

The Coalition for The Capital Crescent Trail



Safety is NO Accident *Courtesy is Contagious*

A "Letter" to Capital Crescent Trail Users

As a result of your hard work and generous contributions our trail is a beautiful and heavily used success. Bikers, bladers, joggers, runners and walkers, commuters and recreational users of ALL SPEEDS and AGES enjoy its 'car-free, park-like setting'. Unfortunately 'car-free' does not mean 'danger-free' and success has brought congestion and increased danger to the trail. Serious accidents involving hospital convalescence and police investigation have occurred.

Our trail has over 1 million users per year, is quite congested at times, and has users moving as slowly as 1-2 miles an hour up to 20 – 25 miles an hour. We are experiencing an increasing number of serious accidents on the Trail and we urge ALL users to exercise greater caution, courtesy and alertness.

Please follow the safety tips below:

All Users:

- STAY ALERT, TURN OFF YOUR IPOD
- Stay to the right
- Do NOT block the trail when stopping
- Do NOT block the trail by going 3 or 4 abreast
- Look behind you from time to time
- Pass ONLY after looking behind you
- Pass ONLY after a loud warning
- Pass ONLY on the left
- Pass ONLY if you have a 2 foot clearance
- When dark, wear reflective clothes
- When dark, carry a light
- Yield to others when entering the trail
- Yield to others at crosswalks
- STOP at stop signs, they indicate dangerous cross car traffic

Parents:

- PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN, keep them to the right!
- Do not let your children ramble freely across the trail
- Stay immediately behind or to the left of your children

Bikers and Bladers:

In addition to the above:

- Keep safe, reasonable speed
- Adjust speed to trail congestion and surface conditions
- Be predictable
- Wear a Helmet
- Warn with a loud bell, whistle or voice at least 2 seconds BEFORE overtaking someone

Hikers and Walkers:

- TURN OFF YOUR IPOD
- Do NOT READ while on the trail
- If warned before being passed, call out, "Thanks for the warning"
- If NOT warned before being passed, politely call out, "Please warn before passing"

Pet Owners:

- Keep your pet on a very short leash (*required by law!*)
- Keep your pet to the right
- Treat your pet as you would a child

Our Capital Crescent Trail *Needs Your Help!*

BECOME A VOLUNTEER PATROLLER – REPORT ACCIDENTS

The Trail's popularity has brought congestion and danger worsened by different travel speeds, awareness level, use, and 'vehicle type'. Many serious accidents have occurred resulting in hospital and rehab facility admissions.

What You Can Do

BECOME A VOLUNTEER PATROLLER • SEND US ACCIDENT REPORTS • FOLLOW OUR SAFETY TIPS • BE COURTEOUS & ALERT

In Montgomery County for the Montgomery County Park Police

OR

In DC and anywhere in the C&O Canal NP for the National Park Service

Become a Volunteer Patroller

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

To become a Volunteer Patroller in Montgomery County please apply for training by the County Park Police by filling out the application at:

www.mc-mncppc.org/team/application.pdf

or call

Officer Rosemary Whelan
at **301-962-1685**.

The next training session will be on Saturdays in late June.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To become a Volunteer Patroller for the CCT in DC, or the entire Towpath, apply for training by the National Park Service by email to **David Tune** of the NPS

at **David_Tune@NPS.gov**

or

Norman Liebow, Senior Volunteer Patroller
at **Liebow@comcast.net**.

NPS training includes CPR and First Aid.

Volunteer Patrollers do not engage in enforcement actions; they monitor, inform, educate and call Park Rangers or Police as needed.

Send Us Accident Reports

If you have witnessed or been in an accident on the trail, please send your story to contact@cctrail.org, or **CCCT, P.O. Box 30703, Bethesda MD 20824**. Many trail accidents go unreported to local police, CCCT or other trail users. Reports tell us what the problems are and how to prevent them. They can be shared with trail users via our website and newsletter and can motivate better trail behavior and courtesy. Accident reports will be published only with your OK. Personal ID data will be omitted unless the author approves its inclusion. We will not publish intemperate reports.