



The Crescent

THE COALITION FOR THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL

Summer 2007
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3** Developer Plans for Lot 31 and Thyme Square Property in Bethesda
- 3** Annual Meeting
- 4** Bells and Whistles – A Collision Can Ruin Your Whole Day!
- 4** Interim CCT Repaired East of Rock Creek
- 5** River Road Plaza
- 6** Become a Volunteer Patroller
- 8** Bethesda Air Rights Building Tunnel Graffiti UPDATE

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Safety is NO Accident

Courtesy is Contagious

"A woman enjoying a walk was killed when struck by a cyclist riding on the same path" (NY Times June 5, 2007). A rare event, it happened over 20 years ago in Minneapolis, not on the Crescent Trail. BUT IT COULD HAVE AND MIGHT YET.

The Coalition, police, and media continue to receive an increasing number of incident and serious accident reports involving hospital admissions and month long rehab facility stays. Our beautiful, tree shaded, mixed use trail is a wonderful, but overcrowded, success. Commuters and recreational users of ALL TYPES, AGES, and most importantly, SPEEDS enjoy the linear park, 'car-free' setting. But 'car-free' does not mean 'care-free'. In this issue we expand our safety tips, inform you of steps we are taking to mitigate the dangers, and ask our members to be safe, considerate Trail users. Please give warning before passing, pass only when safe, stay to the right when not passing, and yield to pedestrians; they do have the right of way.

Coalition Board Members have recently initiated a campaign to have Montgomery County widen its portion of the Trail, particularly in the most crowded segment between Bethesda and Massachusetts Avenues. As MoCo planning, legislating, hearing, and financing processes are such that widening will not bring relief soon enough, the Coalition has also started an effort to bring near term improvement. This includes getting more and better signage and more speed surveillance and enforcement on the Trail, continuing our safety education outreach, obtaining a lower speed limit and installing traffic calming measures that do not increase danger to those Trail users who are a bit frail. The Board's efforts commenced with meetings with County Executive Leggett, Council President Praisner, MoCo Parks Department Director Bradford, and US NPS C&O Canal Deputy Superintendent Hartman.

As always your comments and suggestions are most welcome.
Send them to contact@cctrail.org or to
CCCT, PO Box 30703, Bethesda, MD 20824.

Be Alert Be Aware



THE COALITION FOR THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL

Board Members 2007

Officers At-Large

Peter Gray, Chair

Isaac Hantman, Vice-Chair

Wayne Phyllaier, Treasurer

Jennifer Longworth, Secretary

Charlie Wellander, Asst. to the Treasurer

Pat Baptiste

Ernie Brooks

John Dugger

Jenny Sue Dunner

The Crescent is published three times a board year (June-June) by the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail (CCCT), P.O. Box 30703, Bethesda, MD 20824, phone (202) 234-4874.

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

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We request that all submissions for *The Crescent* be sent to the post office box or e-mail noted below.

CONTACT THE CCCT:

contact@cctrail.org

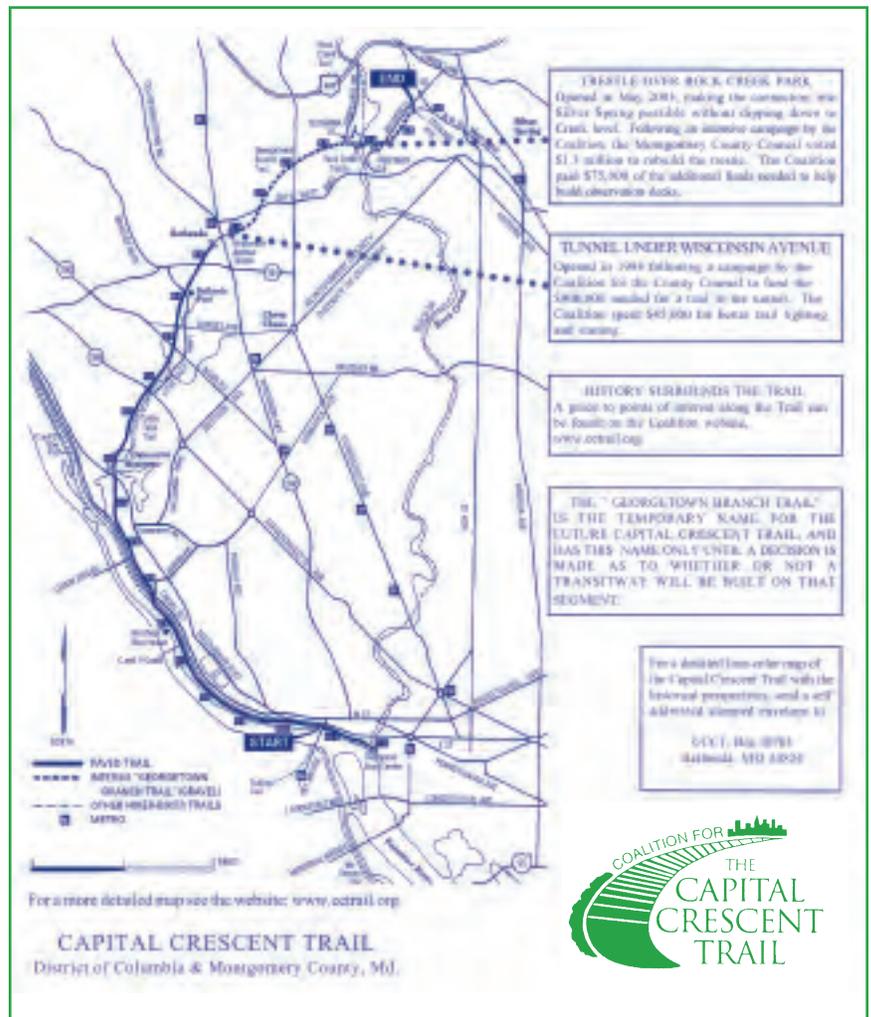
P.O. Box 30703
Bethesda, MD 20824
202-234-4874

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.cctrail.org
for trail updates and events!



CCCT Chair updates members at the June annual meeting in Elm Street Park.



Developer Plans for Lot 31 and Thyme Square Property in Bethesda

CCCT Board members met twice with representatives of the developer for Lot 31 (the surface parking lot at the Bethesda Trailhead). We were able to impact several aspects of the proposed design to better fit with the adjacent Trail. We are pleased that the Trail will remain open here throughout construction of this project.

Board members also met twice with representatives of Federal Realty to discuss concepts for development of the parcel including Thyme Square Restaurant and Reed Street (also known as the "Woodmont East Project" at the west end of the Bethesda Tunnel). CCCT succeeded in getting some improvements in the plan that will better accommodate the trail. Sadly, we were not able to change the worst aspect of the plan - closure of the Bethesda Tunnel to trail traffic for up to three years during project construction. CCCT will be pursuing this issue before the Planning Board when the project comes to them for approval this fall.

To learn more, or express concern about the "**Woodmont East Project**" and the undesirability of a multi-year trail closure contact **Joshua Sloan** at **301-495-4597** or **Dolores Kinney** at **301-495-1321** or at dolores.kinney@mncppc-mc.org or at the Montgomery County Planning Board, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910
ATTN: Woodmont East Project
Plan #s 920070070 & 120070200

The CCCT will continue in general to monitor these and all other plans for development (e.g. – the Georgetown Boathouse) along side or near the Trail that might have an impact on trail usage.

Annual Meeting – June 11, 2007

Over 50 CCCT members gathered for an evening of socializing over tasty drink and food in Elm Street Park. Aside from the opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones, Board Chairperson Peter Gray spent a few minutes reviewing highlights on the Trail this past year. Among the many accomplishments of the Coalition since June 2006, Peter noted the vast improvement in the condition of the Trail east of Rock Creek, (see article on page 5), the new 'anti-graffiti' fence in the tunnel under Wisconsin Avenue, the amazing survey of Trail use completed by over 100 CCCT members lead by Board Treasurer Wayne Phyllaier, ongoing efforts by the Board to enhance safety on the trail (see article on page 1), progress towards building a rest area/plaza by River Road and the trail (see article on page 5), monitoring of the Purple Line Focus Groups, meeting with developers in and across from Lot 31 in Bethesda, and continued monitoring of the proposed Boathouse in Georgetown. In addition, Peter announced the continuation on the board of all its current members with the exception of Andy O'Hare who can no longer remain on the Board. Isaac Hantman will be the new Board Vice Chairperson, taking over for Ernie Brooks. Other Board officers will continue for the next year in which the Coalition will continue its efforts to make the Capital Crescent Trail a safer and more enjoyable trail for all the walkers, bicyclists, joggers, and others who make the trail the most popular one in the DC metro area.

Bike To Work Day

Bike to Work Day was a great success this year.

There were 6600 participants, many arriving from convoys leaving from 18+ locations. About 25 people in the Bethesda convoy left the Bethesda trailhead down the Capital Crescent Trail. Prior to the 7 am departure, the Bethesda Urban Partnership (BUP) provided a "Pit Stop" with breakfast, raffle prizes and celebrity speakers. Councilmember Roger Berliner served as the official MC. He was joined by Councilmember Nancy Floreen, Maryland State Senator Brian Frosh; Maryland State Delegate Susan Lee, State of Maryland Transportation Secretary John Porcari; Bethesda Transportation Advisory Committee members Jim Landry (past chair), Sue Morris (chair), Nelson Cooney (vice chair), Patrick O'Neil (secretary), David Smith, Beryl Neurman, Anne Martin, and Mal Rivkin. Your Board Members were please to chat with Councilmembers who had a first hand view of the deteriorated interim trail conditions east of the Air Rights Building Tunnel. If you didn't make it to the Pit Stop or convoy this year, there is always next year. See you there!



**We urge ALL users to exercise greater caution, courtesy and alertness.
Please follow the safety tips below:**

All Users:

- Wear a mirror on your helmet, eye glass temple piece, or hat Available at bike stores or on line (google, "bicycle mirror")
- STAY ALERT, TURN OFF YOUR iPOD
- Stay to the right
- Do NOT block the trail when stopping
- Do NOT block the trail by going 3 or 4 abreast
- Look behind you from time to time
- Pass ONLY after looking behind you
- Pass ONLY after a loud warning
- Pass ONLY on the left
- Pass ONLY if you have a 2 foot clearance
- When dark, wear reflective clothes
- When dark, carry a light
- Yield to others when entering the trail
- Yield to others at crosswalks
- STOP at stop signs, they indicate dangerous cross car traffic

Parents:

- PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN, keep them to the right!
- Do not let your children ramble freely across the trail
- Stay immediately behind or to the left of your children

Bikers and Bladers:

In addition to the above:

- Keep safe, reasonable speed
- Adjust speed to trail congestion and surface conditions
- Be predictable
- Wear a Helmet
- Warn with a loud bell, whistle or voice at least 2 seconds BEFORE overtaking someone

Hikers and Walkers:

- TURN OFF YOUR iPOD
- Do NOT READ while on the trail
- If warned before being passed, call out, "Thanks for the warning"
- If NOT warned before being passed, politely call out, "Please warn before passing"

Pet Owners:

- Keep your pet on a very short leash (required by law!)
- Treat your pet as you would a child

**Be Alert
Be Aware**

Bells and Whistles – A Collision Can Ruin Your Whole Day!

Or ruin your week, month, year! This maritime adage is equally true ashore, on streets or on trails. Busy trails like the Capital Crescent are particularly vulnerable. Nobody wants a collision, but many have occurred when bicyclists and rollerbladers when overtaking slower trail users, did not warn them that they were about to be passed.

Six years ago, to emphasize the importance of warning before passing and to make it easy for bicyclists and bladers to do so, the Coalition started providing bells for bicyclists and whistles for bladders at no charge. Saturday mornings in good weather, our "Bells and Whistles" team, armed with screw drivers and

wrenches, is stationed at the rest area near Bethesda Avenue to install bells (and squeeze horns for youngsters). We sometimes gently advise trail users to bike at reasonable and safe speeds, to give warning before passing, to keep at least one ear free of earphones, to keep the dog at short leash, to keep to the right, and to stay alert on the Trail. Our teams appreciate the opportunity to reach out to and to hear from all Trail users—walkers, bikers, roller bladers, or other users—on how to improve the Capital Crescent Trail experience for everyone, while making the Trail safer.

Interim CCT Repaired East of Rock Creek

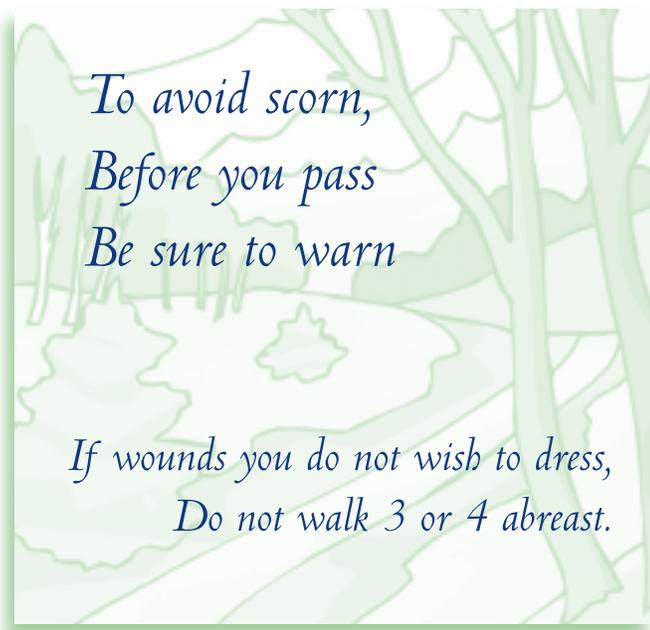
If you have been avoiding the Trail east of Rock Creek because it was badly eroded, you should revisit it. This section of the Trail is now in very good condition, and is free from the crowding that is sometimes experienced elsewhere on the CCT.

The Interim CCT was closed to trail traffic east of Rock Creek through May and much of June, 2007. The Trail was closed so DPWT could construct new storm water drains and resurface the trail over the approx. ½ mile long section between the east end of the Rock Creek trestle and the Lyttonsville Place bridge underpass. DPWT had regraded this section of trail numerous times since its opening in 1996, but these repairs usually lasted less than a year until the next major storm badly eroded the Trail yet again. The work DPWT performed this spring was much more substantive – including a storm water study, modifications to the existing drains, new drain boxes, regrading the ditches on the side of the Trail and lining them with rip rap, and resurfacing the Trail with crushed stone. This repair should last for many years because the underlying drainage problem has finally been addressed.

On July 5 Council Members Nancy Floreen (at-large) and Valerie Ervin (district 5) walked the newly repaired trail with CCCT Chair Peter Gray and Treasurer Wayne Phyllaier. Peter thanked both Councilmembers on behalf of the CCCT for their strong support for this project. Councilmembers Floreen and Ervin both expressed their continuing support for other important CCCT goals, in particular to repair the Interim CCT trail surface near the Bethesda tunnel and to have DPWT complete its assessment of the measures CCCT has proposed to improve trail safety from Bethesda to D.C.



July 5, 2007
From left to right – Nancy Floreen, Councilmember At-large;
Valerie Ervin, Councilmember for District 5; Peter Gray, CCCT Chair;
Benjamin Stutz, Legislative Aide to Councilmember Ervin.
In front – “Tramp”



River Road Plaza

After ten years and many false starts, light is appearing at the end of the tunnel with regards to building a rest area and plaza at the intersection of the Trail and River Road. CCCT has succeeded in removing parking from the east side of the Trail at the north end of the River Road Bridge. We are now in discussions with the Montgomery County Parks Department to establish a Private-Public Partnership to build a trail plaza there, to include a water fountain, map kiosk, benches, bike parking, and possibly some greenery. Councilmember Roger Berliner's office has been helping us find our way through agency jurisdiction issues. In addition, CCCT is working with architects retained by the Citizen's Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, to design the Plaza in some detail as required by Parks. Stay tuned for more developments in the months to come.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER PATROLLER

For the Montgomery County Park Police

by fill out the application at: <http://www.mc-mncppc.org/team/application.pdf>
or call **Officer Lauryn McNeill** at 301-962-1646.

For the CCT in DC contact National Park Service

email **David Tune** of the NPS at David_Tune@NPS.gov or
Norman Liebow, Senior Volunteer Patroller at Liebow@comcast.net.

Free training includes CPR and First Aid.

Volunteer Patrollers do not engage in enforcement actions;
they monitor, inform, educate, and call Park Rangers or Police as needed.

SEND US ACCIDENT REPORTS

If you have witnessed or been in an accident on the trail, please send your story to contact@cctrail.org, or
CCCT, P.O. Box 30703, Bethesda MD 20824.

Many trail accidents go unreported. Reports tell us what the problems are and how to prevent them. Accident stories can be shared with trail users via our website and newsletter and can motivate trail users to improve their behavior and courtesy. Privacy will be maintained.

“Let no one say, and say to your shame –
All was beauty here, until you came.”

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.

Please make the Trail a better place. Consider picking up someone else's litter.



Are you thinking of becoming a CCT commuter?

Hundreds of cyclists use the CCT every day to get to work. It is a great way to lose some weight and lighten your gasoline bill. The Washington Area Bicyclist Association has a commuter assistance program to help new cycling commuters get started.

See "Getting There By Bike" at their website, www.waba.org.



Now you may donate/renew with your credit card via the CCCT web site!
Visit www.cctrail.org to use our secured method.

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 AVAILABLE AS A FOLDING POCKET MAP.

**Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail
P.O. Box 30703
Bethesda, MD 20824**

THIS MAP IS FREE TO ALL NEW MEMBERS.

Make your tax-deductible contribution checks payable to: The Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail.

Mail to the address above. Or, visit our web site to donate/renew with a credit card.

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, FOR ACTION ALERTS and TRAIL UPDATES.

Safety is NO Accident

Courtesy is Contagious



CCCT
P.O. Box 30703
Bethesda, MD 20824

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Wash., DC

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NEW UPDATE!

Bethesda Air Rights Building Tunnel Graffiti

Your Coalition has given a considerable sum toward the erection of a very hard to climb, razor wire topped, fence in the Bethesda Tunnel to prevent vandal access to the tunnels' walls. Over several months, the fence a done a superb job of blocking new graffiti vandalism.

What You Can Do!

REPORT GRAFFITI where ever you see it as soon as you see it:

Always report it to the Bethesda Police (always ASAP): 301-652-9200 • wayne.jerman@montgomerycountymd.gov

If it is on County Property report it to:

Graffiti Abatement –
Kathy Paunil
301-989-1638 or 301-989-1570
KPaunil1@verizon.net

If it is on Private Property report it to:

Montgomery County Housing –
Linda Bird
240-777-3671
Linda.Bird@montgomerycountymd.gov

If it is on the Air Rights Building report it to:

Jones Lang LaSalle Management –
301-469-3037
Mary.Seonarain@sm.jll.com