

The Capital Crescent Trail



A NATURAL ADDITION TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

APRIL-JUNE 1990

CCCT Enters 4th Year

Hikers Rally Around Trail

Thirty area politicians, agency officials and other dignitaries joined an enthusiastic crowd of 200 people at a rally in Bethesda on May 5 in support of the Capital Crescent Trail.

Representatives from the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, the Maryland legislature, the Montgomery County Council, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the D.C. City Council attended the event.

"Our community badly needs this park and trail," said Henri Bartholomot, chair of the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail, which is entering its fourth year. "There is a real shortage of green space and high-quality recreational trails in the lower part of Montgomery County. Anyone who has tried to bicycle between Bethesda and Silver Spring or from Bethesda into the District can appreciate how difficult cycling in this area has become."

After the rally, the group—comprised of many long-time trail supporters and a number of new CCCT advocates—hiked from Bethesda to Georgetown along the proposed trail. The enthusiastic hikers stopped for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the newly-decked Arizona Avenue trestle.

CCCT boardmember Sally Stevens organized the event to generate and show support for the trail.

"We hope that this event will persuade both Montgomery County and Congress to move forward promptly with this trail project," said Coalition Coordinator Debora Cackler.



CCCT supporters emerge from the trail's only tunnel during the hike after the May 5 rally. (Photo: Henri Bartholomot)

Montgomery County has purchased its part of the trail corridor, but the County has stopped short of putting a trail on the ground.

Also, in the coming months, Congress will decide how much money to appropriate to the National Park Service for acquiring the D.C. portion of the trail.

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The Arizona Avenue Trestle Is Now Decked And Ready For Trail Use!

Many thanks go to Rails-to-Trails President David Burwell, who arranged for the materials; the National Park Service, which provided the design; the Montgomery County Conservation Corps, for its top quality labor and many other volunteers, for their hard work.

Again, our thanks to everyone involved.

Successful Summit Garners Support

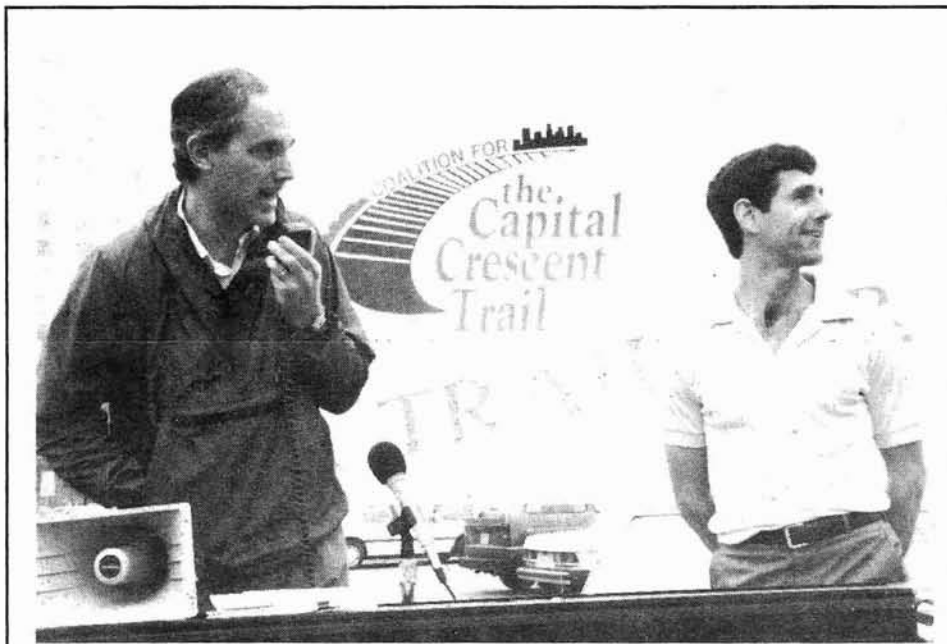
The Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail and its organizational members held their first "Summit" meeting, generating new ideas for overcoming obstacles facing the trail.

The meeting, held April 4, featured slide shows, a trail status report and strategy sessions focusing on excursion rail, Montgomery County funding and the proposed transitway.

Since the summit, CCCT has sent a letter to each of its member groups asking for contacts in Congress and Montgomery County, mailing lists, newsletter deadlines, as well as participation in CCCT-sponsored events. The letter also asks each group to designate an

individual to serve as a liaison between the Coalition and the member organization.

A heartfelt thanks to all the organizations participating in the summit: Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club, Montgomery County Road Runners Club, NIH Bicycle Commuter Club, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Committee of 100 on the Federal City, Washington Women Outdoors, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, C&O Canal Association, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Coalition, DC Road Runners Club, Audubon Naturalist Society, Sierra Club and Montgomery County Outdoor Education Association.



Montgomery County Councilmember Bruce Adams shows his support for the Capital Crescent Trail during the May 5 Rally. (Photo: Chris Brown).

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Two weeks prior to the hike and rally, many dedicated trail supporters spent several hours in the rain removing trash and overgrowth from the trail. Everyone

in CCCT is grateful--the hike would not have been possible without this effort.

On May 6, the Potomac Pedalers Touring Club held a 25-mile ride on roads parallel to the proposed trail.

MEMBERS OF THE COALITION FOR THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL

American Forestry Association
American Hiking Society
AYH — Potomac Area Council
Appalachian Mountain Club
Arlington County Bike Club
Audubon Naturalist Society
Blue Ridge Voyageurs
Capital Hiking Club
Citizens Assn. of Georgetown
Committee of 100 on the Federal City
C&O Canal Association
Conservation Federation of Maryland
D.C. Roadrunners Club
Greater Bethesda Chevy Chase Coalition
Maryland Assn. of Bicycling Organizations
Montgomery County Outdoor Education Assn.
Montgomery County Road Runners
National Handicapped Sports and Recreation Association
N.I.H. Bicycle Commuting Club
Nat'l Parks and Conservation Assn.
Nat'l Recreation and Parks Assn.
Northern Virginia Volksmarchers
Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club
Pentagon Pacesetters
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Potomac Boat Club
Potomac Pedalers Touring Club
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Sierra Club (Rock Creek Group)
Virginia Volkssport Association
Walkways Center
Wanderbirds Hiking Club
Washington Area Bicyclist Assn.
Washington Canoe Club
Washington Running Club
Washington Women Outdoors

The Coalition Needs Your Help

The Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail is mounting a strong grass-roots campaign throughout the area, but to make the trail a reality, we need your help! Below are some of the many ways you can help the Coalition. If you are interested, call Debora Cackler at 234-4874 for details.

Project Leaders The Coalition needs responsible, dependable individuals to take leadership positions in the areas listed below. Responsibilities could be as broad as coordinating a committee or as specific as overseeing a short-term project.

Fundraising Committee Critical to our continuing success is the ability to keep the public involved and informed of trail developments--fundraising is our lifeline. CCCT needs assistance in developing promotional materials (T-shirts, decals), soliciting businesses and donors, telemarketing and writing letters.

Raffle Committee Previous raffles have been some of our most successful efforts. To make this year's raffle an even greater success, we need help soliciting prizes, managing ticket distribution, as well as selling tickets throughout the area. Prizes are awarded for top ticket sellers.

Community Outreach Committee Inherent to the success of any rail-trail project is the support of local communities. The

coalition needs to get more Montgomery County residents involved in the trail effort. Members of this committee will meet with neighborhood and civic groups, canvass door-to-door and encourage residents along the corridor to support the trail.

Cultivation of Key Decision Makers CCCT needs people to maintain regular contact with officials in the National Park Service and Montgomery County, including the County Council, the Department of Transportation and the Parks Department.

Press To keep the public's attention on the trail, CCCT needs an assertive media strategy with people assembling and distributing press packets, writing press releases, maintaining a clipping file and cultivating relationships with reporters.

Publicity Although the 11-mile corridor is nearly secured, there are still many threats to developing it into a high-quality trail. It is important that the coalition continue to educate the public about the trail through slide presentations, speakers bureaus and distribution of promotional materials.

Trail Clearing and Maintenance The Coalition is seeking a trail steward for each section of the corridor, as well as a maintenance crew to clear fallen trees and debris each month.

Administrative Help Among many other tasks, the Coalition needs assistance maintaining its membership database, and organizing and carrying out bulk mailings.

Montgomery County Update

On April 3, the Montgomery County Council discovered just how much support exists for the Capital Crescent Trail.

At a public hearing on funding for the transitway-trail between Bethesda and Silver Spring, nearly everyone who testified opposed the transitway but favored the trail.

Henri Bartholomot, testifying for CCCT, urged the council to begin work on an interim trail now and provide full funding for the trail during the next several years. The council has yet to approve funding for the trail or act on the interim trail proposal.

In January, CCCT asked the County Council to proceed with the Capital Crescent Trail from Bethesda to the D.C. line. CCCT asked the Council to eliminate excursion rail as a conflicting use of the corridor.

The County Council agreed to resolve the excursion rail issue promptly, assuring CCCT that the corridor will be used for a trail.

Although trail advocates understood that the feasibility of joint railroad/trail use would be formally studied, the only thing that has happened so far, is that Council member Neal Potter has hiked part of the corridor to see if in his view a trail and excursion rail could run side-by-side. Two Council committees are supposed to revisit the issue again in June.

In January, we also asked the Council to provide funds for designing and installing part of the trail. But in budget deliberations during March and April, the Council did not include any such funds in coming fiscal years.

CCCT continues to support funds for designing and installing the trail.

CCCT Welcomes Its New Coordinator!

The Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail would like to welcome its new coordinator Debora Cackler.

She started the position in early March and has been busy working on an assortment of CCCT activities. Much of her time will be dedicated to motivating current members to participate in Coalition activities while seeking new people to get involved in CCCT.

Debora is an avid cyclist dedicated to all facets of transportation planning. She is an experienced community organizer and fundraiser with a flair for creative writing. Her unending enthusiasm and commitment to the trail make her an invaluable asset to the Coalition.

Our former coordinator, Kate Kent, recently accepted a job at SANE Freeze—we wish her the best of luck.

**YES! I WANT TO HELP CREATE
THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL**

Please add me to your membership list. Enclosed is a donation for \$ ----- to help make the Capital Crescent Trail a reality. (Make checks payable to CCCT.)

I want to help the Coalition with the following activities:

- Fundraising Committee
- Community Outreach Committee
- Raffle Committee
- Press and Publicity
- Trail Cleaning and Maintenance
- Mailing Parties
- Data Entry

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE (day) (eve)

I know of an organization that might join CCCT. The group is:

Return to Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail, P.O. Box 30703,
Bethesda, MD 20824

Slide Show Available

Do you know of an organization or citizen's group that may want to support the Capital Crescent Trail and would like to learn more about it?

The Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail offers a 20-minute slide show that portrays the trail's potential as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for an urban greenway in Washington, D.C. The slide show, which is presented by a CCCT volunteer, also describes the Coalition's activities to secure the trail.

Please contact Beth Dillon during the day at 343-3766 for additional information or to request a presentation.

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