

Also see www.kyriverbluewaytrail.com

Jessamine dedicates Blue Way Trail on Kentucky River May 25, 2011 news@jessaminejournal.com

Jessamine County has designated 42 miles of the Kentucky River, which is the county's southern boundary, as a Blue Way Trail. The trail will be formally dedicated Friday, May 27, at 1 p.m. at High Bridge Park, south of Wilmore, Kentucky.

The Jessamine County Fiscal Court, along with Mercer, Garrard, and Madison counties, which are on the opposite side of Jessamine County's border, adopted a resolution designating the Kentucky River from Valley View to Brooklyn a Blue Way Trail.

The trail is designated to provide greater recognition of the many attributes of the Kentucky River basin along with promoting tourism and recreation in the area. Areas of the Kentucky River and its tributaries are known for excellent fishing, birdwatching, hiking, wildflowers and history such as Camp Nelson, Valley View, and High Bridge to name a view. The designation will also encourage individuals to recognize the significance of the area in terms of natural beauty, biology, geology and a variety of animal species.

The Blue Way Trail is a project of the National Park Service. NPS encourages communities to work together in defining areas, inventory, mapping and providing educational and tourism materials. Jessamine County's River Task Force has met all requirements for designation.

"The Blue Way Trail will be included in a newly launched website — www.kyriverbluewaytrail.com — of the Jessamine County Kentucky River Task Force along with other local, regional and statewide websites and publications," said Jessamine County Fiscal Court Special Projects director Mary Kozak.

Jessamine County Magistrate George Dean, a founding member of the Kentucky River Task Force that was formed in 2000 by the Jessamine Fiscal Court, is the originator of the Blue Way Trail project for the Kentucky River in Jessamine County.

"The Kentucky River is an important part of Jessamine County's history and geography. We want to do what we can to educate people about it and to encourage people to enjoy it as much as possible," Dean said.

The Blue Way Trail is defined in the River Task Force's River Guide, which also includes historical sites and launch sites. The guide is available at each of the four-county judge-executive offices, along with tourism and chamber offices. It is also online at www.kyriverbluewaytrail.com. The task force took on the Blue Way Trail project as part of its mission to educate the public on the value of the Kentucky River in terms of educational, recreational, ecological and tourism value.

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WELCOME!

Thank you for visiting the Kentucky River Blueway Trail Website. The trail is a 42 mile stretch of river that makes up Jessamine County's southern border running from Valley View to Brooklyn. It's a cooperative effort of the Jessamine County Fiscal Court, along with adjacent counties Mercer, Garrard, and Madison.

The aim of the trail is to provide greater recognition of the many attributes of the Kentucky River basin and to promote tourism and recreation in the area. The Kentucky River and its tributaries are known for excellent fishing, bird watching, hiking, wildflowers and rich historical sites such as Camp Nelson, Valley View, and High Bridge.

The Blueway Trail designation is also an encouragement to individuals to recognize the significance of the area in terms of natural beauty, biology, geology and a variety of animal species. There is no actual footpath or trailhead -- just the gentle flow of the river!