

The Capital Crescent Trail



A NATURAL ADDITION TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

JULY-SEPTEMBER 1990

House OKs \$7 million for Trail

The House subcommittee on Interior Appropriations included \$7 million--the full amount requested--to acquire the D.C. portion of the Capital Crescent in its 1991 appropriations bill.

This bill was approved by the subcommittee on July 25. The same figure is expected from the Senate, which will likely address its Interior budget in September.

The \$7 million is the second and final appropriation needed to secure public ownership of the Capital Crescent Trail between Georgetown and the Maryland line. Last year, Congress appropriated \$4 million toward the purchase of the right of way. (The House appropriated the full \$11 million, but after the Senate zeroed it out, a \$4 million compromise was reached.) The Senate is expected to be more supportive this year because acquisition of the corridor was included in the President's budget.

Montgomery County already owns the seven miles from the D.C. line to Silver Spring.

Currently, the National Park Service is leasing the corridor from Kingdon Gould, who purchased the D.C. portion of the corridor from CSX Corp. in 1988 and placed it in a trust fund until the Park Service could purchase it.

In other promising news, the sub-



The trail maintenance committee has spent the past few months clearing the trail of debris and overgrowth, while placing CCCT posters at various points along the corridor. (Photo: Maria Stenzel.)

Trail Maintenance Difficult, But Rewarding for Stewards

By Pat Stallsmith

During the past two months, the Trail Maintenance Committee has accomplished a great deal!

Recently, we have concentrated on the area between Connecticut Avenue and River Road, where there were three large trees over the tracks. We also decided to get rid of the impenetrable weeds near Dorset Avenue, as well as the trash radiating out from Bethesda Avenue.

Aside from the three trees, which were cut up and removed by Kevin Kernan and his crew, we also got rid of branches on the track in the Little Falls Parkway area. The track has been completely cleared of undergrowth from River Road to Little Falls Parkway.

The Trail Maintenance Committee formed in July when nine CCCT members and Coordinator Debora Cackler met and decided to divide the trail into maintenance sections. Each committee member is a steward for a certain section of the 11-mile route. We maintain the trail on the last Sunday of each month.

My husband, Frank Carlson, and I maintain the track between the Air Rights

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BRIEFLY SPEAKING

CCCT Launches New Outreach Program

CCCT has established a Community Outreach Committee to inform area communities about the Capital Crescent Trail.

The committee has met twice during the past several months to lay the foundation for CCCT's new outreach program. It plans to expand on work already done by the many volunteers who have shown our slide show and met with neighborhood groups. Already, the committee has updated the slide show and has prepared an information package for community leaders.

Participating in the new program are Beth Dillon, Tom Willging, Dena Yver, Henri Bartholomot, Bob Sinclair, Chuck Montange, Pat Seitzer, John Wengert, Dave Johnson, Wayne

Delprete, Jennifer Longworth and our Coordinator Debora Cackler. If you are interested or know of a neighborhood group that we should contact, notify Debora at 234-4874.

Take a Hike!

Coalition volunteers will soon be leading monthly hikes along the Capital Crescent Trail, highlighting the route's history as well as its native habitat and wildlife.

If you are interested in leading a hike you should attend the "leadership training session," which will include a hike along the 11-mile trail route, on September 29. For additional information, please call Debora Cackler at 234-4874.

Hikes will be advertised through local newspapers and organizational newsletters. Anyone is welcome to participate!

Volunteers Kick Off Fall Fundraising

Concerned about CCCT's economic survival, a group of volunteers has kicked off several fall fundraising projects.

Perhaps most ambitious is the raffle being organized by Tom Barrett. In addition, our former Coordinator Kate Kent is spearheading a "major donor" campaign to raise funds from individuals who have given generously to us in the past.

Anyone interested in fundraising for the Capital Crescent Trail should contact Debora Cackler at 234-4874. Even if you can only spare a few hours, there are many ways you can help—selling raffle tickets, drafting a letter appealing for donations or just stuffing envelopes—and your time will be greatly appreciated.

The New Fall Fashion

Enjoy the great fall weather wearing a new CCCT T-shirt!

This attractive 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.



(picture enlarged for detail)

Quantity_____ Size(s)_____ Total Price_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____

Zip_____

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

Buy Raffle Tickets, Win a Mountain Bike!

The Capital Crescent Trail recently kicked off its most important grass-roots fundraising efforts—the annual raffle—which will award an 18-speed mountain bike, a cross-country ski package and hiking boots to its top winners.

"This raffle is critical to the fundraising efforts of the Coalition," said Tom Barrett, coordinator of this year's raffle, "and its success is dependent on the involvement of many people."

Tickets, which went on sale in early September are \$2 per ticket, \$10 for six tickets and \$20 for 15 tickets.

Ten prizes will be awarded, including two incentive prizes for the highest ticket sellers, at the November 17 drawing.

This year's ticket sales will focus on retail outlets, with CCCT volunteers setting up tables at REI, Hudson Trail Outfitters, Big Wheel Bikes, Racquet and Jog, Bike Nashbar, the Bicycle Exchange, Metropolis Bikes and other area locations.

If you would like to help with the raffle, even just to sell tickets for a few hours, please contact Tom Barrett during the day at 296-7800.

Trail Stewards Keep Corridor Clear

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Tunnel and Connecticut Avenue. We have picked up two tires that had been thrown onto the railbed, and have removed a great deal of litter. With our small weed wacker, scythe, hand-

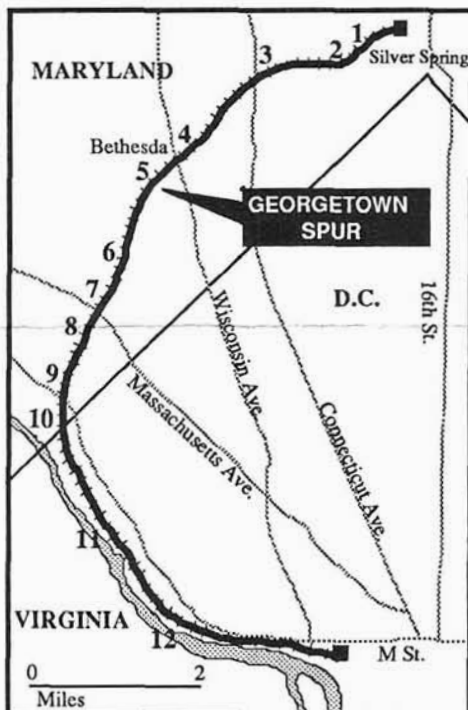
clippers and garbage bags, we are notably making progress combating the giant weeds and trash.

Why do we do this? It is beautiful under the tall trees that tower above the trail. The wildflowers are abundant. Depending on the season, we see crown-vetch, potato vine, chicory, Queen Anne's lace and touch-me-not. We once saw a snake sunning near the fenced off trestle that spans Rock Creek, and we often see box turtles.

Walking through tunnels and over the bridges gives a different perspective to the Washington area. The Dalecarlia Tunnel, with the date 1910 set into its brick structure is a historical reminder of the old railroad days. The trip over Bradley Boulevard and Massachusetts Avenue on foot give an elevated view of Bethesda.

Many new trail maintenance volunteers have joined our efforts and we look forward to seeing more of them out on the trail the last Sunday of every month.

If you want to volunteer for this type of healthy outdoor activity give CCCT a call (234-4874). It is a challenging and rewarding experience. We feel proud to be part of preserving this irreplaceable and attractive resource in our community.



TRAIL STEWARDS: 1-2. Tom Willging; 2-3. Larry Field; 3-4. Frank Carlson, Pat Stallsmith; 4-5. Larry Cox, 5-6. Alan Benedict; 6-7. Doug Engle; 7-10. Vacant; 10-11. Kevin and Lisa Kernan; 11-12. Dave Johnson.

COALITION MEMBERS

American Forestry Association
American Hiking Society
AYH — Potomac Area Council
Appalachian Mountain Club Arlington
County Bike Club
Audubon 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 Assn of Bicycling Organizations
Montgomery Co. Outdoor Education Assn
Montgomery County Road Runners
National Handicapped Sports and Recreation Association
N.I.H. Bicycle Commuting Club
National Parks and Conservation Assn.
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
Wanderbirds Hiking Club
Washington Area Bicyclist Association
Washington Canoe Club
Washington Running Club
Washington Women Outdoors

House approves trail improvements

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committee—responding to requests from the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and other bicycling and recreational groups—approved \$650,000 in improvements for Washington-area trails.

These include restabilizing the Capital Crescent Trail's Arizona Avenue Bridge and constructing a connector between Crystal City and the Mount Vernon Trail.

The area groups were seeking \$1.5 million in improvements, and they will continue to press for the full amount in the Senate.

**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

Slide Show Available

Do you know of an organization or citizen's group that would like to learn more about the Capital Crescent Trail?

CCCT offers a 20-minute slide show that portrays the trail's potential as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for an urban greenway in Washington, D.C. The slide show, presented by a CCCT volunteer, also describes the Coalition's activities to secure the trail.

Please contact Debora Cackler at 234-4874 for additional information.

CCCT CALENDAR

September 24 - 7 p.m., CCCT meeting, Bethesda Library
September 29 - 8 a.m., Training for CCCT hike leaders.
September 30 - 10 a.m., Trail maintenance crew will work on the trail.
October 29 - 7 p.m., CCCT meeting, Bethesda Library
November 17 - CCCT raffle drawing
December 3 - 7 p.m., CCCT meeting, Bethesda Library

EDITORS

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