

# State Of Maryland

## 2024 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

<b>1. Name Of Project</b>		
Johnson's Local Park		
<b>2. Senate Sponsor</b>	<b>3. House Sponsor</b>	
Kramer	Cullison	
<b>4. Jurisdiction</b> (County or Baltimore City)	<b>5. Requested Amount</b>	
Montgomery County	\$500,000	
<b>6. Purpose of Bond Initiative</b>		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of Johnson's Local Park		
<b>7. Matching Fund</b>		
Requirements:	Type:	
Grant		
<b>8. Special Provisions</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian	
<b>9. Contact Name and Title</b>	<b>Contact Ph#</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Senator Ben Kramer		ben.kramer@senate.state.md.us
Cyzzarie Garcia		301-650-4394
<b>10. Description and Purpose of Organization</b> (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>The Montgomery County Department of Parks is a key agency of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), the proud steward of over 37,000 acres of parkland. Our mission is to protect and interpret the county's valuable natural and cultural resources; balance the demand for recreation with the need for conservation; offer a variety of enjoyable recreational activities that encourage healthy lifestyles; and provide clean, safe, and accessible places for leisure-time activities.</p>		

**11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit length to visible area)**

This project will renovate aging recreational facilities in the active use area of Johnsons Local Park. The project will convert an existing softball field into a full-sized baseball field with stands, players benches, and other improvements to recreate the historic field conditions, along with historic interpretation of this important cultural resource. The park will receive a full Park Refresher, including picnic pavilion replacements, court conversions, new walkways, parking lot improvements, new site furnishings, interpretive signage, stormwater management, and ADA accessibility improvements.

*Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 12 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 13 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.*

**12. Estimated Capital Costs**

<b>Acquisition</b>	\$0
<b>Design</b>	\$400,000
<b>Construction</b>	\$3,000,000
<b>Equipment</b>	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,400,000</b>

**13. Proposed Funding Sources - (List all funding sources and amounts.)**

Johnson's Local Park State Aid	\$500,000
Parks CIP Facility Planning Local PDF	\$200,000
Parks CIP Park Refresher PDF	\$2,700,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,400,000</b>

<b>14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)</b>			
<b>Begin Design</b>	<b>Complete Design</b>	<b>Begin Construction</b>	<b>Complete Construction</b>
January 2025	June 2026	September 2026	October 2026
<b>15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised</b>	<b>16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site</b>	<b>17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete</b>	
0.00	~5,000	~5,000	
<b>18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years</b>			
<b>Legislative Session</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	
<b>19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee</b>		<b>Project Address (If Different)</b>	
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Montgomery County Department of Parks 2425 Reddie Road, 11th Floor Wheaton, MD 20902		18000 Washington Grove Lane Gaithersburg, MD 20877	
<b>20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located</b>	19 - Montgomery County		
<b>21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)</b>			
<b>Local Govt.</b>	<b>For Profit</b>	<b>Non Profit</b>	<b>Federal</b>
[ X ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>22. Grantee Legal Representative</b>		<b>23. If Match Includes Real Property:</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Debra Borden	<b>Has An Appraisal Been Done?</b>	Yes/No
<b>Phone:</b>	3014541652		
<b>Address:</b>		<b>If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value</b>	
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Montgomery County Department of Parks 2425 Reddie Drive 11th Floor Wheaton, MD 20902 Attn: Bond Bill Administrator, Park Development Division			

<b>24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site</b>			
<b>Current # of Employees</b>	<b>Projected # of Employees</b>	<b>Current Operating Budget</b>	<b>Projected Operating Budget</b>
5	5	10000.00	15000.00
<b>25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond purposes)</b>			
<b>A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?</b>			Own
<b>B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?</b>			No
<b>C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?</b>			No
<b>D. If property is owned by grantee any space is to be leased, provide the following:</b>			
<b>Lessee</b>	<b>Terms of Lease</b>	<b>Cost Covered by Lease</b>	<b>Square Footage Leased</b>
N/A			
<b>E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:</b>			
<b>Name of Leaser</b>	<b>Length of Lease</b>	<b>Options to Renew</b>	
N/A			
<b>26. Building Square Footage:</b>			
<b>Current Space GSF</b>	N/A		
<b>Space to be Renovated GSF</b>	N/A		
<b>New GSF</b>	N/A		

**27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion**

1974

**28. Comments**

Johnsons Local Park serves a diverse population from surrounding neighborhoods and provides opportunities for active recreation, social connection, and enjoyment of the outdoors under the parks oak trees. Currently, the park has two tennis courts, two basketball courts, a playground, picnic shelter, and a softball field.

Johnsons Local Park has a rich history in the Emory Grove community. Founded in 1864 when formerly enslaved people bought tracts of land in the area, Emory Grove became home to a tight-knit African American community. By 1880, it was well-known regionally for religious camp meetings. Thousands of worshippers came in the August heat to listen to sermons, sing, and share food and fellowship underneath the grove of oak trees still providing shade in the park today.

Businessman Edward Johnson bought the grounds in 1947. He added a dance hall and a lighted baseball field, complete with a grandstand and a concessions. At a time when racial restrictions blocked African Americans from fair access to parks and recreation, Johnsons Park was a hub of social and community life. Baseball games were particularly popular on Sunday afternoons after church.

In 1974 Emory Grove was selected for a federally funded urban renewal program to bring sewer lines and indoor plumbing to the neighborhood. Most of the homes and businesses in the community were demolished and replaced with homes many former residents could no longer afford. During this time, the advocacy of residents saved Johnsons Park from the same fate. The park became Montgomery Parks parkland in 1974. Initially called Emory Grove Local Park, the community requested its name be restored in 1995. This project will restore the baseball field to its former configuration, provide historic interpretation, and renovate the overall park with new amenities and improved infrastructure.

Our current budget does not allow us to make comprehensive renovations such as these as quickly as they are needed, and this renovation project would greatly enhance the value of this park to the community it serves. With financial assistance from the State, this vital community park will receive the upgraded renovations it deserves.