

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
MEDIA ADVISORY**

For immediate release:

February 17, 2006

For more information:

Marion Joyce, Manager
Community Outreach and Media Relations
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
The Montgomery County Planning Board
301-495-4602, cell 240-676-4108

**PLANNING BOARD INVITES PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON
PILOT PROGRAM TO INSTALL ARTIFICIAL FIELD TURF**

SILVER SPRING, MD - The Montgomery County Planning Board invites ballfield users, park visitors and others to comment during its **afternoon session, Thursday, February 23**, on its staff's proposal to select a suitable soccer or football field for a pilot program to test the effectiveness and durability of artificial turf. The meeting will be held in the M-NCPPC auditorium, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring.

Artificial or synthetic turf is a manufactured alternative to grass or sod that provides a more reliable playing surface for athletic fields with fewer rainouts and rescheduled games, less maintenance and down time. It is playable in all weather conditions except during electrical storms.

To review the staff report, those interested can log on to www.mcparkandplanning.org and click on weekly agendas, then on the staff reports for February 23, agenda item 3.

To solicit additional feedback, the staff invites the public to attend either of two Recreation Advisory Board meetings for a presentation and discussion of the artificial turf pilot program. They are scheduled as follows:

Eastern Area Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 7-9 p.m.
Fairland Community Center
14906 Old Columbia Pike
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Upcounty Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 15, 7-9 p.m.
Upcounty Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Road
Germantown, MD 20874

After receiving comments at these three public meetings, the staff will prepare its final report, including a limited number of recommended locations, for presentation at a Planning

Board meeting this spring. At that time, the Board will hear additional public testimony before its discussion and final selection of the ballfield to participate in the artificial turf pilot program.

#