

# State of Maryland

## 2010 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate LR #      Bill #		House LR #      Bill #		2. Name of Project
lr0556	sb0024	lr0555	hb0234	Symphony Woods Park
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Kasemeyer				Howard County Delegation
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)			5. Requested Amount	
Howard County			\$250,000	
6. Purpose of Bill				
<p>Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$250,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Columbia Association, Inc. for the design and construction of the Symphony Woods Park.</p>				
7. Matching Fund				
Requirements:		Type:		
Equal		The grantee shall provide and expend a matching fund		
8. Special Provisions				
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian		
9. Contact Name and Title		Contact Phone	Email Address	
Chick Rhodehamel			chick. rhodehamel@ColumbiaAssoci	
10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (Limit Length to Visible area)				
<p>The Columbia Association (CA) is a 501c(4) public benefit corporation created to offer a wide range of cultural and recreational programs and opportunities for residents of Columbia, MD. CA is governed by a Board of Directors who are elected by Columbia residents. CA owns and maintains more than 3600 acres of open space as a permanent asset for the community which includes parks, 3 lakes, 171 playgrounds, and more than 93 miles of pathways open to the public. CA also owns and maintains 3 fitness clubs, 23 outdoor pools, 2 golf courses, indoor swim center, 3 tennis facilities, as well as community and neighborhood centers throughout Columbia. CA's Mission is to enhance the quality of life for those people living and working in Columbia. CA strives to ensure all of its many and varied programs and services are open and accessible to all persons. The construction of Symphony Woods Park would further CA's Mission to preserve the land as a valued resource for future generations.</p>				

**11. Description and Purpose of Project** (Limit Length to Visible area)

The purpose of this project is to construct new park amenities in Symphony Woods to serve residents of Columbia and Howard County. Symphony Woods is a 36.2 acre open space lot located in Columbia's Town Center. This wooded parcel surrounds Merriweather Post Pavilion, the region's premiere outdoor concert venue. Town Center is likely to be redeveloped in the near future through provisions in a recent amendment to the Howard County General Plan. Existing amenities in Symphony Woods include a picnic area, a driveway, small parking lot, and pedestrian path from Little Patuxent Parkway (LPP) to the Pavilion. Symphony Woods currently attracts few visitors on a day to day basis, but it sees heavy use during large events such as Howard County's annual "Wine in the Woods Festival" and larger concert events at Merriweather. Phase 1 of the plan includes an entrance plaza adjacent LPP and a dramatic circular promenade reinforcing the visual axis between Columbia Mall and Merriweather. Phase 2 includes an interactive fountain as the focal point of activity in the park, parking lot and site amenities. Future phases are to include perimeter walkways around the property, a play area, small cafe, a display garden, and other features/furnishings to make Symphony Woods Columbia's Central park.

*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>	
<b>Design</b>	\$391,000
<b>Construction</b>	\$4,137,000
<b>Equipment</b>	
<b>Total</b>	\$4,528,000

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

Source	Amount
State of Maryland Bond Bill	\$250,000
Bank financing	\$4,278,000
<b>Total</b>	\$4,528,000

14. Project Schedule			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
5/10	3/11	4/11	6/14
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised		16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete
0		45,000	90,000
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2009	\$200,000	Wilde Lake stream restoration	
2009	\$535,000	Lake Elkhorn Watershed retrofit projects	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Columbia Association, Inc. 10221 Wincopin Circle Columbia, MD 21044			
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located			12B Howard
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check one)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
<b>Name:</b>	Sheri Fanaroff, esq	<b>Has An Appraisal Been Done?</b>	Yes/No
<b>Phone:</b>	410-715-3115		No
<b>Address:</b>		<b>If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value</b>	
Columbia Association, Inc. 10221 Wincopin Circle Columbia, MD 21044			

<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>
12	13	\$577,000	\$635,000
<b>25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance 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 and 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>
NA			
<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>	
NA			
<b>26. Building Square Footage:</b>			
<b>Current Space GSF</b>	0		
<b>Space to Be Renovated GSF</b>	0		
<b>New GSF</b>	2800		
<b>27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion</b>			NA

**28. Comments: (Limit Length to Visible area)**

The planning process to transform Symphony Woods from a sparsely used open space area into an attractive park for recreation and community gatherings has been a true community process. As the property owner of the 36.2 acre open space parcel, CA has sole discretion of the land use and any potential development on the property. Approval of this State Bond Bill funding request will provide needed assistance to CA in the effort to create a new park for residents of Howard County. Symphony Woods is in the heart of Columbia's Downtown Town Center, and as envisioned by the original planners, is an outstanding location for a park. The prominent location on Little Patuxent Parkway, Town Center's main road, as well as the proximity to the Columbia Mall, Merriweather Post Pavilion, Howard County's main library, downtown office buildings, and the well known Lakefront Plaza make it a convenient and appropriate location for a place the public can relax as well as enjoy community gatherings and events in a woodland setting. Symphony Woods is already well known to residents of Howard County and surrounding communities as the site of music and wine festivals.

The CA Board of Directors unanimously approved the park plan concept in August 2009. The concept drawings, developed through a public process, were very well received at two subsequent major public presentations. Through polls, comments received, and publicly solicited feedback the park vision is highly supported by the community. The CA Board has approved funds for park planning and for the first phase of construction in the budget for Fiscal Year 2011 (May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011).

A vital aspect of the vision for Symphony Woods Park is the conservation of natural features of the site which will be protected in the park development process. The park's ambiance will derive in large part from the wooded character of the site which will be retained and enhanced with more trees and understory planting. Native and non-invasive plants will play a prominent role in the park plan. The predominant park feature, a circular pedestrian promenade, is designed to work with the natural topography and a portion of it will be slightly elevated boardwalk to allow natural drainage patterns to be uninterrupted. No streams are located in the portion of the 36.2 acre site where Phase 1 and 2 facilities and amenities are proposed, which further respects the environment and Chesapeake Bay. The selection of amenities and site layout were designed to minimize the effects of park development on sensitive habitats.

The Howard County Council approved an amendment to the General Plan and a corresponding zoning bill in February 2010. These put into place a framework which may ultimately result in additional residences as well as additional retail and office space in the Downtown (Town Center). Thus Symphony Woods Park will become a significant public amenity space serving people living and working in Columbia as a Central Park.