

State of Maryland

2012 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
lr1854	sb0204	lr1865	hb0274	Dinosaur Park Improvements
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Peters				Hubbard
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)			5. Requested Amount	
Prince George's County			\$25,000	
6. Purpose of Bill				
<p>Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$25,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for the planning, design, and construction of Dinosaur Park Improvements.</p>				
7. Matching Fund				
Requirements:		Type:		
Equal		The matching fund may consist of in kind contributions.		
8. Special Provisions				
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian		
9. Contact Name and Title		Contact Phone	Email Address	
Eileen Nivera		3016992522	Eileen.Nivera@pgparks.com	
10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (Limit Length to Visible area)				
<p>The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is a bi-county agency empowered by the State of Maryland in 1927 to acquire, develop, maintain, and administer a regional system of parks in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties.</p> <p>The M-NCPPC is also empowered to prepare and administer a General Plan for the physical development of most of the bi-county area and operate the public recreation program in Prince George's County.</p>				

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

Bond Bill funding will be used to help fund capital improvements at Dinosaur Park that is owned and managed by the M-NCPPC. Dinosaur Park is the site of one of richest fossil deposits of pre-historic plants and animals known on the East Coast. The M-NCPPC hosts the very popular bi-monthly fossil digs that are open to the public. The site is also open by appointment for group tours and school programs. Under supervision of paleontologists and trained volunteers, the public assists with the search for fossils at the site. All finds are kept for science and significant fossils go to the Smithsonian Institution.

The various park improvements will 1) aid in the discovery of fossils, such as the sluiceway and table, utility connections, and storage building; 2) provide visitor amenity, such as the shade structure, drinking fountain, restroom, seating area, landscaping, play structure, and interpretive displays; 3) improve handicap accessibility at the site, such as parking lot and accessible route improvements; and 4) improve site security with additional fencing.

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	\$30,000
Construction	\$373,000
Equipment	0
Total	\$403,000

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

Source	Amount
M-NCPPC CIP PAYGO Funding Approved Prior to FY 2010	\$50,000
M-NCPPC CIP PAYGO Funding Pending FY 2013	\$250,000
MHAA Project Grant Pending FY 2013	\$75,000
State of MD Bond Bill Pending FY 2013	\$25,000
Rotary Foundation	\$3,000
Total	\$403,000

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
November, 2011	March, 2013	June, 2012	December, 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
\$9,000		3420	5000
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)	
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission 6600 Kenilworth Avenue Riverdale, MD 20737		13200 block Mid Atlantic Blvd Laurel, MD 20708	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	23A - Northeastern Prince George's 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:	Adrian Gardner General Counsel	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	3014541670		
Address:	If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value		
M-NCPPC Office of the General Counsel 6611 Kenilworth Avenue Riverdale, MD 20737			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
3 part time	1 full time, 6 part time	\$25,000	\$40,000
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
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	0		
New GSF	440		
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion			

28. Comments: (Limit Length to Visible area)

The M-NCPPC is ready to implement and expend the \$25,000 Bond Bill funding within 18 months of June 1, 2012 because matching funds are in place and design is in progress. Prior approved M-NCPPC CIP funding for \$50,000 is available now. It will be supplemented with \$250,000 FY 2013 CIP funding that will be available on July 1, 2012. The total match of \$300,000 is 12 times greater than the Bond Bill amount. Even without the FY 2013 CIP funding, the match is two times greater than the Bond Bill amount.

The park generates revenue by charging school and group tours. The revenues are used to pay part time paleontologists to instruct and supervise the search for fossils during open houses and tours. Additionally, the Rotary Foundation has raised funds to purchase select features within the park, such as the drinking fountain and picnic tables, and promotional materials.

Design of Phase 1 began in November 2011. A civil engineer was hired to complete the construction drawings and secure the grading and building permits for the shade structure and storage shed. Application for permits is anticipated in mid-February 2012 with permit issuance in May 2012. Construction will begin in May and be completed by July 2012.

Design of Phase 2 will begin in July 2012 and will include the utility connections, restroom, accessibility improvements, visitor amenities, and sluice. Start of construction is anticipated to begin in the Summer 2013 and completed by the end of 2013.

The 41-acre park features a fossil deposit from the Cretaceous Period (144 to 65 million years ago). There is no other site like Dinosaur Park in the State of Maryland where anyone can fulfill a dream of being able to easily participate in the search for dinosaur fossils. The Park's drawing power is confirmed by over 3,400 visitors from the open houses and tours in its first year of operation at a facility with limited hours, scant visitor amenity, and little promotion.

In 2010, the twice monthly free open houses may receive over 200 visitors during a four hour period where visitors scan the soil in search of fossils under the supervision of paleontologists and trained volunteers. In addition to the open houses, 42 group tours were given to 1,069 participants. There is also an unrecorded number of visitors who come when the fossil collection area is closed. Interpretive signs and views into the fossil collection area are available outside the fenced area at those times.

Dinosaur Park puts Maryland on the must-see list for paleontologists and dinosaur aficionados. Its tourism draw is undeniable and the hands-on educational experience would be impossible to duplicate without this rare resource. The modest park improvements provide visitors with basic amenities and allow the staff to improve fossil collecting, visitor management, and supervision of this unique site.