

State of Maryland

2007 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
3255	SB923	517	HB175	Robinson Nature Center
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Howard County Senators				Howard County Delegation
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)				5. Requested Amount
Howard				\$500,000
6. Purpose of Bill				
Authorizing the creation of a State Debt to serve as a grant to the County Executive and County Council of Howard County for the planning, design, site improvements, construction, and capital equipping of the Robinson Nature Center.				
7. Matching Fund Requirements				
The grantee shall provide and expend a matching fund. No part of the fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of the Act.				
8. Special Provisions				
None.				
9. Contact Name and Title			Contact Phone	Email Address
Ken Alban				kalban@co.ho.md.us
10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (3000 characters maximum)				
Howard County, and more specifically the Department of Recreation and Parks, will manage the day-to-day operation of the proposed nature center. The Department currently manages an 8,000-acre park system and is very capable of managing this facility. The Department has a Natural Resource Division with professional foresters, biologists and natural resource managers to provide the programming and educational components that will assure the success of this venture.				
11. Description and Purpose of Project (3000 characters maximum)				
This 17,000 square foot nature center will be constructed on an 18-acre parcel of land owned by Howard County and purchased with Program Open Space funds. The property is protected in perpetuity via the Program Open Space covenants within the deed. This 18-acre parcel connects to the 1,000 acre Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, also owned and managed by the County. This pristine Environmental Area protects the Middle Patuxent Watershed and offers a tremendous diversity of flora and fauna. The proposed Nature Center will be the first County-owned nature center, and it will provide a premiere venue for environmental education for County students and adults alike. The Nature Center will include: exhibit space, class/meeting rooms, a discovery room, an auditorium, a lab, library, photo lab, planetarium, wildlife observation room, butterfly house, a kitchen, lunch room, restrooms, offices, storage and equipment rooms.				
<i>Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 11 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 12 (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.</i>				
12. Estimated Capital Costs				
Acquisition				
Design			\$1,115,000	
Construction			\$7,400,000	
Equipment				

Total		\$8,515,000	
13. Proposed Funding Sources – (List all funding sources and amounts.)			
Source		Amount	
Howard County General Obligation Bonds or Transfer Tax		\$3,965,000	
Middle Patuxent Nature Center Foundation, Inc.		\$1,000,000	
State Bond Bill		\$500,000	
Future State and Local Funds		\$3,050,000	
Total		\$8,515,000	
14. Project Schedule			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
January 2007	December 2007	March 2008	August 2009
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised as of January 2007		16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete
\$1,000,000		10,000	100,000
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
1994	206,000	Ellicott City Colored School Restoration	
2004	500,000	Blandair Mansion Phase I	
2005	300,000	Blandair Mansion Phase II	
2005	454,000	North Laurel Community Center	
2006	300,000	North Laurel Community Center	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Howard County, Maryland 3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043		6692 Cedar Lane Columbia, MD	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located			12B
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check one)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Barbara M.Cook, County Solicitor	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	410-313-2100		n/a
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
Howard County Government Office of Law 3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
1	3		
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance purposes)			
A. Will the grantee <u>own</u> or <u>lease</u> (pick one) the property to be improved?			Own
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			No
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			No
D. If property is owned by grantee and any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
E. If property is leased by grantee – Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	0		
Space to Be Renovated GSF			
New GSF	17,000		
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion		N/A	
28. Comments: (3000 characters maximum)			

This project is a testament to what can be accomplished when local government, state government and a private foundation pool their resources to achieve a lofty goal. Anne Robinson was passionate about preserving her land and providing opportunities for local children to observe and learn about nature. Through the Middle Patuxent Nature Center Foundation, she sold her property to Howard County at a below market price, and she donated \$1 million back to the County to help fund the County's first Nature Center. The State of Maryland through Program Open Space contributed \$1.7 million toward the land purchase and the County contributed the \$300,000 balance of the purchase price. The County will budget \$8.515 million over the next several years to design and construct the Center. That budget includes this \$500,000 State Bond Bill, \$1 million from the Foundation, \$3.965 million in County funds, and \$3.050 million in future local and state funds. To honor James and Anne Robinson for their vision and philanthropy, the County wants to act immediately to make this Nature Center a reality. This Bond Bill will make certain that this project proceeds as scheduled.

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