

First Impressions

Team Report Form



Community Visited: Scott City, KS

Date Visited: 7/10/2025 (3)

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?
 - Used Google: Scott City, KS. 1st choice was Scott City, KS/Home with link to www.scottcityks.org. Nice, colorful pages. City Map, Permits, Payment Options, City Council information.
 - Also available is tourism: Very nice, easy navigation, lots of information. A city map can be downloaded and printed on a full page with streets & points of interest.
2. **The “Five-Minute” Impression:** After taking a five-minute drive through the community without stopping, the following reactions were noted.
 - 2 main roads enter the city. Highway 96 east to west, fairly clean with a mix of commercial, industrial, including some residential. Good curb appeal, very nice military monument park.
 - Highway 83 North to South, Low-profile signage. Retail frontage, High school, churches, and hospital access. Nice family-friendly park with large playground attraction, restrooms, and benches available. Also, a billboard sign with a map and local attractions, and scheduled community events at the west end of the park, facing the sidewalk.

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

- Low-profile signage, good curb appeal, and buildings were well-maintained.

3. **Downtown Business Area:** Describe the buildings, signs, infrastructure, etc.
 - Buildings were well-maintained.
 - Signage was mounted flat on the face of buildings or awnings over the entrances.

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

- Business was a mix of restaurants, furniture, hardware, a law office, a gift shop, and a thrift store. Name brands with a good variety and mix.

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

- Customer service was top-notch in each location we entered to eat, shop, or tour.

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

- Public use restrooms were available in each retail location we entered. We did not witness any drinking fountains.
- We did see multiple benches and trash receptacles available. We were not able to connect to any public wi-fi as a guest.

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

- The city does have small trees planted along the sidewalks, not much for landscaping otherwise.
- Parking was easy, and one could park at one end of the shopping district and walk to any storefront or place to eat.

4. Other Retail Shopping Areas

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

- On south Highway 83, there was an access road for businesses that are on the east side (grocery, hardware, eye care, and restaurants).
- Businesses on the west side have easy access to parking areas. All areas were kept clean.

5. Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

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

- The northeast area of the city has an industrial area that could expand to the north and East of the oil storage tanks, which are adjacent to the airport.
- On the northwest side of the city, there are commercial sites, and expansion could continue to the west.

6. Health Care Services

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

- Hospital & long-term care are available, a very nice facility, possibly a recent update.
- Clinics, medical transport are available. Included is a Scott County VIP Senior Bus.
- Ambulance / EMS has critical care transfer capabilities with advanced Lift Support.

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

- Dentistry, chiropractic care, optometry, eye care, behavioral health, wellness center, assisted living, child development, and sleep disorders. All decent appearances.

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

- Scott County Hospital, Park Lane Nursing Home, Never Alone Living Assistance.

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.)

- Strong mix of high-end housing, small to medium houses, and mobile home parks. We only witnessed 6 houses with for sale signs, and one had a “sold” sticker.
- No “for rent” signs at any of the multi-family or single-family buildings were seen. There are 2 houses under construction. Housing shortage is a problem.

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

- Mobile home parks and multi-family units with some small single-family units.

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?

- High school, middle school, and elementary schools, Golden Rule Preschool,
- Nice looking facilities. Size appears adequate for the community.
- No post-secondary.

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

- Yes, USD 466 boasts on the school website: 960 enrolled, 150 faculty members, a five-year graduation rate of 91.5%, with a 58.3% post-secondary rate.

9. Childcare

What childcare services are available? Is it affordable?

- No childcare noticed other than Russell Child Development.

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?

- There are 17 Churches available, all of which have well-maintained buildings and grounds.
- Community services are advertised at the park where the annual Whimmydiddle is held.

11. Civic

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

- Scott County Development, Shrine Club, Scott Community Development, 4-H, Anthem Lodge Fraternal Org, Masonic Lodge, Scott County Arts, Scott County Historical Society.

Did you observe any evidence of civic organization activity?

- Signage at the park with placards of local groups.

12. Public Infrastructure

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

- Most streets, signage, and sidewalks were well-maintained.
- The only complaint is that there are a few dips at intersections where one could lose a car bumper.

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

- Very accommodating at City Hall.
- There was no readily available information about the community; however, the receptionist did give great directions to the Chamber of Commerce for all city and county inquiries.

Police/fire protection:

- The Scott County Fire Department has 21 volunteers for county-wide, rural fire protection.
- The Scott City police and sheriff's department operate a consolidated police agency. Seven full-time police officers and three full-time sheriff's deputies provide 24 hour protection.

Library:

- Scott County Library is a fun place with activities, including reading camp for up to 12 years of age and a teen reading camp for all ages above 12.

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

- The city has taken the old unused train track through town and made a concrete walking track.
- Multiple playgrounds were observed, and a huge sports complex with a swimming pool (privacy fence around the pool), volleyball, tennis, soccer, golf, walking path, 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?

- Whimydiddle Arts and Crafts Fair.

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

- Whimydiddle Arts and Crafts Fair.
- The community has scheduled events until December 2025.
- From: Beefiesta BBQ feed, golf tournament, car show, airshow, Free Fair, fishing tournament, corn hole tournament, barrel races. It is a long list of attractions.

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).

- Scott City Monument Rocks are and have been a tourist attraction for years.
- Scott Lake is a popular attraction. There are cabins available to rent on appointment. A lot of times, they are booked fully for the season.
- El Quartejejo Museum is a well-put-together attraction with real local fossils on display. Several other attractions are listed on brochures available around the city and at the Chamber of Commerce.

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.

- Located on South Main Street, very visible. Staff are very accommodating and have all the information about the community and the county that a visitor would need.

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

- We enjoyed the food at the Act II Majestic and Mom & Pops Burger.
- We toured El Quartejejo Museum, the Scott City Lake, and Monument Rocks are a day's worth.
- There are so many things to do that can't be done in one weekend, so we are planning to return soon.

14. Wrap-up

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

- Clean community.
- Friendly people - everyone was ready and able to assist and answer questions about the building we were in or anything in the area.

What are the biggest obstacles/challenges facing this community?

- Housing is an issue. There's not a lot there for people to move into, either to buy or rent.

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

- Whimydiddle from past experience, and Scott Lake, Monument Rocks.

How much money did you spend while you were in the city you visited? \$362

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



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