

Klingle Road Offers Good East-West Route

Copyright © **The Northwest Current**

Wednesday, June 6 2001; Page 8

The block-long segment of Klingle Road that is closed daily deprives hundreds of a pleasant, stress-free commute between east and west DC.

In addition to the extra time required to wend one's way through congested residential neighborhoods is the wasting of gas and inhaling of gas fumes while stalled in traffic in order to cross and drive on Connecticut Avenue, a thoroughfare completely avoided when we could drive on Klingle far below (Washington has the highest percentage of asthma sufferers in the country.)

Rock Creek Park consists of 1,754 acres. Klingle runs through but a fraction of an acre on Rock Creek's border. Why anyone would want to picnic there where it is relatively dark under Connecticut Avenue--and thereby require the disturbance of the natural growth of trees and ground plants to provide more picnic facilities and parking--is hard to understand. There are 99 picnic areas in Rock Creek Park. One of them is across from where I live. The Woodner goes from 16th to 17th streets as it borders Piney Branch Parkway, and the roofed picnic area with all the accouterments and large playing field seems to be rarely used. It is approximately three blocks from the closed portion of Klingle!

One of your "close the road" readers boasted that they now have more signatures. I've observed the well-meaning young people (too young to have driven during the years that many of us counted on it) standing in front of stores buttonholing customers for their signatures. I pray that the mayor and transportation director--who, like me, certainly love our woods--will make the sensible decision and restore our road.

Thomas G. Lopp
Mt. Pleasant