

**This Health Walk was created for you by:
The Kansas City Quality Improvement Consortium—KCQIC...**

Our initials have inspired our healthy lifestyles motto “KC Kick it Up a Notch!” Its invitation to active wellness defines the Health Walk Project.

The project is only one part of the multi-year Healthy Lifestyles initiative to promote and support fine health through healthy choices, including: moderate exercise, proper nutrition and freedom from tobacco use.

When you participate in the Health Walk program, you encourage:

**BETTER HEALTH for
YOURSELF, YOUR LOVED ONES and YOUR COMMUNITY.
CONGRATULATIONS!**

The KCQIC Health Walk Project is funded by:

The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
as part of its Healthy Lifestyles initiative



Use this and other Health Walks to support your active lifestyle and maximize your personal physical fitness. “Kick it Up a Notch!” We can all practice better health and health care, together.

For more Health Walks in the Greater Kansas City, bi-state area, go to www.kcqic.org



This KC Kick it Up a Notch Health Walk Offers:

No facilities within the Health Walk area.

Bring water, cell phone, a walking companion (if possible) and sunscreen (even when cloudy).

Think safety!

POINTS OF INTEREST:

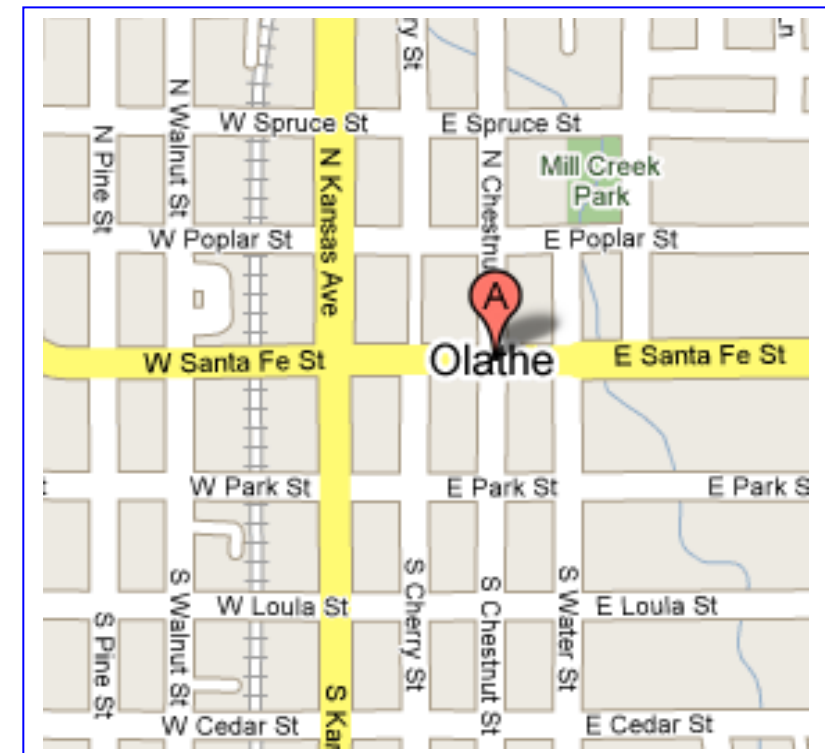
1. Olathe City Hall
2. Johnson County Courthouse and Promenade
3. First Christian Church
4. Performing Arts Center
5. Campus of the Kansas School for the Deaf
6. Deaf Cultural Center and the William J. Marra Museum

Olathe

Olathe, Kansas

Length of this Health Walk 1.2 miles
Estimated time to complete: 30 minutes
Walk difficulty:... Level 2

(Walking Difficulty Range: “1” = smooth, simple to “5” = hilly, irregular, poor/no sidewalks, complex, etc.)



GETTING TO THE Olathe Health Walk

WALK START: Start your Health Walk Start from the parking lot behind the Olathe City Hall located on your right at the intersection of Santa Fe. and Chestnut St.

BY CAR: From Interstate 35 in Kansas, take the Santa Fe Exit in Olathe and proceed west on Santa Fe St into downtown Olathe.

BY BUS: Depart 10th and Main Transit Plaza on The JO- Route R/Olathe. Exit at Johnson Co. Courthouse.

Your Olathe Health Walk

Prefer SHORT DIRECTIONS?
Follow the **BOLD TYPE** and UNDERLINING

Olathe was founded by Dr. John T. Barton in the spring of 1857. It was not the first city established in Johnson County, but it quickly became the largest and was named the **county seat** in October 1859. The city's early days were filled with violence, as pro-slavery forces from nearby **Missouri** often clashed with local **abolitionists**. As the 1850s came to a close, and as Kansas entered the Union as a **free state** in 1861, the violence lessened. However, a year later **Confederate** guerillas from Missouri led by **William Quantrill** surprised the residents and raided the city on **September 7, 1862**, killing a half dozen men, robbing numerous businesses and private homes, and destroying most of the city. Quantrill launched the raid because the people of Olathe were known for their abolitionism.

Olathe served as a stop on the **Oregon Trail**, the **California Trail**, and the **Santa Fe Trail**. Catering to travelers was the main source of income for local stores and businesses. After the construction of the **transcontinental railroad**, the trails to the west lost importance, and Olathe faded into obscurity and remained a small, sleepy prairie town.

In the 1950s, the construction of the **Interstate Highway** system and, more directly, **I-35**, linked Olathe directly to nearby **Kansas City**. The result was tremendous residential growth as Olathe became a part of the Kansas City metro area. In the 1980s, Olathe experienced tremendous commercial growth, which also drew more residents. Olathe is the fifth most populous city in the state of Kansas and the fourth-largest city in the **Kansas City Metropolitan Area**. It had an estimated population of over 118,000 in 2007. In 2008, the US Census Bureau ranked Olathe the 24th fastest-growing city in the nation. The same year, CNN/Money and *Money* magazine ranked Olathe 11th on its list of the "100 Best Cities to Live in the United States."¹

From Interstate 35 in Kansas, take the Santa Fe Exit in Olathe and proceed west on Santa Fe St into downtown Olathe. Proceed to your Walk Start by parking in the parking lot behind the Olathe City Hall located on your right at the intersection of Santa Fe. St. and Chestnut St. From the parking area, walk to the blue tiled artwork and courtyard area and proceed to Santa Fe. St. then cross the street, next to the Johnson County Courthouse which will be on your right. Walk to your right on Santa Fe St. to Park St and turn left on Park St. As you approach the Johnson County Courthouse promenade, turn left onto the main promenade pathway, (about one-half block) and walk the courtyard grounds of the complex until you reach the other side at Cherry St. Turn right on Cherry St and walk one block to Loulast and turn left. The First Christian Church will be on your left at Chestnut St. Proceed **Water St. and turn left, then walk to Park St.** The Performing Arts Center will be on your right and the Olathe Public Library will be on your left.

Turn right on Park. St. and proceed three blocks to State St. The Kansas School for the Deaf campus will be on your left (note the Cowboy Boot Marker out front).. You will be passing the Deaf Cultural Center and the William J. Marra Museum on your right at Emery St. William Joseph Marra, who graduated from Kansas School for the Deaf in 1925, and from Gallaudet College in 1930, began collecting and organizing historical artifacts—photographs, paintings, documents. This became the nucleus of the William J. Marra Museum of Deaf History and Deaf Culture, one of the finest collections of its kind. The Kansas State School for the Deaf is the oldest state educational institution in the State of Kansas. The School was founded by Philip A. Emery, a deaf man who had been a teacher at the Indiana School for the Deaf from 1854 to 1860. There are two markers along this Health Walk, one on Park St. and one on Santa Fe St. that denotes where the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails passed as travelers pursued their pathways to the West. **Turn left onto State St. and walk back to Santa Fe St. Turn left on Santa Fe St. and proceed four blocks back to Chestnut and your Walk Start behind the Olathe City Hall.**