

State of Maryland

2010 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
lr0413	sb0012	lr3164	hb0846	Cabin John Park Tai Chi Court
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Garagiola				Feldman
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)			5. Requested Amount	
Montgomery County			\$40,000	
6. Purpose of Bill				
<p>Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$40,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for the construction of the Cabin John Park Tai Chi Court.</p>				
7. Matching Fund				
Requirements:		Type:		
Equal		The matching fund may consist of in kind contributions or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act.		
8. Special Provisions				
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian		
9. Contact Name and Title		Contact Phone	Email Address	
Tin-Mala, Grants Manager			Tin-Mala@mncppc-mc.org	
Andy Unger			andyunger@comcast.net	
10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (Limit Length to Visible area)				
<p>The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 1927 as a bi-county regional agency serving Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The Montgomery County Department of Parks is a key agency of the M-NCPPC, the proud steward of 410 parks on over 34,000 acres of parkland. Our mission is to protect and interpret our 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. Our vision is of an enjoyable, accessible, safe and green park system that promotes a strong sense of community through shared spaces and experiences and is treasured by the people it serves. We support and embrace the differences among our employees and the public we serve, and offer suitable programs, activities and services. We offer a range of leisure activities that strengthen the body, sharpen the mind, and renew the spirit.</p>				

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

The Wu Wei Tai Chi group, in partnership with the Montgomery County Dept. of Parks, seeks funds for a practice court & contemplation center in Cabin John Regional Park, a project heartily approved by the MC Park & Planning Board in May, 2009. The diverse group of area residents has met there every Saturday in all weather since 1997, led until 2005 by David C. Chen, their late founder and teacher. With 700 signatories in support, the project honors his teaching over many years in the region, and his continued inspiration to the large tai chi community. One of them notes: "We build memorials to people, but what we salute are really the ideas they championed, the things they did, the power of their vision." Tai chi is an ancient martial art form that is traditionally practiced outdoors, providing healthful exercise through old age for mind and body balance. The court's design itself symbolizes tai chi, in its harmony with the peaceful setting, nestled in the ground without walls, its yin-yang sign in flagstone representing the balance and interdependence of opposing forces in nature. Landscaped with benches, it also invites observation & contemplation.

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

Acquisition	0
Design	\$8,000
Construction	\$72,000
Equipment	0
Total	\$80,000

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

Source	Amount
Local fundraising	\$32,000
Donation for design costs	\$8,000
State Bond Bill	\$40,000
Total	\$80,000

14. Project Schedule			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
2008	2009	2010	2010
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
\$28,000		100+	1000+
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
046	\$150,000	King Barn MOOseum	
488	\$500,000	Woodstock Equestrian Park	
06262	\$50,000	Uncle Tom's Cabin	
432	\$400,000	Olney Skateboard Park	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Montgomery Co. Dept. of Parks 9500 Brunett Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20901		Cabin John Regional Park, 7400 Tuckerman Lane, Rockville, MD 20852	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located			16
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:	Derrick Rogers	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	301-495-2460		N/A. M-NCPPC parkland
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
Montgomery County Dept. of Parks M-NCPPC 9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910 Attention: Tin-Mala, Grants Manager			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
39, including 9 seasonal	no change	\$3.5M	\$3.5M
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance purposes)			
A. Will the grantee own or lease (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
N/A			
E. If property is leased by grantee – Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
N/A			
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	parkland		
Space to Be Renovated GSF	1000		
New GSF	1200		
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion			2010

28. Comments: (Limit Length to Visible area)

There is only one tai chi court, to our knowledge, in the US. This court will be a unique mind-body fitness resource in our area for tai chi, that can be used as well for yoga, dance, and martial arts.

Cabin John Regional Park is one of our most popular and scenic regional parks with its 524 acres of woods, streams, athletic fields, indoor and outdoor tennis, ice skating, nature center, picnic facilities, trails, miniature train, outdoor theater, and summer campground. Located in the Bethesda-Rockville-Potomac intersections of bustling shopping malls and sedate residential neighborhoods; within a few blocks from both the Capital Beltway and I-270, the park itself represents a harmonious balance of nature, recreational and athletic facilities, and its visitors representative of the diversity of Montgomery County and the greater Metropolitan area.

The Montgomery County Department of Parks advocates the tai chi court as an appropriate addition in many respects to the park, as a dedicated, harmonious place for tai chi, a gentle exercise form that also invites the participation of our growing senior population; is conducive to other healthful activities including yoga and meditation; involves low maintenance, is aligned to our mission and vision; encourages community collaboration; and represents the area's cultural diversity.

This court is a project conceptualized by the Wu Wei Tai Chi Club, a county group, whose energy and passion brought it to the attention of Parks as a potential Public-Private Partnership project. The site is currently not in use for any other purpose, nor will it negatively impact current facilities and activities around it. The plan was refined by Parks architects and engineers for tree protection and other environmental and structural concerns. The project was then presented with staff recommendations to the Montgomery County Park and Planning Board that enthusiastically approved and endorsed the project.

The Parks budget, very limited in the current economy, has no provisions for the cost of this project. This bond bill funding of \$40,000 is crucial. The Wu Wei Club's committee has already raised part of the matching funds, and Parks staff will work with the group to raise the balance. We submit that this is a worthy project which will bring a significant public resource to the county and the Washington, DC metropolitan area.