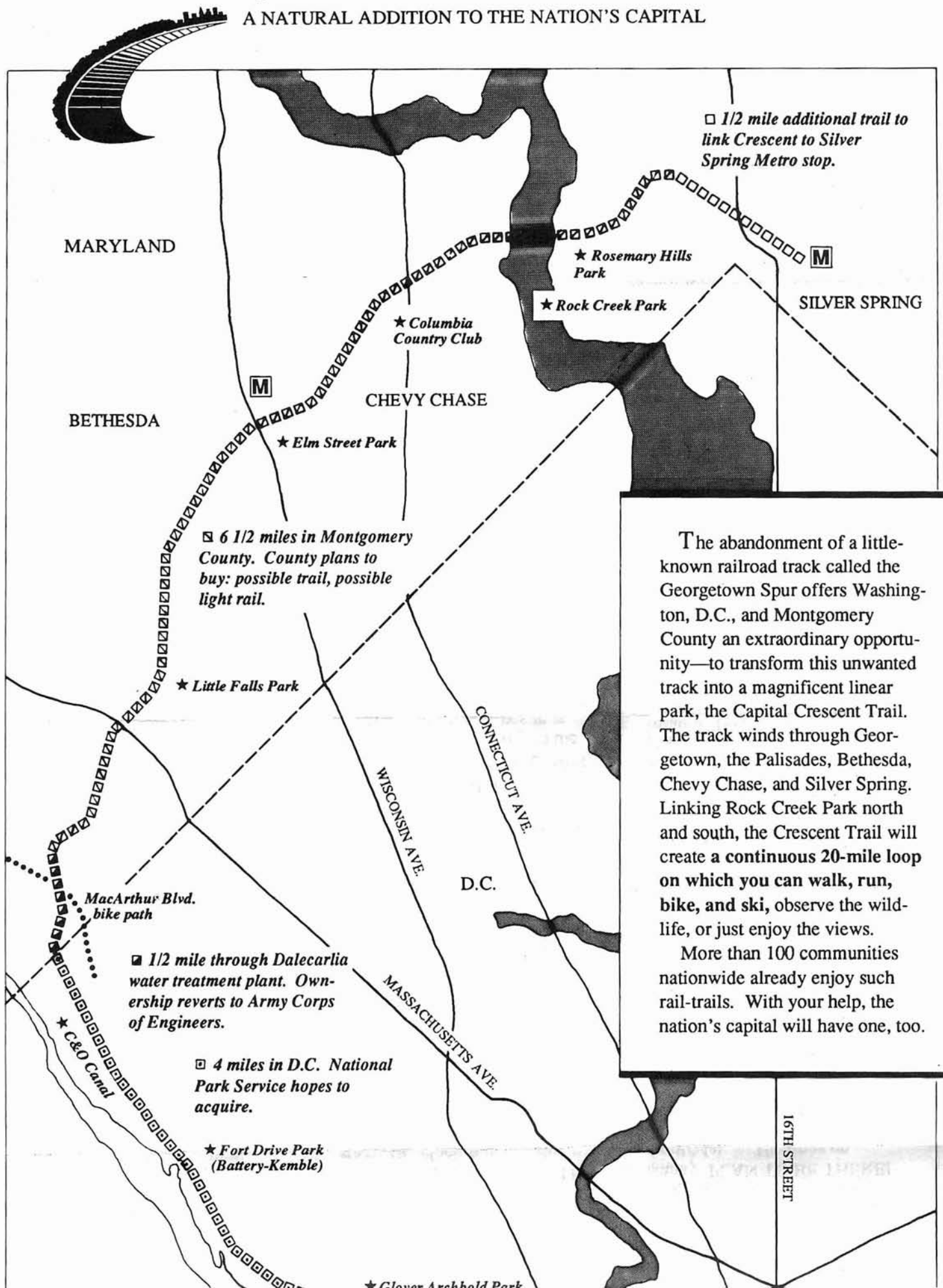


# The Capital Crescent Trail

A NATURAL ADDITION TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL



The abandonment of a little-known railroad track called the Georgetown Spur offers Washington, D.C., and Montgomery County an extraordinary opportunity—to transform this unwanted track into a magnificent linear park, the Capital Crescent Trail. The track winds through Georgetown, the Palisades, Bethesda, Chevy Chase, and Silver Spring. Linking Rock Creek Park north and south, the Crescent Trail will create a continuous 20-mile loop on which you can walk, run, bike, and ski, observe the wildlife, or just enjoy the views.

More than 100 communities nationwide already enjoy such rail-trails. With your help, the nation's capital will have one, too.

COALITION FOR  
**The Capital Crescent Trail**

A RAILS-TO-TRAILS PROJECT

**Here's What You Can Do:**

- Join the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail.
- If you belong to a community organization, arrange for the group to join the Coalition or to express support for its goals.
- Write to the Montgomery County Council letting them know of your support for the trail and asking for their help. Council members are:  
Rose Crenca, Chair  
Isiah Leggett  
Bruce Adams  
Michael Gudis  
Neal Potter  
William Hanna  
Michael Subin

All can be reached at:  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850  
tel: 251-7900

- Write to Hon. Connie Morella, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 and urge her to support the trail.
- Spread the word. Tell neighbors, colleagues, and friends about the trail and encourage them to become involved.
- Contribute time or money to the Coalition. Call Val Kirkpatrick at 564-9177 to volunteer.

---

*The latest survey by the Planning Board shows that "walking in parks is the favorite outdoor recreation activity of Montgomery County residents."*

---

**Abandonment Update**

The Interstate Commerce Commission has issued a final Environmental Impact Statement for the Georgetown Spur putting no restrictions on its development. It is expected to approve abandonment in December. **That starts the clock ticking: during the 180 days following abandonment, Chessie cannot sell to a non-public user.** After that, the corridor could be broken up and lost forever.

---

*The two most heavily-used Montgomery County parks inside the beltway, Rosemary Hills and Elm Street Parks, are within one block of the trail.*

---

**Acquisition Update**

The National Park Service (NPS) hopes to acquire the strip in the District. However, Chessie is asking scalpers' prices. The NPS has commissioned its own appraisal, due in February. A land exchange seems to be their best option, since purchase would require Congressional appropriation. Montgomery County intends to acquire the 6 1/2 miles within its borders, but there is a \$60-million discrepancy between what the county hopes to spend and what CSX hopes to get. Furthermore, the County Council has not committed to dedicating the land to a park.

**Dates to Remember:**

January 27 — Capital Crescent Trail meeting at Bethesda Library, 7:00 p.m.  
January (to be announced) — Council hearings on appropriations for study of trail in the county. **PLAN TO BE THERE!**  
April/May — Hearings on Capital Improvement Program priorities for next 6 years.

The person who receives the most copies of this newsletter will win an award from the Coalition. We mailed to several conservation and recreation lists and didn't have funds to eliminate duplication. Please view this as an opportunity: Pass those extras on!

**Yes! I want to help create the Capital Crescent Trail.**

Add me to your membership list. I want to spread the word. Send me \_\_\_\_\_ flyers.  
I know of a group that might join the coalition. The group is: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to help with:  
\_\_\_\_ research      \_\_\_\_ writing  
\_\_\_\_ telephoning      \_\_\_\_ artwork  
\_\_\_\_ leafletting      \_\_\_\_ event organizing  
Accept my tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help make the Capital Crescent Trail a reality. (Make check payable to Sierra Club Foundation/CCCT.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY STATE ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (DAY) \_\_\_\_\_ (EVE) \_\_\_\_\_

Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail  
P.O. Box 30703, Bethesda, MD. 20814



Non-Profit org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #2023  
Wash. D.C.