Wildcat Creek Walk of Excellence
Located in Kokomo, Indiana

Taking several years to complete, the dedication of the Walk of Excellence was held on October 27, 2008 and completed a 3.4 mile paved urban trail from East to West and connecting several parks as well as Kokomo’s Historical Downtown. Phase I of the Walk is between Miller-Highland Park and Fire Station #1. Phase 2 is between Fire Station #1 and Waterworks Park. Phase 3 is between Miller-Highland Park and just north of the intersection of Markland Ave. & Park Ave. There is also a loop not shown on the map above that crosses the Wildcat Creek in Foster Park and circles Kokomo Beach.

The Wildcat Creek Walk of Excellence is ideal for walking, hiking, running, bicycling or even roller blading. Overall it is comfortably wide, smoother and maintains an almost unnoticeable grade. There is also a good mixture of open areas and tree canopied areas.

The trail located in several parks, runs alongside and in places crossing over, the Wildcat Creek. The landscape surrounding the trail not only looks beautiful, but has the unmistakable fresh smell of the Indiana countryside. No matter how many times you visit the trail, there is always something new for you to find from day to day and season to season.
Features include the Wildcat Creek, Miller-Highland Park, a walk bridge and trail spur to Kokomo Beach Family Aquatic Center, World War II military tank in Foster Park, Kokomo Senior Citizens Center, Historical Downtown Kokomo, Future Park, Pioneer Cemetery, Crown Point Cemetery and Waterworks Park.

The trail in Foster Park hugs the scenic Wildcat Creek. As you explore the woodlands and wetlands along Wildcat Creek in Foster Park you can see a variety of plant and animal life. Visitors to Wildcat Creek can expect to observe a variety of wildlife. Great blue herons, green herons, wood ducks, mallards, barred and great horned owls, redheaded woodpeckers, Baltimore orioles, red-tailed hawks, kestrels and turkey vultures can be seen in the area.

Mammals found along Wildcat Creek include fox, badger, beaver, mink, deer, woodchuck, muskrat, raccoon and numerous smaller species. Several varieties of bass, catfish, panfish and other game and “rough” fish are found in the Wildcat waters.

Another point of interest is the Chief Kokomo Monument, which is the source of the community’s name. The burial place of Chief Kokomo is located in Pioneer Cemetery on the 400 block of Purdum Street. The cenotaph was built by the Grand Army Republican in 1911.

Well cared for, the Wildcat Creek Walk of Excellence is one of the nicest looking trails in central Indiana. The amazing sights, sounds and scents the trail provides makes it much more than just a great place to visit, it’s an experience.
Walk of Excellence Signage was installed in the Fall of 2009 through a generous donation from the Community Foundation of Howard County, the Kokomo Downtown Association and the Howard County Historical Society.

This Trail Map Key is displayed in the Kiosk located behind Fire Station #1.
History

Beaver Construction, Stamford, N. glance his brick building over Wilcox Creek on July 7, 1850. During his lifetime, Mayor George Goodin, a director of several citizens, including John Munson, Kolomo Parks and Recreation services, and Larry Hofs, director of the Kolomo/Essex County government, Community Coordinating Council, provided substantial financial support. The dedication of this significant structure is the Walk of Excellence.

According to local historians, Thomas Fashawn, an early Kolomo citizen, donated land for the north site of the new Walk of Excellence. People are in the area and the site is now called the Walk of Excellence. The site was designated a historic site in 1979.

The city opened another cemetery, Crown Point Cemetery in 1830, and several residents to move their loved ones here, because Wilcox Creek, which was once located nearby, was swamped and overgrown on the west side of the cemetery in seasons of high water. The remains of Chief Kolomo, the city's namesake, were buried near a monument in the north west corner of the cemetery.

Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. sold the land directly east of the site to Kolomo before Schools in 1912, and the site became Kolomo West Schools, a non-profit organization in 1996, producing six buildings and two community rooms.

The site has a new, more prominent street with the Walk of Excellence to the north and the new Walk of Excellence to the south. A monument dedicated the Walk of Excellence to the City of Kolomo in 2005.