

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

For immediate release:

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For more information:

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**PUBLIC INVITED TO THREE COMMUNITY MEETINGS ON
PROGRAM TO INSTALL THE FIRST PUBLIC ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELD**

SILVER SPRING, MD - The Montgomery County Planning Board's park planning staff invites ballfield users, park neighbors and others to participate in any one of three community meetings to discuss a proposal to select a suitable site for the first artificial turf athletic field in Montgomery County parks. These community meetings will be held from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 14, Wednesday, March 15 and Wednesday, April 12** at three locations listed below.

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 reduced down time. It can be used in almost all weather conditions.

A staff report on the issue can be viewed at www.mcparkandplanning.org, and click on weekly agendas, then on the staff reports for February 23, agenda item 3. To be considered, fields must meet the selection criteria listed in the staff report and M-NCPPC staff must be able to track the usage, maintenance costs and customer benefits and report the results to the Planning Board and the County Council.

In alphabetical order, the sites under consideration are:

- **Blair High School Stadium Field** - Silver Spring
- **Blake High School Track Field** - Norwood
- **Fairland Recreational Park Soccer Field #5** - Fairland
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreational Park Football Field** - White Oak
- **Ridge Road Recreational Park Football/Soccer Field** - Germantown.

The community meetings will be held at the following locations and times:

Tuesday, March 14, 7-9 p.m.

Fairland Community Center
14906 Old Columbia Pike
Burtonsville, MD 20866

***Wednesday, March 15, 7-9 p.m.**

Upcounty Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Road
Germantown, MD 20874

***Wednesday, April 12, 7-9 p.m.**

Long Branch Community Center
8700 Piney Branch Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

* Interpretation in Spanish will be provided at these two meetings.

After receiving public input, M-NCPPC staff will prepare a staff recommendation, including recommended sites in priority order, for presentation at a Planning Board meeting this spring. At that time, members of the public will have another opportunity to comment before the Board's discussion and final selection of sites.

For information, contact Mark.Wallis@mncppc-mc.org or by phone at 301-650-4370.

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