

# The Capital Crescent Trail

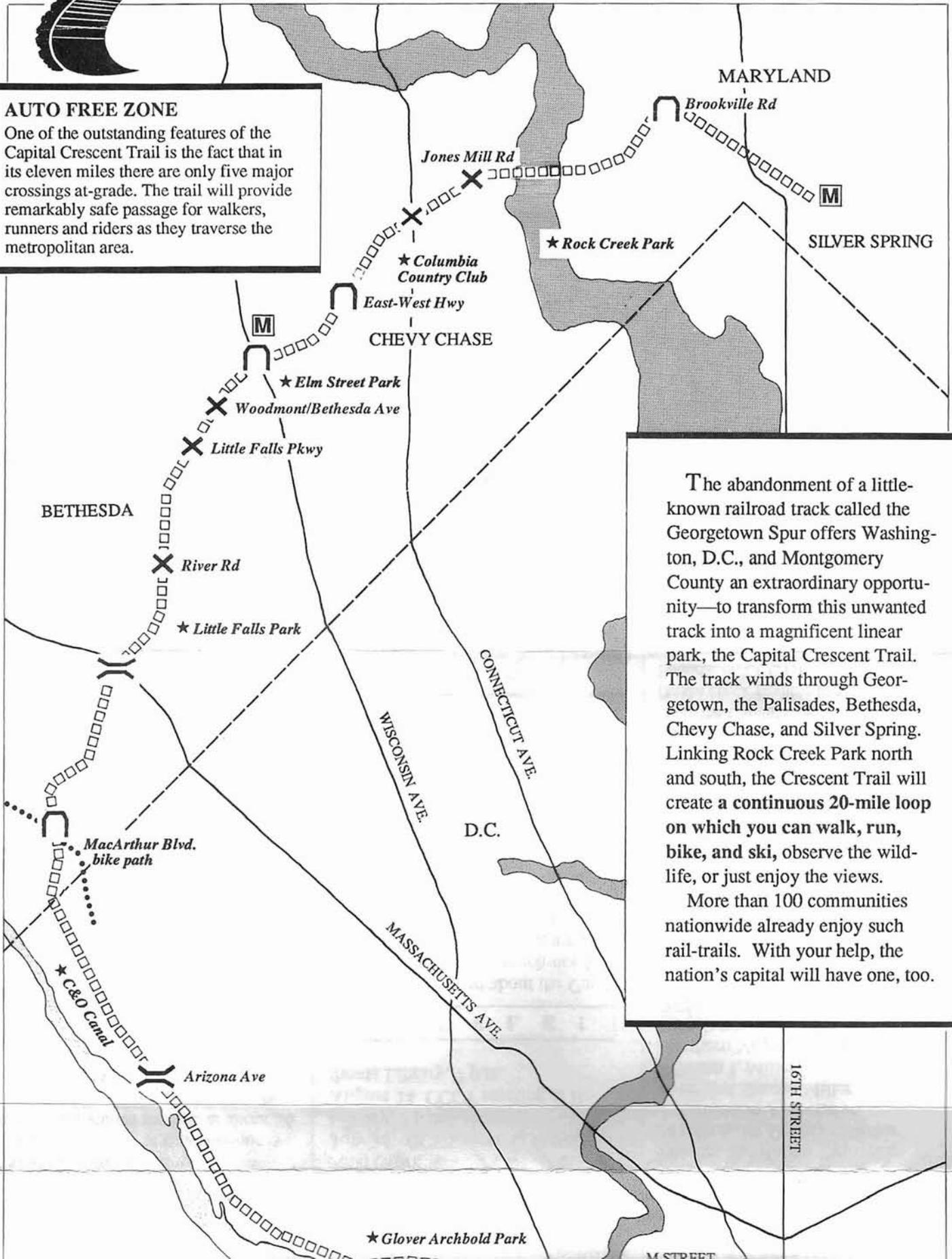
A NATURAL ADDITION TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

June 1988



## AUTO FREE ZONE

One of the outstanding features of the Capital Crescent Trail is the fact that in its eleven miles there are only five major crossings at-grade. The trail will provide remarkably safe passage for walkers, runners and riders as they traverse the metropolitan area.



The abandonment of a little-known railroad track called the Georgetown Spur offers Washington, D.C., and Montgomery County an extraordinary opportunity—to transform this unwanted track into a magnificent linear park, the Capital Crescent Trail. The track winds through Georgetown, the Palisades, Bethesda, Chevy Chase, and Silver Spring. Linking Rock Creek Park north and south, the Crescent Trail will create a continuous 20-mile loop on which you can walk, run, bike, and ski, observe the wildlife, or just enjoy the views.

More than 100 communities nationwide already enjoy such rail-trails. With your help, the nation's capital will have one, too.

COALITION FOR  
**The Capital Crescent Trail**

A RAILS-TO-TRAILS PROJECT

**Acquisition Update**

National Park Service and Montgomery County efforts to acquire the rail line are on a backburner for the moment, due to a bid by developer Kingdon Gould to buy the entire 11-mile strip. He intends to operate freight service on it and ICC regulations put any offer to continue rail service first in line.

However, price is now a major issue. Gould values the line at about \$6 million while CSX Corporation, the railroad's owner, has listed values ranging from \$19 to \$83 million.

Because the parties cannot agree, the ICC will now set a price by early July. Gould will then have 10 days to accept the price or drop his bid. If he chooses not to meet ICC's price, the 180-day waiting period, during which CSX can only sell to a public entity, resumes. Mr. Gould's avowed long-term interest is to preserve rail and transportation options for the entire line.

**Fence Moved, Trail Saved**

A short-term goal for the CCCT is to keep the rail corridor intact and open in order to preserve the option of a park and trail. Fences, roads, and buildings which encroach on the right-of-way are real threats. They block passage and create the perception that a trail is no longer a realistic option.

Thus when Donahoe Construction Company, which is building a new Ourisman Honda dealership in central Bethesda, moved its fences across the corridor in early April, CCCT mobilized fast. The impingement was brought to Donahoe's attention and, in a cooperative spirit, the fences were moved back 30 feet, leaving the corridor intact. The Bethesda Chamber of Commerce and County Council Member Bruce Adams joined CCCT in resolving the conflict.

**Dates to Remember:**

**June 25** Second anniversary hike and rally, 12 noon. Bethesda Avenue at Woodmont. Contact Joshua Gordon, 797-5400.

**June 29** CCCT meeting at Bethesda Library, 7 p.m.

**July 23** Trail-clearing trip. Contact Joe Kaiser, 522-2764 (home), 667-3300 (work).

**July 25** CCCT meeting at Bethesda Library, 7 p.m.

**August 24** CCCT meeting at Bethesda Library, 7 p.m.

**R A F F L E !**

To spread the word about the Capital Crescent and to raise much-needed funds, CCCT is sponsoring a raffle. Sixty-four prizes worth over \$4000 have been donated, including two bicycles, outdoor equipment, and vacation weekends in West Virginia. Tickets are available at REI, CCCT meetings, and numerous outdoor events. Or call Pat Munoz at 547-6900. Grand Drawing on October 20th. *This raffle is made possible by the generous support of REI Coop.*

**Welcome to New Coalition Members (We Now Number 30!)**

Citizens Association of Georgetown  
District of Columbia Road Runners Club  
Potomac Area Council — American Youth Hostels  
Washington Canoe Club

**We're Halfway There**

Thanks to the generosity of individual donors and foundations, we have already brought in more than half of this year's \$50,000 budget. Special thanks to those who contributed \$100 or more:  
American Forestry Association  
Audubon Naturalist Society  
Alice Brown Breese

David G. Burwell  
Peter Collins  
Robert M. Fenichel  
John Fortna  
GNAT Running Club  
Greater Bethesda Chevy Chase Coalition  
Meryl G. and Emita E. Hastings Foundation  
Evelyn and Robert Horn  
Frances and Robert Lawrence  
Montgomery County Outdoor Education Association  
Peter and Shaune Miller  
William I. Miller  
Northern Virginia Volksmarchers  
Rafe Pomerance  
REI Coop  
Jane M. Schnell  
Farwell Smith  
Town Creek Foundation  
Wanderbirds Hiking Club  
WABA  
Wesley and Karen Williams

**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) \_\_\_\_\_  
Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail  
P.O. Box 30703, Bethesda, MD 20814



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