

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

For immediate release:

April 20, 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

**PUBLIC INVITED TO TAKE A HIKE ON THE
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD EXPERIENCE TRAIL**

SILVER SPRING, MD - The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's historic preservation staff invites history buffs and trail users to the Underground Railroad Experience Trail in Sandy Spring with a trained volunteer guide every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. from May 6 to November 4, 2006. Each free hike will begin at the stone barn at Woodlawn Manor Park located at 6501 Norwood Road in Sandy Spring and will take about 90 minutes to complete.

Trained volunteer "conductors" will lead groups on a simulated Underground Railroad experience on a 1 ½ mile trail (and 1 ½ miles back) through fields and woods and across streams to Sandy Spring. Hikers will learn various techniques that people escaping slavery would use to elude pursuers.

"Hiking with our knowledgeable conductors is a great way to learn about the history of the Underground Railroad," said M-NCPPC historian Susan Soderberg. "You'll hear fascinating, true stories of peril, daring escapes and heartbreaking captures you won't forget."

More information on the Underground Railroad Experience Trail, including a trail map, is available at www.montgomerytrails.org. Those interested may also call 301-563-3405. Advanced registration is not required.

###