

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
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**PLANNING BOARD APPROVES PLAN FOR FUTURE OF
HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARKS**

SILVER SPRING, MD - The Montgomery County Planning Board enthusiastically approved its historic preservation staff draft plan, "From Artifact to Attraction: A Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources in Parks" last week without changes. This newly approved plan is a result of the first systematic, holistic review and evaluation of these publicly-owned historic and archeological resources.

More than 100 historic structures and nearly 50 important archeological sites are located within The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's 32,639-acre national award-winning park system in Montgomery County.

This new initiative will:

- prioritize cultural resources based on their potential for reuse and heritage tourism
- present a "Top 20" priority projects list containing sites to be opened to the public by M-NCPPC or put into use by means of a public/private partnership
- provide sound methods for assessing annual maintenance costs for cultural resources
- create an integrated approach to protecting, maintaining and programming cultural resources that involves all M-NCPPC divisions.

In this plan, the overarching theme of the campaign is moving the park's cultural resources from artifact to attraction. To that end, the plan includes strategies that go beyond simple stabilization of historic sites into an era of rehabilitation and reuse for the public benefit. The plan promotes the dual strategies of heritage tourism and public/private partnerships as the best methods for turning vacant or underused cultural resources into vibrant park amenities.

Copies of the draft plan are available at the M-NCPPC information section, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring or at 1109 Spring Street, #801, Silver Spring at the historic

preservation section office, 301/563-3400. In January, the final plan will be available online at <http://www.mc-mncppc.org/historic/index.shtm>

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