

# The Capital Crescent Trail

A NATURAL ADDITION TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

OCTOBER 1989



## CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL \$4 MILLION CLOSER TO REALITY

Congress appropriated \$4 million dollars on October 2 to the National Park Service—about 40 percent of what is needed—to purchase the Georgetown Branch railroad corridor in the District of Columbia.

"We are ecstatic," said Kate Kent, Coalition Coordinator. "The competition for federal funds was incredibly stiff."

Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees worked out an agreement in Conference Committee after the two houses had passed sharply different versions of the bill. Ideally, the remaining funds needed to complete the acquisition will be provided in the next budget cycle.

CCCT pulled out all stops in an effort to persuade the Conference Committee to authorize funds. During the August congressional recess, Board members Chris Brown and Beth Dillon drafted a letter to each conferee and persuaded 17 national and local organizations to sign on in support of the trail.

Also, in response to concerns expressed by an Interior Appropriations Subcommittee staffer about the level of neighborhood support for the trail,

Tony Czajkowski, of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Citizen Coalition, and Leonard Meeker, from the Palisades Citizens Association, wrote to both House and Senate Committee Chairs supporting the trail and acquisition of the District of Columbia portion.

In addition, CCCT was able to obtain a letter from the Montgomery County Council stating their support for acquisition and their intention of building the Maryland portion of the trail all the way to the District line.

Finally, numerous CCCT supporters wrote and called their federal legislators in response to a CCCT alert.

"We especially appreciate the support of Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) and Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) in this effort," said Charles Montagne, Public Affairs coordinator for CCCT. "In addition, both Montgomery County Representatives, Connie Morella (R-Md.) and Beverly Byron (D-Md.) provided critical assistance by testifying forcefully and lobbying hard in favor of the appropriation."

CCCT also thanks Montgomery County Executive Sydney Kramer and the seven members of the County

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## MONTGOMERY COUNCIL SUPPORTS TRAIL

On September 15 Montgomery County gave its strongest indication yet of its support for the Capital Crescent Trail. In a letter to the leaders of the House and Senate Appropriation Committees, all seven of Montgomery County's Councilmembers asked for Congressional acquisition of the District of Columbia section of the Georgetown Branch. Although the County has not yet made a decision on construction of a light rail line, they said in their letter that "as individual Councilmembers we do strongly support use of the right-of-way for a trail."

The Council letter supported the acquisition as "comparable to the foresight shown by those who made it possible for us to enjoy today the beauty of Rock Creek Park and the C&O Canal Historic Park ...." Recognizing the importance of trail networks, they went on to say: "Only by building the complete trail will we be able to complete the network of trails linking Maryland, Virginia and the District."

Meanwhile, on October 17 and 19 the Montgomery County Council will hold a public hearing on the Georgetown Branch Master Plan Amendment. In the amendment, the County Executive and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) have recommended that the council authorize a combined transitway and

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**VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR TRAIL CLEANUP:** The Coalition works hard to keep the Capital Crescent Trail open and passable for hiking. You can help clear fallen trees and ground brush by participating in a work trip scheduled for October 28. Anyone interested in helping should contact the CCCT office at 234-4874. Volunteers will be meeting on the trail at 9:30 am.

## MEMBERS OF THE COALITION FOR A CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL

American Forestry Association  
 American Hiking Society  
 AYH — Potomac Area Council  
 Appalachian Mountain Club  
 (D.C. Chapter)  
 Arlington County Bike Club  
 Audobon Naturalist Society  
 Blue Ridge Voyageurs  
 Capital Hiking Club  
 Citizens Association 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 Association of  
Bicycling Organizations  
 Montgomery County Citizens  
 Bicycle Committee  
 Montgomery County Outdoor  
 Education Association  
 Montgomery County Road Runners  
 National Handicapped Sports and  
 Recreation Association  
 N.I.H. Bicycle Commuting Club  
 National Parks and Conservation  
 Association  
 National Recreation and Parks  
 Association  
 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  
 Association  
 Washington Canoe Club  
 Washington Running Club  
 Washington Women Outdoors

## CCCT RAFFLE DRAWS WINNERS

The Coalition's 2nd annual Raffle was a big success, raising \$6,000 for CCCT activities. The grand prize, an all-terrain mountain bike donated by the Bicycle Place, went to Nancy Gallelli.

First prize, a Gauley River overnight whitewater rafting trip donated by New River Scenic Whitewater Tours, was won by Mr. & Mrs. Ralston.

Second Prize, a sleeping bag donated by REI, Inc., went to Teresa Cleaver.

Third prize, his and hers fleece Jackets donated by Patagonia, Inc., went to Dr. and Mrs. D. McNellis.

Fourth prize, a bed and breakfast overnight for two donated by Black Creek Inn, was won by Dixie Moore.

And fifth prize, a bicycle tune-up donated by Metropolis Bicycle, went to Mrs. Harry S. Galblum.

The incentive prize for most tickets sold, went to Steve Karlin.

Thanks to the many volunteers who worked on the raffle and to REI, Inc., for allowing tickets to be sold at their College Park store.

## \$4 million . . .

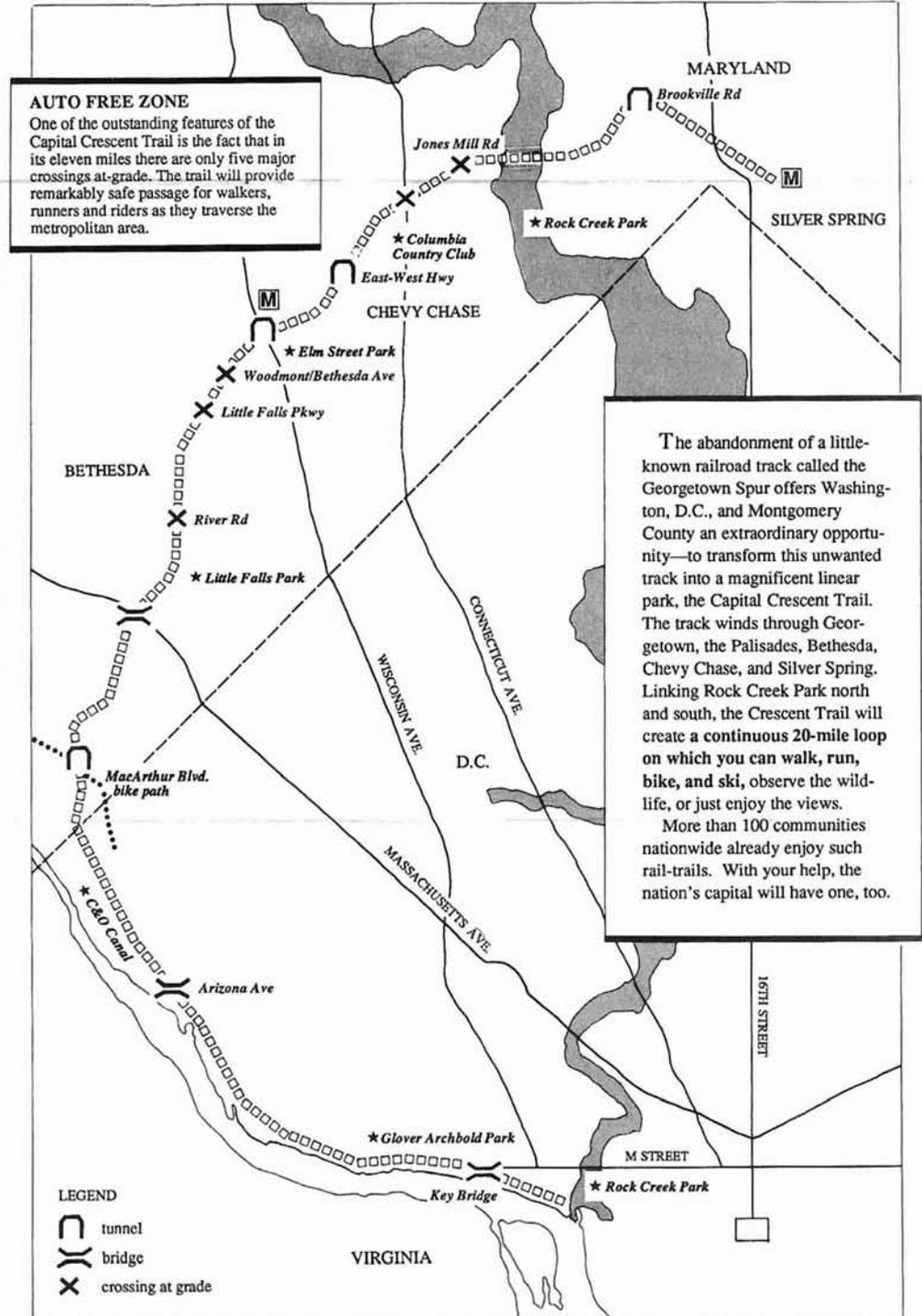
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Council for their letters in support of the proposed trail and in favor of the congressional appropriation.

The \$4 million was a compromise between the House, which appropriated \$6 million on June 29, and the Senate, which offered no appropriation on July 27.

## SLIDE SHOW AVAILABLE

Do you know of a club or citizen's group that could support the Capital Crescent Trail and would like to learn more about it? The Coalition offers a 20-minute slide show that portrays the Trail's potential as an urban greenway, and describes Coalition activities to secure it. Please contact Beth Dillon at 343-3766 (work) to request a presentation or for further information.



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL . . .

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trail between Bethesda and Silver Spring.

Although CCCT has not taken a position on the trolley, we have several concerns about the specifics of the trail design. CCCT representatives have already testified in favor of keeping the trail through the tunnel under Wisconsin Avenue instead of rerouting the trail, on-street, through busy downtown Bethesda. CCCT

also has supported a bridge over Connecticut avenue. M-NCPPC did include our suggestions in the final draft of the Master Plan Amendment. Unfortunately the County Executive has recommended against the Connecticut Avenue bridge.

CCCT will testify at the October 17 hearing — one of our last chances to demonstrate to the Council the enormous support in the County for a quality, off-street trail.

The section of the trail west of Bethesda to the District of Columbia line will be dealt with as a separate issue by the Montgomery County Council. On October 30 the Council will hold a public hearing on the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan, which includes proposals for use of the railroad corridor.

CCCT urges all trail supporters to attend this hearing to show their support for the trail. The hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Office Building, 3rd floor hearing room, 100 Maryland Avenue in Rockville.

CCCT wants the Master Plan to recommend that the trail be built and that it stay on the original right of way. At this time there are a variety of proposals, including an option to use the corridor for an excursion train, which has been deemed by the Coalition to be inconsistent with trail use.



Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail  
c/o Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
1400 16th St., N.W., #300  
Washington, D.C. 20036

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

Add me to your membership list. Enclosed is a donation for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help make the Capital Crescent Trail a reality. (Make check payable to Sierra Club Foundation/CCCT.)

I know of a group that might join the coalition. The group is:

I want to help with:

- research       writing  
 telephoning       artwork  
 leafleting       event organizing

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY      STATE      ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (DAY)      (EVE) \_\_\_\_\_

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