

First Impressions

Bird City, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership
with

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation



Bird City Demographics

- Population – 447
- Median Household Income - \$35,882
- High School Education –81.8 %, College Education – 13.3%
- Median resident age is 44.7 years
- Poverty rate is 19.4%

Source: <http://factfinder2.census.gov>



Web Presence:

- www.birdcity.com
- Website is very user friendly
- Community activities on calendar??
- Organizations list



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Nice small community
- Very strong faith base
- Variety of welcome signs



- Initial reaction was not positive due to the large pile of cement rubble as well as the older grain bins in disrepair
- Some of the structures on the south side of the highway also need attention



Downtown Business Area

- East/West business area vibrant
- North/South business area represented older, abandoned buildings



- They observed: Fire/EMS Building, Second Hand Store, Historical Museum, Senior Center, Post Office, Grocery Store, Community Foundation, Hot Brush Lettering, American Legion/Community Building
- Very nice Veterans Memorial



- Grocery Store was very clean, organized and well-stocked
- Second hand store well organized
- Met by friendly staff in both places



- Nice plantings along the street
- Good use of flower pots
- Back side of some buildings could use some clean up



- Good use of community bulletin boards
- Center of street announcement board



Other Retail Shopping Areas

- Along Hwy 36 – Our Daily Bread Restaurant
- Gas Station



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- Ag based economy with Frontier Ag located on HWY 36



- Farm headquarters located in town
- Hot Brush Sign
- Ag Repair Services



- Bird City Dairy a boost for the economy of the area



Health Care Services

- Medical clinic with limited hours
- Cheylin Wellness Center
- Bird City Senior Center



Housing

- Total Number of Housing Units – 257
- Median house value in 2014 - \$63,840
- Occupied – 215
- Vacant - 42
- Home owned – 70.3%
- Homes rented – 29.7%
- Approximately 50% of houses were built before 1939



Housing observations

- Nice mix of housing available
- Several houses for sale
- Renting very limited
- Many small homes



- Well maintained housing authority
- See housing improvement occurring



- A number of houses or structures needing clean up, improvements, or demolition



- Many nice homes with attractive yards



Schools

- Schools located at the south end of town
- Well maintained facility with pre-school thru high school
- Consolidated with McDonald



- Athletic fields across the street from the school
- Nice playground behind the school
- Greenhouse associated with vocational ag facilities



Childcare

- Ground has been broken for a new facility!
- Great location next to the school



Faith/Religion

- Faith base is important to the community
- Signage along HWY 36 and downtown



- Well maintained facilities
- Presence on community website







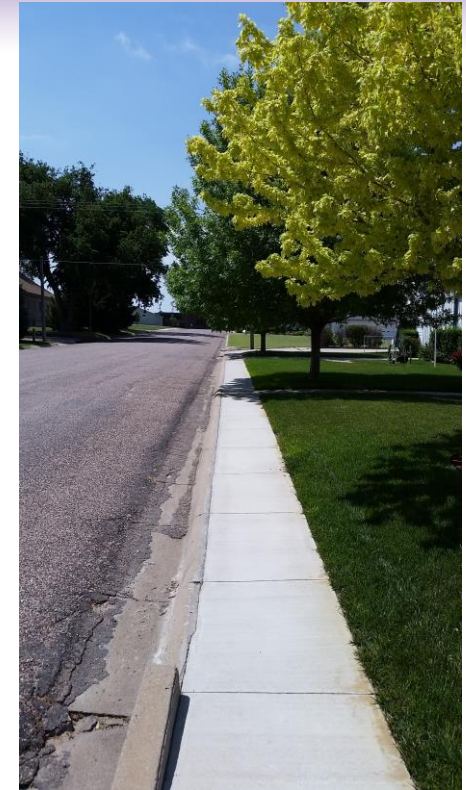
Civic

- Visiting community did not find
- A list was found on the Love Small Town America website for Bird City
- American Legion
- Philanthropy is evident



Public Infrastructure

- Streets clearly marked
- Wide streets, some paved others graveled



- Recycling supported



- City Hall easy to locate and received by friendly staff
- Library across from the city office with limited hours
- Nice emergency building



- Sidewalks great in some places, needed in others to make it a walkable community



- Clean-up of some lots could improve the appearance of the community



- Very impressive park once located!
- Signage on highway gave address but felt way finder signs would be helpful



- Clean restrooms, sand volleyball pit, nice playground equipment, outdoor grill for use



- Fantastic walking trail
- Great community support



- A very nice and restful place to sit and relax
- Beautifully landscaped

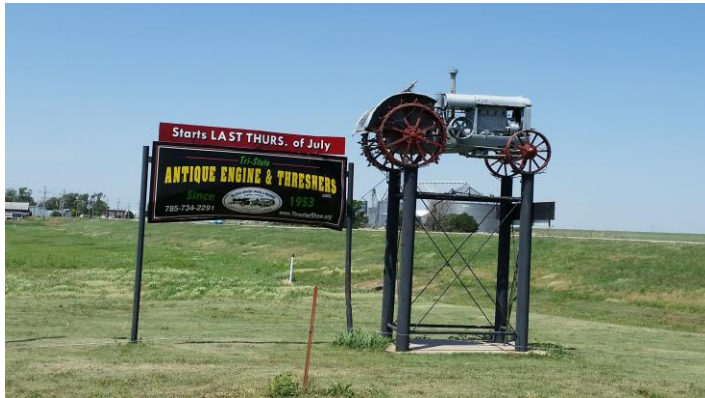


- Nice swimming pool
- Basketball courts located next to pool



Recreation/Tourism

- Yearly Antique Engine & Thresher Show
- Nice grounds for the event





- Questions on these two items – Could this field be turned into a ball park? What is the story on this trail? Are they items the community could capitalize on?



Restaurants, Specialty Shops or Attractions that would bring you back

- The Antique Engine and Thresher Show
- Big Ed's wasn't mentioned??? Promotion???



Most Positive Observations!!

- Obviously working to make improvements to better the community
- Park was very nice
- They take pride in their community



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Clean-up of HWY 36 on the north side of town



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

- The attractive park



Recommendations:

- Clean-up project on HWY 36
- Removal of dead trees around town
- Additional sidewalks to make the community more walkable
- Addition of some way finder signs
- Freshen up signs on HWY 36



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/>