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# The Kiestwood Trail

New project offers new options for Southern Dallas County

By **DIANE XAVIER**  
*The Dallas Examiner*

Trails are known as one of the more popular recreational services used today for a diversity of experiences. People use them to bike, exercise, commute and learn about historic places or events. It also helps connect communities.

Trails have been a fixture in Dallas County for decades and because of all the benefits they provide, the county and many of its cities have been actively working to create a comprehensive trail system in the Dallas area.

That is why Commissioner John



Kiestwood Trail runs along Kiest Park at Ruggest Drive. -- Photo courtesy of the city of Dallas

Wiley Price and his staff initiated the Kiestwood Trail, the longest trail in the southwestern part of Dallas.

The trail was a \$1.2 million investment. The Dallas County Open Space Program and the City of Dallas Public Works and Transportation Department provided funding for the design and construction of the trail. The project has been completed and the dedication ceremony for the Kiestwood Trail will take place on March 18 at 9:30 a.m.

Located primarily in an ONCOR utility right-of-way in central Oak Cliff, the trail will connect Kiest Park to the Kiestwood neighborhood. It is almost 2.5 miles long and is near Kimball High School.

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"This is the longest and most heavily utilized trail in the Southern part of Dallas," Price said. "It will connect schools, neighborhoods and is a major recreational beast. It was a real challenge for us to complete and we did have some resistance, however, we got the project completed."

Price said the trail features better surfaces, lighting and amenities.

"Our goal was to have a safe trail that people could utilize," he said. "We wanted to get the interest in trails going South because the South is nothing like the Northern part of Dallas, which has the Katy Trail. The utilization is totally different. Our plan is to augment what is going on with the city of Dallas."

Price said that on the northern parts of the city, trails have become an economic generator.

"It was really interesting to see how many businesses and restaurants opened up because of trails in the northern part of Dallas," Price stated. "We are entitled to have the same opportunities for economic growth in the Southern Sector."

He said the goal of the Kiestwood Trail is for it to be heavily utilized by the community.

"We need people to utilize the trail because not only did they pay for it, but when you put the amount of money into this project, you want people to use it," he said. "When you build more, they will come. We are not building trails like this because we don't have anything else to do, but because we care about the community."

Price said the Kiestwood Trail will help bring communities together.

"It's a way to get yourself familiarized with your neighbor and helps with exercise and transportation," he said. "It will help people have community gatherings and is considered the new exercise mode since people will have opportunities to run, bike and walk. We also consider this an alternative to transportation and a new way for people to mobilize."

Price said the migration to utilize trails has been slower in the Southern Sector of Dallas.

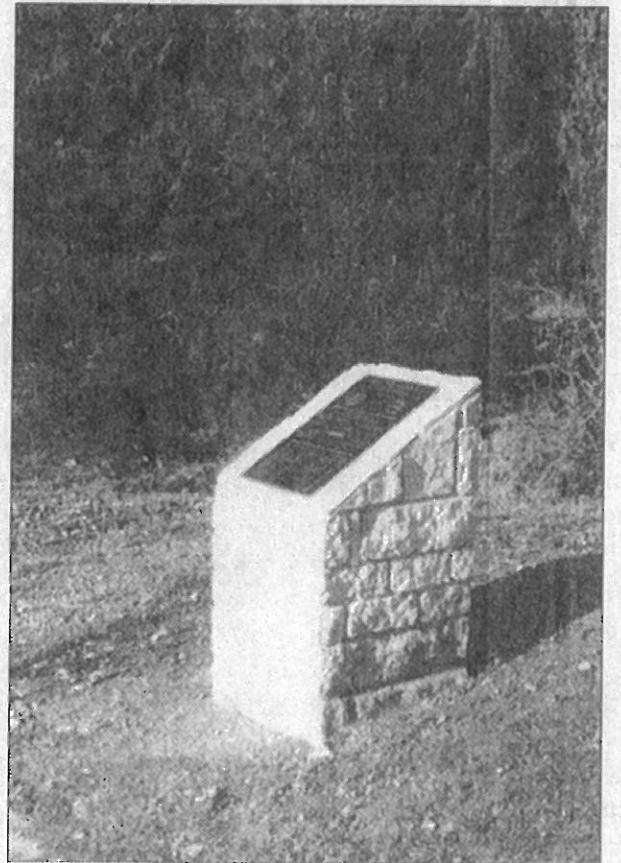
"We don't understand enough about the amenities of having a park," he said. "When you talk about the revitalization, you talk about parks and trails. We are entitled to the same access as the North. Our goals were to invest more in the South because we believe the community is entitled to things such as trails."



Kiestwood Trail at Kiest Park South. – Photo courtesy of the city of Dallas



Kiestwood Trail runs along Rivinia Drive. Kimball High School is in the background.



A Kiestwood Trail dedication plaque sits at Kiest Park South.