



# The Crescent

THE COALITION FOR THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL

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## Long-Awaited River Road Project Gains Ground

By Pat Baptiste/CCCT Board

Trail users have been waiting many years for a much-needed landscape improvement to the grass and asphalt area between the River Road pedestrian bridge and a surface parking lot being used by the Minkoff Company. In 1998 the Minkoff Company and Montgomery County entered into an agreement whereby the Minkoff vehicles could be parked on County right-of-way adjacent to the trail. In return the Minkoff Company agreed to make landscape improvements, add benches and other amenities and to remove excess asphalt. Also, the project promised to provide parking spaces for trail users on weekends.

For many reasons the work was never begun and costs have escalated in the intervening years. Efforts over the last seven years by CCCT Board members and community activists have failed to get results. Now however, thanks to a more attentive park staff and a joint effort by the CCCT Board and the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, it appears that the project is going to move ahead and that the promised improvements will be accomplished in the near future.

The proposed improvements have been scaled back – the Parks Department will provide the landscape plants, and the Minkoff Company has agreed to fully fund the cost of implementing the revised plan. We are hopeful that the work will begin by Fall. Check out our web site for progress reports on this project, [www.cctrail.org](http://www.cctrail.org).



*CCCT board member Pat Baptiste (center right, in blue shirt) shows plans for the River Road trail plaza at the June 13 CCCT's annual meeting. At Pat's immediate left is Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Floreen.*



*The River Road trail plaza location.*



**THE COALITION FOR THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL**

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Jennifer Longworth, Secretary

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John Dugger

Jennie Sue Dunner

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CCCT is a non-profit citizen's group promoting development of the 11.2 mile rail-to-rail conversion from Georgetown, D.C. to Silver Spring, MD for multi-purpose, recreational use.

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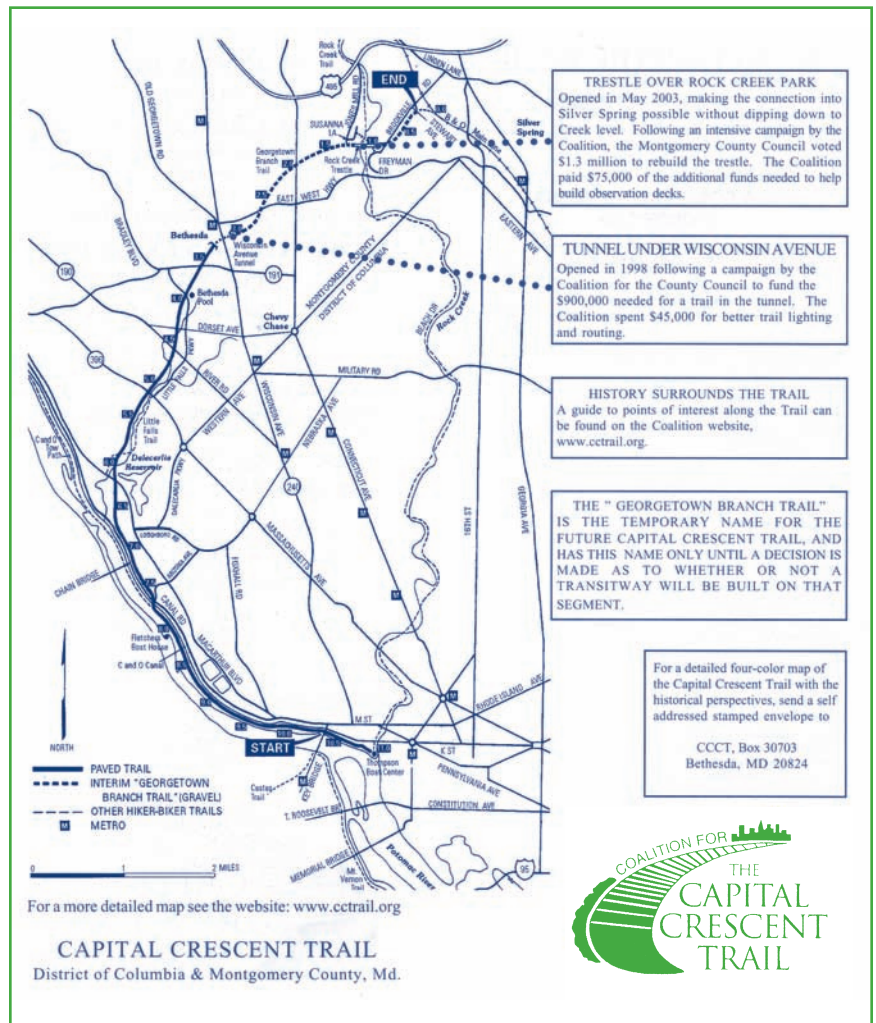
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We request that all entries should be sent to the post office box listed above. Submissions should be sent via e-mail to: jcamp213@foxtv.com or by mail to CCCT.

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**Bethesda, MD 20824**  
**202-234-4874**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**  
[www.cctrail.org](http://www.cctrail.org)  
**for trail updates and events!**



## Development at Bethesda Trailhead

By Wayne Phyllaier/CCCT Board

Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan announced in a June 24 press conference that PN Hoffman and Stonebridge Associates of Bethesda has been awarded development rights to lot 31, the parking lot next to the Capital Crescent Trail at the Bethesda Trailhead. The parking lot now has 270 parking spaces, but it will become a mixed-use development that includes parking, residences and shopping.

The development plan includes creating underground parking for 1,600 cars, building 65 affordable housing units, and preserving access to the Capital Crescent Trail. The plans also call for a bicycle drop-off point along Woodmont Avenue where drivers can leave their bikes before parking in the underground garage. The development team also proposes to create a "bike depot" with places bikers can lock their bikes.

In addition, the intersection of Woodmont and Bethesda Avenues will likely be reconstructed to create a sharper turn for motor vehicle traffic, thereby forcing traffic to slow. As it is now, north-bound traffic on Woodmont Avenue makes a fast left turn onto Bethesda Avenue, which creates a dangerous situation for pedestrians and bikers crossing Bethesda Avenue.

The Office of the County Executive held a community meeting at the Bethesda/Chevy Chase Regional Services Center earlier this year to introduce the two development teams being considered to develop Bethesda Parking Lot 31, adjacent to the CCT at Woodmont and Bethesda Avenues. We reported in our Fall 2004 newsletter that the County was seeking proposals to develop Lot 31. A Selection Committee comprised of representatives of the County Executive and several County Agencies down-selected from thirteen development teams that have submitted proposals to two finalists. The two finalist teams, Archstone Smith and P.N. Hoffman/Stonebridge, gave presentations detailing their qualifications and their vision for the site and took questions from the audience. Comments and written feedback from the meeting were used by the Selection Committee to select the winning development team.

CCT Coalition Board Members met separately with representatives of the two "surviving" developers to review their concepts and to present ideas on how best to protect and enhance the CCT. As we indicated earlier in a letter to the County (and printed in the Fall Newsletter) the several early concepts that we had seen convinced

us that the CCT could be protected in this critical area, and that significant opportunities existed for development to enhance the trail. In particular, a safer and more direct trail crossing of Bethesda Avenue and Woodmont Avenue could result from street reconfiguration with the development. Both of the surviving concepts would keep the trail open throughout the construction period and make a serious effort to enhance the trail experience, but each with different approaches for the street reconfiguration, parking and trail access, landscaping and amenities along the trail.

The plan is to break ground on the project in spring 2007. Construction will take two to three years. The Trail will remain open for public use throughout the construction period. The Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail appreciates the serious efforts all of the development teams have made to consider trail interests in their proposals.





The CCCT annual meeting began under a threatening sky on a hot Monday evening. But the weather favored the meeting, with the clouds bringing relief from the heat and no rain. Members and guests enjoyed the food and drink, and discussed the successes of the last year and goals for next year.

The event was well attended, with guests including Montgomery County Councilmembers Nancy Floreen and Howie Denis, and past Councilmember and now candidate for Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett. CCT members used the opportunity to ask for support for ongoing projects, including the trail plaza that has been long in planning for the north end of the trail bridge at River Road (see page one article).

# The CCCT Annual Meeting

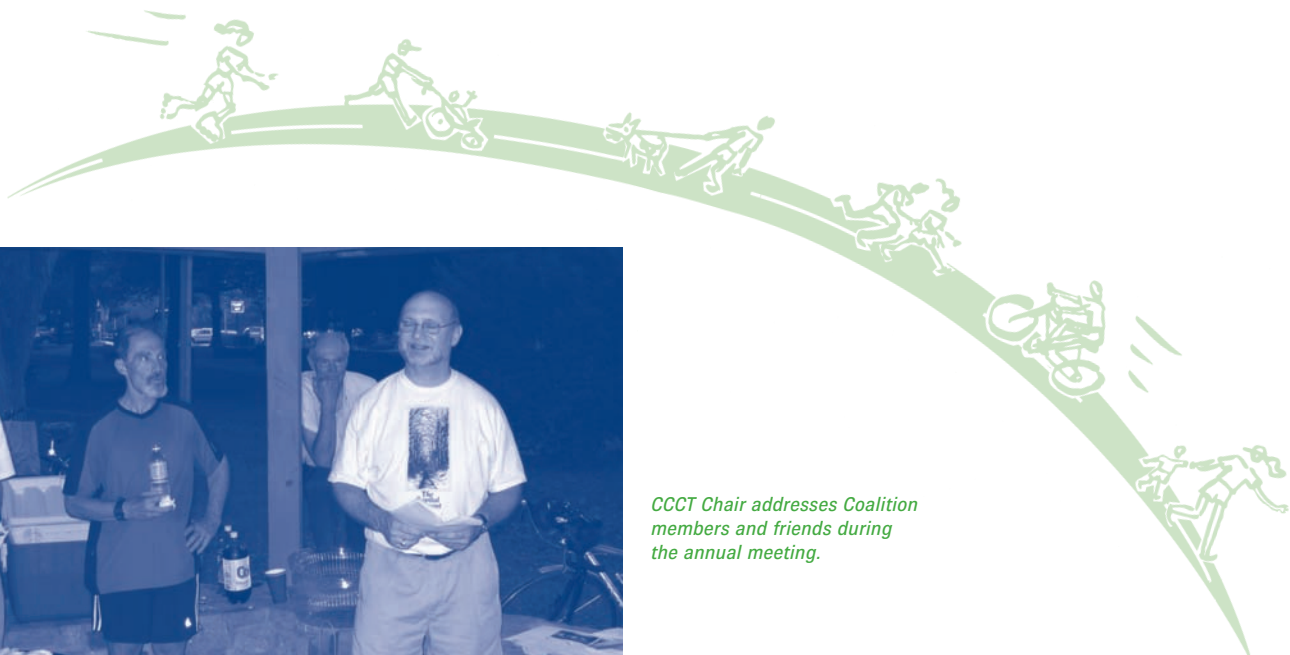
## June 13, 2005



Courtesy of Wayne Phyllaier

CCCT Chair Ernie Brooks gave special recognition to the efforts of each of the Board Members during the brief business meeting. All Board Members will be returning for the next board year which begins next month. Board Members are: Pat Baptiste, Ernie Brooks, John Campanile, John Dugger, Jenny Sue Dunner, Peter Gray, Isaac Hantman, Jennifer Longworth, Andy O'Hare, Wayne Phyllaier, and Charlie Wellander.

Ernie also presented the recommended slate of officers, and officers will be officially elected from the Board at next month's regular meeting. Members welcomed Ernie's announcement that he was willing to accept the position of Chair for another year. The remainder of the recommended slate of officers is: Peter Gray, Vice-Chair; Jennifer Longworth, Secretary; Wayne Phyllaier, Treasurer; and Charlie Wellander, Assistant to the Treasurer.



Courtesy of Wayne Phyllaier



CCCT Chair addresses Coalition members and friends during the annual meeting.



Courtesy of Wayne Phyllaier



Courtesy of Charlie Wellander



Courtesy of Charlie Wellander

## Trail recognized as one of the world's best public spaces.

The Project for Public Spaces, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and sustaining public places that build communities, has recognized the Capital Crescent Trail as one of "21 great places that show how transportation can enliven a community". The CCT is described as:

*"...the most-used rail-trail in the nation, transporting one million walkers and bicyclists a year to destinations as varied as suburban Bethesda Row, a trendy restaurant hotspot, and Fletcher's Boathouse, an angler's hangout. A green oasis in the midst of traffic-clogged suburbia, the Capital Crescent trail connects suburban Maryland to the Potomac waterfront with many natural and historic destinations in between."*



The CCT at Fletcher's Boathouse.

See the Project for Public Spaces web site, [www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org), and click on the article "Going Places" on their home page, for more on the 21 great places around the world.

## Safety on the Trail

### For bicycle commuters who use the CCT:

It is important that all bicyclists carry a good lighting system and wear reflective clothing if you commute before dawn or after dusk. Generally, there are a fair number of bicycle commuters who use the trail after dusk, but with lights and reasonable caution, commuters should not have any problems.

### Trail safety and courtesy means:

- ALL USERS should stay to the right side of the trail except when passing.
- Passing other trail users to their left, allowing at least two feet clearance.
- Always look ahead and behind before passing.
- Give an audible voice or bell warning at least two seconds before passing.
- Travel at reasonable speed in a consistent and predictable manner.
- Keep all pets on a short leash (required by law).
- Move off the trail when stopped to allow others to pass.
- Yield to others when entering or crossing the trail.
- Use lights and reflectors after dusk or before dawn.



## Litter Begets Litter

The Capital Crescent Trail is beautiful and has been nearly litter-free. The National Park Service and the Montgomery County Departments of Parks and of Transportation have no regularly scheduled clean-ups of the Trail, due to personnel limitations, and there are no trash receptacles along the CCT.

Therefore, it bears repeating: Litter begets litter. There are a number of unsung heroes who pick up litter on a regular basis, and they do a great service to the beauty and maintenance of the Trail. Those efforts are very much appreciated.

Carrying a plastic grocery bag with you when you're out on the Trail and taking your trash with you makes their efforts easier.



## Heavy rains continue to plague the Interim CCT

The frequent heavy rains recently and the resulting erosion continue to challenge trail users, especially those on bicycles. Almost one year ago, Montgomery County crews repaired one of the worst areas between the east end of the Bethesda Tunnel and mile marker 3.0. But two short sections between the Rock Creek Trestle and Stewart Avenue are especially susceptible to rain run-off, despite "patch" repairs to these sections by the County. The trail is passable but cyclists should be alert for deep ruts in the trail east of the trestle.

In the past, Montgomery County officials have expressed their strong support for accommodating the Trail needs as much as possible within their budget and staff constraints. CCCT will continue to work on these issues with those responsible for maintaining the trail.

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### IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO RENEW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CCCT?...

**Yes! I want to help complete the Capital Crescent Trail and make it safer and more pleasant to use!**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER  RENEWING MEMBER

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

- \$10 Basic Individual
- \$30 Contributor
- \$60 Path Finder
- \$100 Patron
- \$200 Trail Blazer
- \$500 Benefactor

A DETAILED FOUR-COLOR MAP OF THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL WITH HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES IS FREE TO ALL NEW MEMBERS. Donors of \$60 or more will receive a CCCT T-shirt upon request. (if desired, please circle size: S M L XL).

Make your tax-deductible contribution checks payable to: The Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail.  
Mail to: CCCT, P.O. Box 30703, Bethesda, MD., 20824.

**Thanks for your efforts on behalf of the Trail! Here's an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .**

Membership is good for one year from the 15th day of the month that you join.

We are an all-volunteer organization.

I am interested in volunteering, contact me for:  Advocacy  Events  Trail Maintenance

We do not share our membership list with any organization except our affiliate organization, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. CCCT is exempt from federal taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and is qualified to receive tax-deductible contributions. VISIT OUR WEB SITE, [www.cctrail.org](http://www.cctrail.org), FOR ACTION ALERTS and TRAIL UPDATES.



*At a very rainy Bike-to-Work Day on May 20, CCCT board members John Campanile and Jennifer Longworth braved the elements and celebrated with fellow bicycle commuters. The annual event was sponsored by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association.*

Become  
a volunteer  
for the  
The Capital  
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