

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

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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARKS' PICNIC SHELTERS ARE
AVAILABLE FREE THROUGHOUT THE WINTER**

SILVER SPRING, MD - From November through March 31, Montgomery County parks' 77 picnic shelters and 114 open picnic areas do not require a permit, so they are available free on a first-come, first-served basis for families, friends and neighbors. In addition to picnic shelters and open picnic areas that require permits during the season, Montgomery County Parks offer hundreds of free picnic tables and grills in stream valley parks, neighborhood parks and other parks throughout the 32,639-acre park system.

"Montgomery County usually enjoys a number of pleasant days throughout the winter that are perfect for a picnic in the park," said Gordon Rosenthal acting parks superintendent. "All our picnic shelters and areas, even those most in demand, are available free to the first people to arrive."

Information on the locations of picnic shelters and group picnic areas in Montgomery County parks is available online at www.parkpermits.org. Reservations and online payment for park permits for dates from March 1, 2006 through November 30, 2006 are also available online through www.ParkPASS.org.

Created by Maryland legislators in 1927, M-NCPPC is the only organization in the country to earn five national Gold Medals for Excellence in Recreation and Parks Management from the National Recreation and Parks Association.

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