

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

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**BROOKSIDE NATURE CENTER TO OPEN SUNDAYS,
OPEN HOUSE SET FOR JANUARY 8**

SILVER SPRING, MD -- The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) will reopen the Brookside Nature Center, 1400 Glenallan Avenue, in Wheaton Regional Park on Sundays from 1 p.m.-5 p.m., beginning January 8, 2006. Visitors are invited to join the park naturalists and other staff for an open house on Sunday, January 8 from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. with a fire crackling in the fireplace and light refreshments. After that date, Brookside Nature Center will be open Tuesdays through Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m.-5 p.m., closed on Mondays and major holidays.

Brookside Nature Center offers educational programs all year long, and visitors can hike the trails, or explore hands on exhibits inside the nature center. Nature exhibits and displays of interest to adults and children of all ages are available. Year-round group programs are offered for schools, scout troops, birthday parties and other organized groups for a nominal fee. Reservations are required for naturalist-led programs.

Upcoming programs include: night hikes, puppet shows, New Year's noisemakers and a creature feature on reptiles and amphibians. Details about Brookside Nature Center's nature programs are available at www.brooksidenature.org or by phone call 301-946-9071. Registration and online payment are available at www.PARKpass.org.

In addition to Brookside, M-NCPPC operates three other nature facilities in Montgomery County: Meadowside Nature Center in Rock Creek Regional Park, Rockville; Black Hill Visitors Center in Black Hill Regional Park, Boyds; and Locust Grove Nature Center in Cabin John Regional Park located in Bethesda. For more information, the web addresses are www.meadowsidenature.org, www.blackhillnature.org and www.locustgrovenature.org.

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