to buying housing?

- None observed.
- None.

## 8. Schools

What schools are present? (Head Start, Preschool, K-8, High School, Post-Secondary, etc.)  
Do the schools appear to be adequate in size? Are the buildings and grounds well-maintained?

- The former school building has been removed. It appears the bus barn is still in use by a private individual.
- No school.

Were you able to find online information in the community that helped assess the quality of the educational system?

- Nothing seen.
- No information found.

## 9. Childcare

What childcare service are available? Is it affordable?

- No childcare observed in town.
- None.

## 10. Faith/Religion

Comment on the number of denominations and the physical appearances of the places of worship represented in the community. Did you observe any evidence of faith-based community services?

- The church was beautiful!
- One church – Wilmore Federated Church. There was a person doing some upkeep around the building during the visit.
- One church was seen.

## 11. Civic

Tell about the variety of nonprofit organizations and clubs within the community.

- Nothing observed.
- Nothing observed – volunteer fire department and library is about all.

Did you observe any evidence of civic organization activity?

- Nothing observed.
- Just the fire department.

## 12. Public Infrastructure

Comment in general on the streets, street signage, sidewalks, parking, lighting, restrooms, landscaping, and streetscapes in areas **other than downtown**.

- Sidewalks were limited.
- No lighting noticed.
- No public restrooms were available.
- Nothing of note.

Comment on city/town hall (How were you received? Was there information about the town available?)

- None seen.
- Did not see one.

Police/fire protection:

- Very well maintained building that seems large for the number of people in town.
- The volunteer fire department was labeled as such.

Library:

- There was a small library. It wasn't open when we visited.
- Good blue "library" sign pointing the way to the building. It appeared to not be open.
- Noted signage for the library.

City parks (walking tracks, ballparks, playgrounds, sports complex)

- There was a park and baseball field that looked like a fun place to play.
- Very nice city park. Structure covering the tables.
- Activities for all ages.
- The ball field appears to be available for softball or kickball.
- Centennial Park, ball park – basketball and baseball

### 13. Recreation/Tourism

Is the community well-known for any particular attraction or event? Do they have a community slogan that capitalizes on that asset?

- The carousel! This was a fantastic addition to the town! The owner was wonderful, all we had to do was knock on the door and let us all have a ride.
- The carousel owner gave us stickers that said "I visited the Wilmore Carousel!"
- The carousel.

Did you see any indication of significant events taking place in the community that would be of interest to both visitors and residents?

- No.
- None.

Elaborate on any significant natural or manmade features that have the potential of drawing people to the community. (Public art, museums, lakes, campgrounds, regional heritage locations).

- Nothing noted other than the carousel.
- The quilt patterned signage.

Is there an obvious visitor's center, chamber of commerce office, main street office, or other facility that serves the needs of visitors? Comment on the staff, facilities, signage, visibility, etc.

- No.
- None.

Are there any restaurants, specialty shops or attractions that would bring you back to this community in the near future?

- None seen.
- The Carousel.

#### 14. Wrap-up

What are the most positive things you observed about the community?

- The people and the carousel! This was a nice little Kansas town that is doing the best so that it can to stay alive!
- The community is very tidy with well maintained yards.
- It appeared that a building had been removed. This open area was covered well with soil and packed level.
- Clean, quiet. Friendliness of the people at the carousel.

What are the biggest obstacles/challenges facing this community?

- Residents must travel outside of town for everything. This prevents residents from aging in place without significant support from friends and family.
- Location because of being secluded.

What will you remember most about this community six months from now (positive or negative)?

- I will remember the carousel. I would like to go back with my family for them to see and experience it.
- Watching my son ride the carousel with other visitors. He was in love with the horses, sleigh, and tub. He could make the tub spin while the carousel went around with the music.
- Quiet. Friendly, the carousel.

How much money did you spend while you were in the city you visited? \$0; \$0

*(Please include total purchases: Gas, soft drinks, food, purchases. No detail necessary.)*





First Impressions was developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension and adapted for use by K-State Research and Extension. Restructuring was made possible through a partnership with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. For more information, visit: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/civic-engagement/first-impressions/index.html>

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Revised 7-18-2023