

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

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release:**

September 19, 2006

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**PUBLIC INVITED TO TAKE A FALL 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 hike the Underground Railroad Experience Trail in Sandy Spring this fall with a trained volunteer guide **every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. through November 4, 2006**. Each free hike will begin at the stone barn at Woodlawn Manor Park located at **16501 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.

With the fall foliage at its peak along the trail, hiking with our knowledgeable conductors is a colorful and educational experience, said M-NCPPC historian Susan Soderberg. Hikers are fascinated by the true stories of peril, daring escapes and heartbreaking captures along the Underground Railroad. ”

More information on the Underground Railroad Experience Trail, including a trail map, is available at [www.montgomerytrails.org](http://www.montgomerytrails.org) under **Rural Legacy Trail**. Those interested may also call 301-563-3405. Advanced registration is not required.