

11/8/2000

### Charles V Marquetry End Table

Rosewood inlaid with stinwood and mahogany.  
Tapered rosewood legs. 29" high, 21 1/2" long,  
15" wide. Fits well with fine English or  
Continental decor. circa 1825-1830  
\$4,000

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## Neighbors oppose trail through Rose Park

By CHARLES BERMPOHL  
Current Staff Writer

A small neighborhood association in Georgetown voted last Saturday to oppose a federal-city proposal that would widen a paved trail through a local park to make it more useful to bicyclists.

A member of the Friends of Rose Park said, "No one is against the bicycle community, but they don't have to go through Rose Park."

A plan to widen the Rose Park path from its present three to four feet in width to 10 feet was pro-

posed by the federal National Park Service and the city's Department of Parks and Recreation.

A rally to oppose the widened path has been scheduled for Friday at 5:30 p.m. at the home of a couple on Dumbarton Street.

The executive director of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association said bike riders will continue to use the Rose Park path, a north-south asphalt trail connecting P Street to M Streets, as they have for years.

The overriding issue for the bicycling community, said Ellen Jones of the bicyclist association, is the replacing of a narrow dirt lane with a paved trail from Rock Creek Park up a steep slope to P Street, at Rose Park's eastern edge.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association "has always supported better connections to the Rock Creek Trail, which is most used by bicyclists," Jones said. And a new swath of pavement from Rock Creek up to P Street would serve that end.

But the proposal to widen the path through the park as well, thus extending the planned new trail southward, through the park, has got some members of the Rose Park community steamed.

An e-mail message sent out by Janette Smyth to her neighbors to invite them to the rally on Friday described the evening's "agenda" as "to oppose the 10-foot-wide asphalt path intended to cut through Rose Park!" The e-mail

continued, "Shouldn't we have a say as to what happens in our neighborhood park? Groundbreaking is planned for March 2001!"

Smyth said she has no problems with bicycling as a thing in itself. But she said that bicycles tend to dominate the trails they use. "Walkers shun the Rock Creek [Trail] because of the bikes. A multi-use trail [which is designed to accommodate walkers, joggers, skaters and bikers] is single use and everyone knows that."

Rod Johnston, a member of the Friends of Rose Park board of directors, agrees. "We will get four to six bikes abreast in [bicycle] races," he said. And that was why the board voted to oppose any "substantial" widening of the path, he said.

But Friends of Rose Park President Pamela Prochnow is not so keen about picking a fight with the city. She is more interested in "the big picture" in which the city and the neighborhood work together to keep in good condition the small neighborhood park, which she said was "in awful shape" just three years ago.

A controversy over the path "hurts our effort ... to work with the city," she said.

Smyth said she doesn't mind a confrontation as long as children and pedestrians do not have to dodge bicyclists in a park she said is meant for gentler pursuits.

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