

The Capital Crescent Trail



A NATURAL ADDITION TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1990

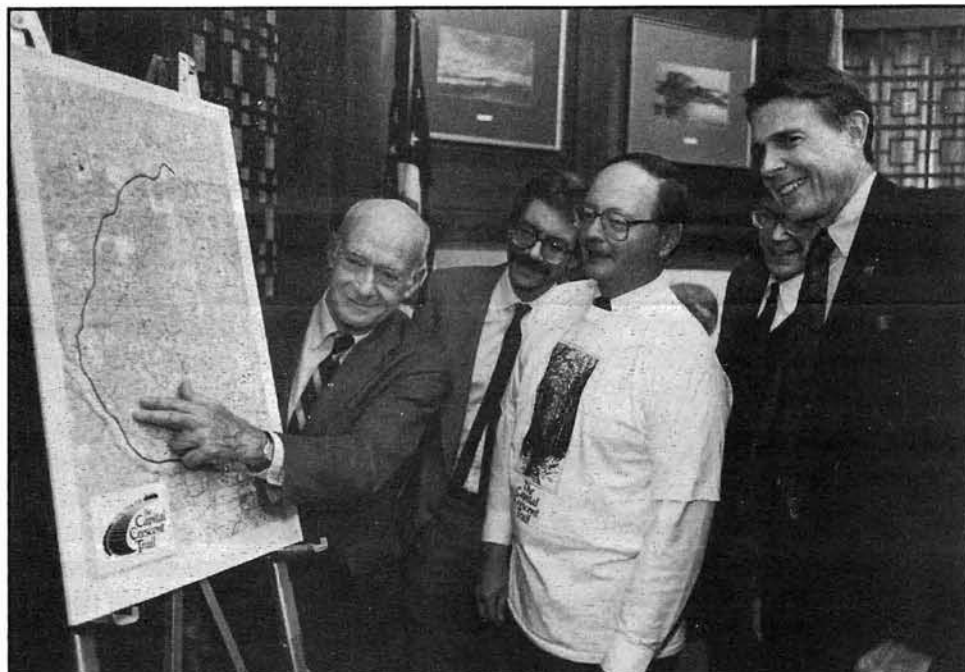
Congress Appropriates \$7 million

CCCT Wins Award

The Capital Crescent Trail is much closer to reality thanks to a recent congressional appropriation providing \$7 million to complete the purchase of the D.C. portion of the Capital Crescent Trail.

To celebrate the occasion, the National Park Service hosted a ceremonial closing at its Department of Interior headquarters.

Undersecretary of the Interior Frank A. Bracken and National Park Service Director James Ridenour presented Take Pride in America awards to Kingdon Gould, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail, for their roles in preserving the corridor



Kingdon Gould points out section of the Capital Crescent Trail he transferred to the National Park Service. Looking on (from left to right) are: Rails-to-Trails Vice President Peter Harnik, National Park Service Director James Ridenour, CCCT boardmember Charles Montange and Undersecretary of Interior Frank A. Bracken. (Photo: Maria Stenzel.)

until the acquisition was complete.

CCCT public affairs coordinator Charles Montange accepted the coalition's award on behalf of CCCT

Chair Henri Bartholomot.

Gould arranged the purchase of the old CSX rail line and held it as a

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The Next Steps for the Coalition

By Charles Montange

The entire Georgetown Branch right-of-way is now in public ownership, Congress has appropriated \$500,000 for construction of the D.C. portion of the Capital Crescent, and Montgomery County has resolved against excursion rail south of Bethesda. What are our next objectives?

There are two obvious goals for the future: to cooperate with the Park Service's efforts to construct all (or almost all) of the D.C. portion of the trail, and to open all, or at least significant sections, of the County portion.

The first hurdle to trail use now is the presence of railroad tracks and ties. There is no reason for them to remain on the ground. The tracks and ties, which are gradually rotting, make the corridor difficult for most users. The Park Service and the County could sell the tracks and ties as "salvage" immediately, under a contract requiring the roadbed to be left smooth and intact. This would permit the entire trail to be used by hikers, walkers, joggers and mountain bikes by next summer.

Further, the proceeds from the sale of the salvage — which CSX has esti-

mated could be several hundred thousand dollars — could be devoted to trail construction at no cost to taxpayers.

The County's initial priorities, which could be funded from "salvage" proceeds, should be: 1) construction of a paved section employing the Dalecarlia Tunnel under MacArthur Boulevard linking Little Falls to the D.C. portion of the trail under construction by the Park Service; 2) construction of a paved section linking the Bethesda business district to the

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BRIEFLY SPEAKING

CCCT Help Wanted

Coalition Member Liaison:

Write regular updates and circulate press releases and event calendars to CCCT member organizations.

Bulk Mail Coordinator: Organize bulk-mailing parties and volunteers; ready made list of volunteers available.

Slide Show Coordinator: Update the CCCT slide show and serve as the primary contact for slide show requests.

Tables Coordinator: Coordinate requests for setting up CCCT table at various events; ready made list of volunteers available.

Community Outreach Coordinator: Chair the Community Outreach Committee, outline various outreach strategies, provide leadership on issues involving communities' concerns about the trail.

Retail Outlet Contacts: Adopt a store and maintain a steady supply of CCCT literature and merchandise.

Call the CCCT office at 202-234-4874 to help out!

WABA Chair Donates Computer Software

The Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail is forever indebted to Bill Silverman, chairman of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, who graciously donated his individually programmed database management system.

The Small Organization Office System is specifically designed to handle membership lists, volunteer and project management, and bulk mail sorting. As the coalition continues to grow, all of these elements become more crucial to the success of the organization.

With the new software, one push of a button produces any kind of list imaginable, not to mention labels upon request.

Volunteers who have participated in bulk mailing parties can appreciate the automatic bundling and sorting this program allows. For CCCT Coordinator Debora Cackler, "It's been a life saver."

Silverman hopes to make the program available to non-profits in the future.

Take a Hike!

It's time for the annual Coalition for The Capital Crescent Trail hike.

Join us on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 8 for an enjoyable and scenic hike along the trail.

For additional information please call Kate Kent 301-209-7335 (in the evenings) or 202-862-9740 (during the day).

CCCT T-Shirts For The Holidays!

The new CCCT T-shirt will make a great gift for anyone! This heavy-weight 50/50 poly/cotton white T-shirt features a scene along the Capital Crescent Trail in black ink with a yellow sun setting over the tracks. Available in adult sizes small, medium, large and extra large; introductory price: \$9.95.

Quantity _____ Size(s) _____ Total Price _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Send check payable to CCCT, P.O. Box 30703, Bethesda, MD 20824

On The Trail Of Wildlife

By Kevin Kernan

In four years of working and hiking the The Capital Crescent Trail, I have had quite a lot of exposure to the local wildlife. For a person who has learned to respect the sometimes forgotten part of our world, this has been a wonderful treat.

During many hours on the trail I've seen deer, raccoons, opossum, skinks, salamanders, three kinds of snakes (one of which I could not identify) and a walking stick, which is similar to a praying mantis. I have also encountered a family of foxes and numerous box turtles.

There are many kinds of birds — I can't name all of them because it would take up the whole newsletter. Please look hard for these animals when hiking and enjoy them when you see them.

Now, here's a poem I wrote about the trail.

The Tale of the Capital Crescent Trail

*There once was a little rail, That suddenly was for sale.
The people were so excited, That this rail could be divided.
But then a Group jumped in, And formed a Coalition.
They all were volunteers, And Planned to work for years.
With all their fine minds, They created the end of the line.
Now this little rail, Is the Capital Crescent Trail.*

COUNCIL REJECTS EXCURSION TRAIN

The Capital Crescent Trail overcame a major hurdle in getting a trail from south of Bethesda to the District line when the Montgomery County Council voted in late October to eliminate further consideration of freight and excursion trains.

By keeping the freight and excursion rail option alive, progress on this portion of the trail had been thwarted for nearly two years. Efforts to get the Council to reach a resolution on the issue began last January when the County Executive, County Parks Department, Georgetown Task Force, key neighborhoods, and the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail, testified against excursion rail at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan hearings.

After the Council failed to take any decisive action, CCCT expressed deep concern and asked the Council to clarify its intended use of the corridor. Council members stated they would consider excursion rail only if it could run alongside a high quality hiker-biker trail without adding substantially to the cost of the trail project and without disrupting the corridor.

To help the Council resolve the issue, several CCCT board members and volunteers documented places along the corridor where substantial expenses and trail disruptions would occur. In September, a Council subcommittee reviewed CCCT's documentation and concluded that the price of repairs to the Bradley Boulevard and Massachusetts Avenue bridges and the MacArthur Boulevard tunnel outweighed the benefits of a weekend tourist train.

The subcommittee recommended that the County not consider excursion rail any further, and on October 22 the County Council voted 4-2 to drop the excursion rail issue.

Councilmembers Bruce Adams, Isaiah Leggett, Michael Gudis and Michael Subin voted in favor, while Council Chair William Hanna, and Councilwoman Rose Crenca voted against the resolution to drop the excursion rail issue.

The elimination of excursion rail frees the Montgomery County Parks Department to proceed with trail planning south of Bethesda. The next issue needing Council support will be trail funding in Fiscal Year 1991.

The Next Steps

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Bethesda Pool; and 3) construction of an interim limestone (or comparable surface) trail on the remainder.

Numerous bureaucratic hurdles must yet be crossed in the County. For example, the Parks Department apparently is worried about scheduling the Capital Crescent for construction until the department's "stream valley" trail system is completed.

The projected completion date for that system is between 2010 and 2050, depending on the pace of construction. We definitely cannot afford to wait that long for the most important new trail in the metropolitan area.

CCCT Raffles Prizes

CCCT selected its raffle winners Nov. 17. Thanks to all the retailers for donating such generous prizes and congratulations to all the winners:

Brian Henderson: 18-speed bike; Big Wheel Bikes
Morris Chalick: 12-speed bike; Century Bikes
Lisa Swanson: Skis; Hudson Trail Outfitters
Tom Florence: Berkenstock sandals; Walk Lightly
Wayne Phyllaier: Rollerblades; Racquet and Jog
Dixie Moore: \$100 gift certificate; Tommy Hilfiger
George Boinis: Bell Image helmet; Bike Nashbar
Andrea Cambell: Goretex hiking boots; REI
William Dimmer: Bell Quest helmet; Metropolis
Marshall Rea: Bike tune-up; Bicycle Exchange

Congratulations to the top ticket sellers, who will be awarded incentive prizes for their hard work: Kate Kent, Joe Howard and Kevin Kernan.

Major Donors Of 1990

CCCT would like to thank the following individuals, organizations and foundations, whose generous donations kept the coalition in business during 1990.

Individuals

Hilda S. Warner
Leonard C. Weltman
Kingdon Gould
Peter H. Miller
John and Joann Nolen
Ralph A. Luken
R. Michael Gadbaw
John and Janet Wintrol
Andrea C. Ferster
Abigail C. Nichols
Mr. and Mrs. J. Price Gittinger
Steven Sharpe
Christopher Herman
Thomas L. Robertson, Jr.
Marjorie C. Willcox
Gretchen N. Schwartz
Marco and Lydia Adelfio
Harry and Suzanne Horstman
Paul R. Lang
Pauline Rabin, M.D.
Mike Gerech

Coalition Members

Wanderbirds Hiking Club of D.C.
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal
Association, Inc.
Capital Hiking Club
Montgomery County Road Runners
Club, Inc.
Audubon Naturalist Society
of the Central Atlantic States, Inc.

Foundations

Marcia Brady Tucker Foundation
Jacob and Annita France
Foundation, Inc.
Robert G. and Anne M. Merrick
Foundation, Inc.
Merrill G. and Emta E. Hastings
Foundation
Edmund A. Stanley Foundation
Hechinger Foundation

**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



Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail
1516 P St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

**Congress Funds Trail,
Local Bikeways**

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public trust until acquisition funds were appropriated.

The House and Senate also cleared \$675,000 to improve bikeways in the D.C. area. Bartholomot said "\$500,000 of this is to complete planning of the D.C. portion of the Capital Crescent, and to reconstruct the Arizona Avenue Bridge for hiker/biker use."

Construction of the trail could begin during the next 12 months, opening the D.C. portion to hikers and, potentially, mountain bikes, he said.

The Arizona Avenue Bridge, which crosses Canal Road and the C&O Canal, currently has a temporary deck, but the National Park Service closed it because of safety concerns.

Montange expressed appreciation to Maryland Reps. Constance Morella (R) and Beverly Byron (D) and Sens. Barbara Mikulski (D) and Paul Sarbanes (D) for their efforts on behalf of the \$7 million appropriation.

He also thanked Reps. Morella, Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and Frank Wolf (R-Va.), the two Maryland senators and Virginia Sens. Charles Robb (D), and John Warner (R) for their support on local trails.

EDITORS

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DESIGNER

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