CCCT CALLS ON COUNTY TO PROVE COMMITMENT

The board of directors of CCCT, articulating a growing frustration with Montgomery County’s planning process, has asked the county to demonstrate its commitment to the Capital Crescent Trail by taking three concrete steps by August 1, 1989.

Specifically, the Coalition has officially requested the County to:

(1) promise to keep the trail within the existing corridor and not to shift any of it onto streets;

(2) pursue full funding for the trail, including setting up a meeting with Maryland Gov. William Donald Schaefer to seek the same guarantee of funding for the trail that he has for a light rail system; and

(3) officially name the new park and trail the “Capital Crescent Trail.”

CCCT’s dissatisfaction with the process to date centers on the group’s apparent exclusion from the County’s decision-making process. “Although the Coalition represents the largest and most diverse interest group with a stake in the Georgetown Branch corridor,” explained CCCT Chair Chris Brown, “our efforts to have input in planning its future use have been thwarted on several occasions.”

(Continued on Page 3)
MUSKIE LEADS HIKE ON RAIN-SOAKED TRAIL

On the anniversary of the historic hike by Justice William O. Douglas to preserve the C&O canal, Sen. Edmund Muskie led a walk on the Capital Crescent Trail. Muskie spoke eloquently about the fight to save the trail to over 60 supporters who joined the Senator on the trail, despite the rain.

Noting that it took 20 years to win the battle to preserve the Canal, Muskie encouraged CCCT volunteers to persevere. He has learned, he said, that the time it takes to achieve one's goals is less important when looking back. Muskie has also written The Washington Post on behalf of the trail.

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.
WET BUT REWARDING WILDFLOWER WALK

Undaunted by rain, 11 hardy hikers showed up for a wildflower walk along the Capital Crescent Trail Saturday, April 15. Although some flowers were waiting for the sun, 18 different beauties were spotted between Bethesda and the tunnel under MacArthur Blvd., including trout lilies, toothwort, periwinkle, and lush carpets of marsh marigolds.

Litter bags were distributed at the Dalecarlia Tunnel, and the return trip became a clean-up hike. Much trash was removed, including 188 aluminum cans (which were recycled). Many thanks to Joe Howard, who led the hike.

A tree-planting and bird walk were also held in April. Thanks to Joe Keyser and David Cottingham for their leadership.

RAFFLE

To spread the word about the Capital Crescent Trail and raise much needed funds, CCCT is sponsoring a raffle. Prizes include a trail bike, outdoor equipment, and a weekend trip. The top ticket seller will win a trail bike also. To get tickets to sell or buy for yourself call Kate Kent at (202) 234-4874. The drawing will be held August 26 at the Montgomery County Fair.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail will have its annual meeting June 19, 1989. It will be held at the Bethesda Library at 7:00 pm. We will be voting on our new Board for the next year. CCCT supporters are encouraged to attend. For directions or information call Kate Kent, Coordinator, at (202) 234-4874.

WASHINGTON D.C. APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

On April 28, Representative Constance Morella, who represents Montgomery County, wrote Representative Sidney Yates, Chairman of the Interior Subcommittee on Appropriations to urge him to support the purchase of the Georgetown Branch for the Capital Crescent Trail.

In her letter Morella emphasized the “imperative nature of this purchase,” citing pressure for development and danger of losing the right-of-way that provides views of the Potomac River and the protection of the C&O Canal National Historic Park.

Each year Congress appropriates money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for acquisition of open space for parks. The District of Columbia section of the Georgetown Branch could be purchased by the National Park Service by combining these funds with some money already available.

Morella’s letter indicates both her interest in the purchase and the public support that has been demonstrated to her in letters from her constituents. Thanks to those of you who were able to write letters in response to our Action Alert. Letters of support were also sent by our coalition group members.

Board member Chuck Montange continues to be active on Capital Hill on our behalf. On May 19 he participated in a hike for legislative staffers on the Capital Crescent Trail.
ADVISORY BOARD ADDS LUSTER TO CAPITAL CRESCENT CAMPAIGN

A group of prominent national and Washington area figures have joined the new Advisory Board for the Capital Crescent Trail.

"We're really gratified at the strong support for the trail effort; virtually every prominent person we invited to join immediately signed up," said Peter Harnik, Advisory Board Chair.

The new members are:
Chair, Peter Harnik, Director of Programs, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy;
Senator Edmund Muskie, former Senator and Secretary of State;
Robert Blake, Chairman on Agricultural Sustainability for Developing Countries, World Resources Institute;
Brock Evans, Vice President for National Issues, National Audubon Society;
Doug Wheeler, Executive Vice President, Conservation Foundation;
Robert McNamara, former Secretary of Defense, former President of World Bank;
Gilbert Gude, Author, Former Representative from Maryland;
Henry Diamond, Partner, Beveridge and Diamond, formerly Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State;
Michael McCloskey, Chairman, Sierra Club;
Patrick Noonan, President, Conservation Fund;
Kathleen Douglas Stone, Attorney.

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.