

First Impressions

Atwood, Kansas

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



Atwood Demographics

- Population – 1,225
- Median Household Income - \$37,051
- High School Education –92.3%, College Education – 28.0%
- Males – 43.6%, Females – 56.4%
- Median resident age is 46.9 years
- Poverty rate is 14.3%



Web Presence:

- www.visitrawlinsco.com
- Very resourceful
- Might consider adding city names behind phone numbers of places to eat and churches
- Impressive school link
- Government links are not all updated as well as the calendar



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Clean, well-kept, friendly community with lots of outdoor opportunities
- Good entrance signs – especially the curved metal sign over 4th Street
- Signs indicating where to turn for business area, school, etc. are great



- Business district seems to be thriving
- Homes appear to be in good repair and improvements being made



Downtown Business Area

- Seemed to be a wide variety of businesses for a small town
- True Value, TLC General, Grocery Store, 2 Restaurants, Newspaper, Pharmacy, etc.
- Very few vacant stores



- Good customer service
- Parking was good
- Easy access to many services in a few blocks



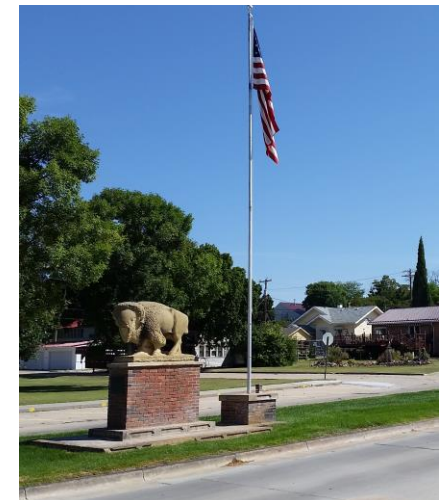
- Downtown gazebo and park is awesome
- Well taken care of hanging baskets
- Good lighting
- Nice Informational sign



- Stately Brick Courthouse
- Wonderful Murals
- Picturesque Street Islands
- Unique Metal work



- Drinking Fountain on Main Street
- Benches along the street
- Appealing landscaping and streetscaping



Other Retail Shopping Areas

- Along Hwy 36
- Variety of business



- Clean restrooms found at the convenience store
- Concern expressed about condition of the area around the Army tank



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- Located along East 36 and North 25
- Plenty of room for expansion
- Areas of land use seemed well laid out



- Implement Dealership Clean and Uncluttered
- Ag Businesses nicely maintained
- Fortunate to have recycling



- Sure Fire Ag Systems is a great boost to the economy



Health Care Services

- Rawlins County Health Center right off HWY 36
- Good Samaritan Center next to Health Center & Lake!!!



- Observed offices for dentist, hearing and optometrist
- Easy access to public health
- DSNWK Services



- EMS located with Fire Department on HWY 25
- Public Transportation Service
- Attractive Senior Center



Housing

- Total Number of Housing Units – 626
- Median house value in 2013 - \$64,345
- Home owned – 76.2%
- Homes rented – 23.8%



Housing observations

- Good mix of houses for all income levels
- Very few houses for sale
- Pride in home ownership



- Only a few multi-family units noticed
- Retirement Community
- New Construction



Schools

- School Buildings appear to be in good condition
- Greenhouse and school garden at the high school
- Good promotion of physical activity for youth



- Concerned about grade school being located so close to the street
- Metal sculptures unique way to hide air conditioning units



- School Concern
- What's going to happen to this facility?
- Has a home been located for the gymnastics classes?



Childcare

- Noticed multiple daycares

Faith/Religion

- Church directory in newspaper lists 6 different churches
- Those observed appeared well kept and vital
- Well rounded with plenty of choices





Civic

- There is not a listing of civic organizations on the website or at the city office
- Were verbally told some of the organizations
- Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Rebeccah's, American Legion, K of C, Rotary, Boy/Girl Scouts, 4-H





Public Infrastructure

- Great signage
- Streets in good repair
- Lots of sidewalks
- Good street lighting



- Few areas of clean up needed
- Mowing along west side of HWY 25 needed for visibility of signage
- Unique water storage



- City Office nicely signed
- Library was easy to find
- Police Office close to City Office



- Kelley Park is a very nice complex with playground equipment and pool close by
- Wonderful metal art in the park
- Unique bike rack



Recreation/Tourism

- Lake Atwood – City by the Lake
- Lake Park
- Walking Trail is fantastic!!



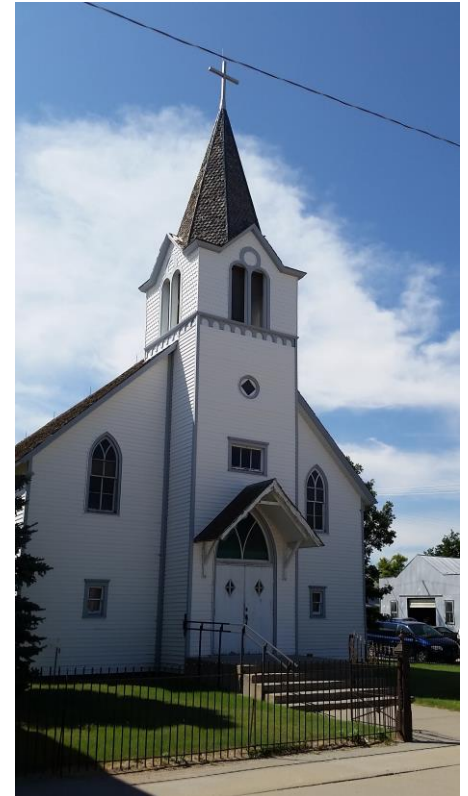
- Cabins for rent
- RV Parks
- Gazebo
- Great picnic area



- Golf Course and Country Club
- Disc Golf
- Ball Fields



- Museums
- Driving tours of historic sites and landmarks



- Teen Youth Center
- Bed and Breakfast
- Fitness Center



Restaurants, Specialty Shops or Attractions that would bring you back

- Mojo's
- The Teen Center
- Lake Atwood



Most Positive Observations!!

- Good curb appeal in both business and residential districts
- Good variety of businesses
- Lake Atwood
- We were ready to move there after only a few hours.
- They have a nice comfortable town with lots of visual pride



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Lack of housing for new residents
- Childcare???
- Few clean-up areas



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

- The welcome sign across the road, the beautiful lake, nice people and clean town
- The teen center
- Generally good appearance of businesses and homes



Kansas PRIDE is helping communities create the type of place they want to call “Home”



- 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/>