

State of Maryland

2007 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
3254	SB922	610	HB168	Blandair Regional Park
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, construction, capital equipping, and design of a recreational park at Blandair Regional Park.				
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 this Act.				
8. Special Provisions				
The grantee shall grant and convey to the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual preservation easement to the extent of its interest.				
9. Contact Name and Title		Contact Phone	Email Address	
Sheila Tolliver		410-313-2001	stolliver@co.ho.md.us	
Ken Alban			kalban@co.ho.md.us	
10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (3000 characters maximum)				
Howard County, Maryland is the Grantee organization. The Department of Recreation and Parks manages over 8000 acres of land and 49 developed recreation areas in Howard County. The Department, in consort with the Howard County Department of Public Works will secure an architectural and engineering firm to design the park based on the Blandair Master Plan. Park construction will begin in fiscal year 2010 upon completion of the design effort. The quality of the county's facilities and programs is a testament to the County's ability to manage and operate this proposed regional park.				
11. Description and Purpose of Project (3000 characters maximum)				
The design and construction of this 300-acre park will be in accordance with the approved Blandair Regional Park Master Plan. The Master Plan includes a nature center, pathways and walking trails, court games, athletic fields, picnic facilities, an indoor sports hall, a children's garden, playgrounds, a maintenance facility, roads and parking. The master plan for this park was developed by the 23-member Blandair Planning Committee in 2003. The Master Plan was presented at three public meetings to receive comments and then approved by the Planning Committee.				
<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		1,125,000		
Construction		(inspection fees included) 16,642,000		
Equipment				
Total		17,767,000		

13. Proposed Funding Sources – (List all funding sources and amounts.)			
Source		Amount	
FY2008 State Bond Bill		500,000	
FY2007 and 2008 Howard County Transfer Tax		812,000	
FY2008 State Program Open Space - Local Share		763,000	
Future County Funds - G.O. Bonds/Transfer Tax		7,846,000	
Future State Bond Bills or POS Local Share		7,846,000	
Total		17,767,000	
14. Project Schedule			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
July 1, 2007	July 1, 2009	September 1, 2009	July 1, 2012
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	
	-0-	270,000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
1990	550,000	Preservation of 4 Historic Properties	
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		Blandair Regional Park 6651 Route 175 Columbia, MD 21044	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located			13
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	Yes/No
Phone:	401-313-2100	Been Done?	N/A
Address:	If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value		
Howard County Government Office of Law George Howard Building 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
-0-	3	-0-	\$250,000
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			
Space to Be Renovated GSF			
New GSF			
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion			
28. Comments: (3000 characters maximum)			

Howard County is requesting a \$500,000 Bond Bill Grant for planning, design, site preparation, construction, and capital equipping of the 300-acre Blandair Regional Park on Maryland Route 175 in Columbia. This 300-acre park was purchased with County funds and State Program Open Space funds, thereby assuring its permanent use for recreation and preservation purposes. This project will include passive and active recreation facilities, while preserving over 200 acres of forest, wetlands and historic areas with the 300-acre park.

A master plan for this park was developed by the twenty-three member Blandair Planning Committee in 2003. The Master Plan was presented at three public meetings and then adopted by the Committee. The Master Plan includes a nature center, pathways and walking trails, court games, athletic fields, picnic facilities, an indoor sports center, a children's garden, playgrounds, maintenance facility, roads and parking. The Blandair Mansion and outbuildings are protected under a 28-acre easement granted to the Maryland Historical Trust. The National Park Service is currently restoring the Mansion with local and state funding.

A Regional Park of this magnitude will draw visitors from throughout the County as well as adjacent jurisdictions. The County population to be served is currently in excess of 270,000 people. This facility can host large festivals and athletic tournaments and will greatly benefit the local economy, particularly restaurants, hotels, sporting goods stores and small markets. This park is in the Planned Service Area (Smart Growth Area) of Howard County and will help reduce the current over-usage of Centennial Park. This project is identified in the 2005 Land Preservation, Recreation and Parks Plan as a "short range" need, and it will help address current shortages of athletic fields, court games, playgrounds, and pathways in the Ellicott City, Elkridge, North Laurel and Columbia Planning Areas.

It should be noted that the County received a \$500,000 Bond Bill in 2004 and a \$300,000 Bond Bill in 2005 for the restoration of the Blandair Mansion. The \$2 million restoration is currently in progress utilizing the U. S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) as the restoration contractor. The exterior restoration will be complete this summer and then, HPTC will begin the interior restoration. Completion is scheduled for the Fall of 2008.

In fiscal year 2007 the Howard County Council approved \$744,000 to design this park, therefore the local match requirement of this Bond Bill is already satisfied. The County has initiated a "Quality Based Selection" process to evaluate and interview prospective design consultants. This bond bill will allow the County to proceed with park design.