

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

For immediate release:

February 27, 2006

For more information, contact:

Marion Joyce, Manager, Community Outreach and Media Relations
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
The Montgomery County Planning Board
301/495-4600, 240/676-4108 cell
Marion.Joyce@mncppc.org

**PLANNING BOARD SEEKS COMMENT ON CREATING
A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION PLAN**

SILVER SPRING, MD - The Montgomery County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 9 at 7 p.m.** for residents, environmentalists, business people, organizations and others interested in commenting on the creation of a comprehensive plan to protect - and connect -- the county's valuable environmental resources.

The plan is intended to establish a comprehensive vision for preserving the county's ecosystems and make the case for their importance now and in the future. Formally, it is known as the Green Infrastructure Functional Master Plan.

The county's ecosystems include the network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands and wildlife habitats that support native species, maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water quality which ultimately leads to a higher quality of life for area residents. An interconnected system provides greater environmental viability, value and strength.

The initial outreach report explains why natural resources connections are important and why the county needs a functional master plan to protect them. It also outlines the relationship of this plan to other state and county plans and programs, the objectives of the plan, major themes and issues, a proposed public outreach strategy, and a tentative project schedule. The initial report and other background information are available online at [<http://mcparkandplanning.org/green_infrastructure/index.shtm>](http://mcparkandplanning.org/green_infrastructure/index.shtm)

Later this year, environmental planning staff will hold a series of meetings with the community to solicit further input before drafting the actual plan. In addition, the Planning Board will likely hold other public hearings and work sessions as the plan is developed.

To get involved in the development of the plan, contact environmental planner Mark Symborski at mark.symborski@mncppc-mc.org, or 301/495-4636.

WHO:

Montgomery County Planning Board
Staff from the Department of Park and Planning
Interested community members

WHAT:

Public hearing on creating a comprehensive plan to protect - and connect -- the county's valuable environmental resources

WHEN:

Thursday, March 9, 2006 - 7 p.m.

WHERE:

Park and Planning Headquarters
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

###

~~~~~

Nancy C. Lineman  
Chief of Community Outreach and Media Relations  
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
The Montgomery County Planning Board  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Phone: 301/495-4609  
Fax: 301/495-4724  
Cell: 301/908-8716  
nancy.lineman@mncppc.org