

State of Maryland

2012 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate LR # Bill #		House LR # Bill #		2. Name of Project
lr2577	sb0480	lr2626	hb0844	Acorn Hill Natural Play Area
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Zirkin				Stein
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)				5. Requested Amount
Baltimore County				\$215,000
6. Purpose of Bill				
<p>Authorizing the creation of a State Debt in the amount of \$215,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the County Executive and County Council of Baltimore County for the design and construction of the Acorn Hill Natural Play Area.</p>				
7. Matching Fund				
Requirements:		Type:		
Grant				
8. Special Provisions				
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian		
9. Contact Name and Title			Contact Phone	Email Address
Peter Maloney			(410) 823-6259	pmaloney@jhmi.edu
10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (Limit Length to Visible area)				
<p>Funds will be directed to construction of Acorn Hill, a children's playground on the peninsula of the Robert E. Lee Park. Baltimore County will be the recipient of the requested bond funds on behalf of its Department of Recreation and Parks, which is responsible for operating and maintaining the County's Recreation and Nature Centers, including the newly reopened Robert E. Lee Park. The Department of Recreation and Parks provides staff and materials appropriate to this responsibility and coordinates with various volunteer organizations to assist in the planning of programs that serve the public interest. The mission of the Department of Recreation and Parks is to provide recreational and leisure opportunities for citizens of Baltimore County.</p>				

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

Working with a landscape architectural team from Hord / Coplan / Macht, a group of volunteers from the Robert E Lee Park Nature Council developed a concept plan for Acorn Hill, a natural play area for children on the peninsula of Robert E. Lee Park, overlooking Lake Roland. The concept plan envisions using approximately one acre of currently unoccupied space as the site for various play stations with structures for climbing, swinging, exploring and balancing. These stations are designed to help children develop physical skills, using natural materials in an open environment where they can learn while having fun. Along with these stations, Acorn Hill will have picnic and quiet areas, a bird sanctuary, spaces for art projects and a small outdoor theater for productions by and for children. Programs will emphasize environmental considerations and exploration of animal and plant habitats, with talks by park rangers and other suitable experts.

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	\$10,000
Construction	\$188,000
Equipment	\$17,000
Total	\$215,000

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

Source	Amount
SB480 and HB844	\$215,000
Baltimore County "soft" match for design, engineering, construction and equipment	
Total	\$215,000

14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
July, 2012	September, 2012	October, 2012	June, 2013
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
None as yet		ca. 100,000	ca. 115,000
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Baltimore CountyHistoric Courthouse400 Washington AvenueTowson, MD 21204		Robert E. Lee ParkLakeside DriveBaltimore, MD 21209	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	42 - Central Baltimore County		
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:	Michael E. Field	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	410-887-4420		No
Address:	If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value		
Historic Courthouse400 Washington AvenueTowson, MD 21204			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
3F/T, 3P/T	3F/T, 3P/T	Not Available	Not Available
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?			Lease
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			
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	
Baltimore City	49 years	Renewable for a second 49 year cycle	
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			None

28. Comments: (Limit Length to Visible area)

Located just outside the northwest boundary of Baltimore City, the Robert E. Lee Park serves as a regional resource for citizens of both Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Its nearly 450 acres include Lake Roland, a former reservoir for the City, various woodlands, wetlands, serpentine barrens, rare plants and rocky plateaus. In 2009, management of the park passed from Baltimore City to Baltimore County, and after significant improvements, the park reopened in October of 2011. In step with renovations to the park, a group of volunteer citizens established the Robert E Lee Park Nature Council (<http://relpnc.org>) under the auspices of the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks. As a volunteer, non-profit [status pending] organization, the Nature Council works in cooperation with the County and other entities to maintain, preserve and protect the natural environment and historic structures of Robert E. Lee Park. The Nature Council also aids in identifying elements that enhance enjoyment of the park by all its users. Acorn Hill, a 1-acre site overlooking Lake Roland, will provide a natural play area for children. By doing so, Acorn Hill will ensure that Robert E. Lee Park functions as a destination for the entire family.