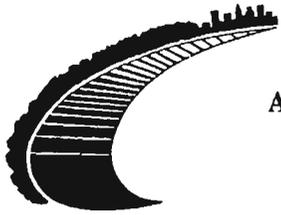


# The Capital Crescent Trail



A NATURAL ADDITION TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL JANUARY-MARCH 1991

## State Doubles Trail/Trolley Cost Estimate

Maryland's Mass Transit Administration recently more than doubled its cost estimate for the trolley/trail project between Bethesda and Silver Spring.

The administration now says the trolley will cost \$170 million and estimates that land acquisition and trail development will range between \$40 million and \$44 million. This is

drastically higher than first estimates.

The latest report from the transit administration, which was requested by the Maryland General Assembly, was presented to the Montgomery County Council Jan. 29. The estimates raised questions about who will bear the burden of the higher costs.

The original agreement between the County and the State called for

Maryland to cover the costs of the trolley system, then estimated at \$70 million, and for the County to take responsibility for any trail-related costs and the purchase of the corridor.

With the new estimates, however, there is some question as to whether the state promised \$70 million, or promised to cover full costs. The issue

**Continued on Page 4**

## Vanishing Points

By Alan Benedict

While maintaining the Capital Crescent Trail last fall, I was caught momentarily in a swirl of fallen oak leaves blowing across my feet, and I paused to watch the leaves disappear with the season down the tracks behind me.

My hands worked on through that morning, but my mind kept searching the tracks, following the path of tumbling oak leaves, back in time.

I began to see images that I had thought were long ago abandoned: my own father, a track supervisor for the PennCentral Railroad ... leaving our home in the middle of the night ... working in a sub-zero snow storm to repair the tracks beneath a derailed train.

And I remembered the spring time, when he organized cross-station scouting trips for no other reason than to let us ride the train and see the delight in our eyes.

A month after my autumn encounter, I set out from the Georgetown riverfront (the former terminus of the Georgetown Spur), arching northward and eastward toward Silver Spring, on an end-to-end hike.

Tempered only by the retreating December sun, I embraced the chill of winter for 11 stumbling miles over uneven railroad ties, indelibly stamping each step of the Capital Crescent alongside my fondest memories.

A romantic? Perhaps, for I believe that this Crescent holds a thousand memories, just waiting to be discovered — memories inspired as we pass through the Dalecarlia tunnel, or cross the trestle high above Rock Creek, or simply observe our surroundings and reflect quietly in places of

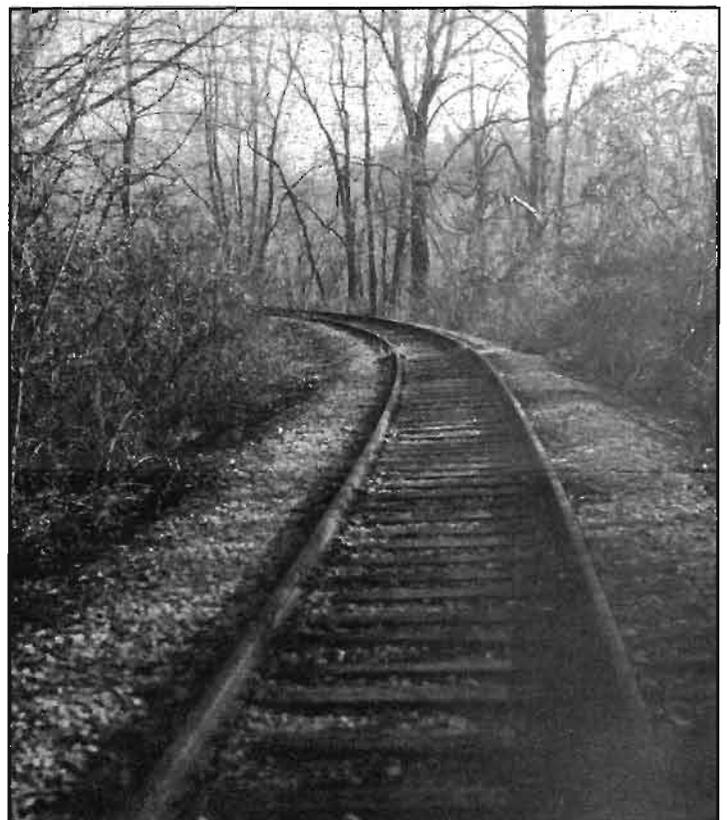


Photo by Peter Harnik

entirely personal meaning.

Through the Coalition's efforts, an abandoned railway will someday be transformed into an accessible, linear park that can be enjoyed by the whole community.

My experiences during the fall and winter months here revealed the Capital Crescent Trail as an oasis for the spirit, stirring memories and strengthening the bond of humanity.

# 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.

**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.

**Photographer:** Help the trail preparation committee document progress along the corridor and contribute pictures to the CCCT newsletter.

**\*Raffle Prize Recruiters:** Contact local businesses to donate prizes for CCCT raffle. A list of friendly businesses already is assembled.

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

**\*Top priority positions.**

## CCCT Collecting Info For New Trail Guide

A five-member committee, headed by Gretchen Schwartz, is collecting information for a new CCCT hiking guide and possible brochure.

Gretchen, a seasoned hiker, has a real appreciation and eye for the unique experience the Capital Crescent Trail offers.

She has been scouting the trail for the best access points as well as collecting historic information and other interesting tidbits.

If you know any information that might be helpful, or, if you are interested in hiking portions of the trail, contact Gretchen at (301) 946-2373.

## IBM Gives CCCT New Computer System

CCCT's office is now equipped with one of the best computer systems on the market, thanks to volunteer Alan Benedict and the IBM Corp.

To recognize and encourage employee involvement in the community, IBM set up the Fund for Community Service, which provides financial support to non-profit organizations that perform community service activities.

The computer, valued at almost \$2,500, was awarded to CCCT based on Alan's level of involvement in CCCT.

The Coalition had been using volunteer Tom Barrett's personal computer since the hard disk drive on CCCT's first computer crashed. From what initially seemed a very grim situation, we've come out miles ahead!

The new computer generates lists, labels and reports quickly and can hold a high volume of information. It has already become an invaluable asset to the Coalition.

## Spring into the season in a CCCT T-Shirt

The new CCCT T-shirt, a heavy-weight 50/50 poly/cotton blend, 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. Price: \$11.75, including postage and handling.

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Size(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Total Price \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

## The Trail Follows The Tracks

By Jean Doing

*When you bend to clear*

*It's easy to hear*

*The clickety clack*

*Of wheels, rumbling back.*

*I like to think*

*That history's link*

*From the C&O Rail*

*Echoes close to the Trail.*

*The Tradition is there*

*It needs work and care*

*Trains pass here no more*

*Tracks outline our chore.*

*So we do not wait*

*While they legislate*

*We stretch, clip and shear*

*To bring our dream near.*

# Trail South Of Bethesda Overcomes Another Obstacle

The trail south of Bethesda overcame another obstacle when the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee approved Montgomery County Executive Neal Potter's request for \$80,000 for the section on Feb. 4.

The project provides funds for a concept plan and development of the 3.3 mile section from Bethesda Avenue to the District line. Also included are funds for design and construction drawings for the section between Bethesda Avenue and Little Falls Parkway.

The funding request was added to the capital program last October when the Montgomery County Council voted 5-2 to no longer consider an excursion train on the right-of-way.

In his Feb. 1 testimony on the Capital Improvement Project, Chairman Henri Bartholomot told the Council, "There are no competing uses of the corridor west of Bethesda, so

there is no reason to delay that part of the trail. Furthermore, the County needs to start work on the trail so the County and Park Service can meet at the D.C. line.

"The Park Service is treating its part of the project as one of its top priorities nationwide, as a potential model trail for the nation. The County should do no less."

During the committee work session, Councilmember Bruce Adams, one of the most outspoken proponents of the trail, also asked the Parks Department to proceed with the CCCT recommendation to assess the salvage value of the rails and ties.

Under the CCCT proposal the roadbed would be configured so that it would be a hiking trail. "If we can have an interim trail put in at no cost to the County, I see no reason why we shouldn't proceed forward. This trail has been held up long enough," Adams said.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Here are the current Country Council members and where to contact them.

District 1	Betty Ann Krahnke	At-large	Bruce Adams
District 2	Nancy Dacek	At-large	Gail Ewing
District 3	William E. Hanna	At-large	Isiah Leggett
District 4	Marilyn J. Praisner	At-large	Michael L. Subin
District 5	Derick P. Berlage		

Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850  
(301) 217-7900.

## 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  
 Brookmont Civic Association  
 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 Outdoor Education Association  
 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 Assn.  
 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 Assn.  
 Washington Canoe Club  
 Washington Running Club  
 Washington Women Outdoors

## Volunteers Work To Keep Trail Corridor Open

Trail clearing has become one of the strongest CCCT activities, drawing on the strength of more than 50 regular volunteers.

Doug Engle, who comes to CCCT with more than a decade of trail experience, has done a terrific job in recent months organizing and mobilizing members on a regular basis. Six volunteers from Girl Scout Junior

Troop 2056, based at Wingate Elementary School, also have helped out.

The focus of activity for the past four months has been on the section running south of River Road to Massachusetts Avenue. More than 250 tires, 10 empty industrial drums, 16 loading palates, several thousand pounds of car parts, an old couch, and more than 45 bags of garbage have been removed

from the trail.

"We've invested as much time in this 400 yards, as we have in all the other trail sections since May," Engle said.

Sally Stevens reported that she drove past the section after dark and "was absolutely amazed at the difference" she noticed -- even from the road.

**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)

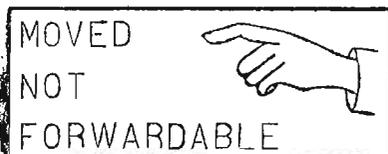
I know of an organization that might join CCCT. The group is:

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

Address Correction Requested



**State Raises Estimates**

Continued from Page 1

will have to be hammered out between County Executive Neal Potter and Gov. William Donald Schaefer. The amount of funding could have a direct impact on the trail's quality.

The latest report, conducted by Bechtel Corp., suggests several cost-cutting measures that would eliminate several options featured in the Georgetown Master Plan Amendment.

CCCT is most concerned about the proposed rerouting of the trail onto downtown Bethesda streets, a street-level crossing at Connecticut Avenue, and the elimination of the Metropolitan Branch Connector, which would put the trail onto streets in Silver Spring.

County Council members are under pressure to decide while the state's budget is under debate, otherwise they risk losing the promised \$70 million. Clarification of the cost-sharing agreement is bound to affect the final Council vote, especially if it is tied to the report's recommendations to cut or defer master plan elements.

The General Assembly is bound by law to adopt a budget by April. The County Council will have to decide how much money to allocate to the trail by May 15th, the deadline for all Capital Improvement Projects.

EDITORS: Karen-Lee Ryan & Debora Cackler  
DESIGNER: Mark Wood

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