

I'm excited that I have the opportunity to write about this month's trail bio for Trail-A-Thon. The Tierra/Williamsburg Trail is my favorite because it is my link for commuting to work. While I don't get to do that every day, I'm very thankful for the people that came before me on the GPTN Board that fought to get this trail open.

After digging into the archives of the trails, I found the first mention of the trail when it presented for approval in March 1996 at the City Council. Planning and preparation started well before this, but the news coverage in the Journal Star started about this time. The Tierra/Williamsburg Trail was not without its controversy as the neighborhood thought the trail should be only a neighborhood trail and not the connector to the trails system it is today.

In July 2002 the Tierra/Williamsburg trail opened to the public. This connection provides a direct link from the Rock Island Trail through Tierra Park south to Williamsburg. This beautiful wide trail follows the drainage creek through the Tierra neighborhood to Old Cheney Road. It then crosses Old Cheney and connects up to the Williamsburg Trail. The trail splits just north of Pine Lake Road.

Traveling south on the trail takes you under Pine Lake Road and continues until you reach Cavett Elementary School. Several years ago, this trail was expanded and now it runs past Cavett all the way to Yankee Hill Road. In the future this trail will take you all the way to the new South Beltway that is now under construction. This will be an amazing transformation to witness in the Lincoln trails system.

Heading west on the trail goes behind SouthPointe Mall to Scott Middle School and connects up to Rock Island trail near Densmore Park and the Cooper Y. This trail provides a unique opportunity to change up your running routes in picturesque neighborhoods and still end up on the highly traveled Rock Island Trail. From my home near Cavett Elementary it is just a mere seven miles to downtown with limited street crossings and a safe way to get to work.