

State Of Maryland

2020 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Willett Branch Greenway		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Lee	Korman	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Montgomery County	\$350,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Willett Branch Greenway, including improvements to the site's grounds and the installation of landscaping		
7. Matching Fund		
Requirements: Equal	Type: The matching fund may consist of real property, 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 Ph#	Email Address
Emily Mitchell	301-495-2510	emily.mitchell@montgomerypar ks.org
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
The Montgomery County Department of Parks is a key agency of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), the proud steward of over 37,000 acres of parkland. Our mission is to protect and interpret the county's 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.		

11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit length to visible area)

With the support of a Legislative Bond Initiative, Montgomery Parks plans to acquire land to create the future Willett Branch Greenway in the Westbard community. The purpose of the Greenway is to transform a degraded, channelized stream into a community amenity. The Greenway will improve the ecological functioning of the Willett Branch stream, and thus the connected Little Falls watershed, the Potomac, and the Chesapeake Bay. The Greenway will also provide greatly needed pedestrian and bicycle linkages across the Westbard area and between the two existing linear parks in the area (the Little Falls Stream Valley and Capital Crescent Trail). The Greenway will feature a naturalized stream, trails, forested areas, interpretive signage, public art and seating.

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	\$700,000
Design	
Construction	
Equipment	
Total	\$700,000

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

Willet Branch Greenway State Aid	\$350,000
CIP Program: Legacy Open Space/ALARF capital accoun	\$350,000
Total	\$700,000

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
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
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	
0.00	N/A	Tens of thousands of trail users	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2019	\$250,000	Josiah Henson Park	
2018	\$200,000	Josiah Henson Park	
2015	\$100,000	Josiah Henson Park	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Montgomery County Department of Parks 9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring MD 20901		Willet Branch Greenway 5200 River Road Bethesda, MD 20817	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	16 - Montgomery County		
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
[X]	[]	[]	[]
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Adrian Gardner	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	301-495-2460		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Montgomery County Department of Parks 9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901 Attn: Emily Mitchell, Senior Division Support Specialist			

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	TBD at time of	0.00	0.00
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond 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 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	N/A		
Space to be Renovated GSF	N/A		
New GSF	N/A		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion

N/A

28. Comments

One of the major recommendations in the Westbard Sector Plan in Bethesda is for the Willett Branch Greenway. Willett Branch is a stream in the Little Falls watershed, a tributary to the Potomac River. Despite this stream running through the center of a thriving Sector Plan area, the stream is a deteriorated concrete channel currently riddled with litter and graffiti. Parks' vision for the Willett Branch Greenway is to turn this blight into a jewel in the area by improving the aesthetic and ecological function of the stream, naturalizing the concrete-lined channel, creating a greenway corridor, providing vital trail connections, and providing a contemplative respite for residents.

Montgomery Parks is asking for financial assistance from the State in order to help with the acquisition of additional parcels of land to complete the Greenway. With the additional land acquisition, the vision of the Willet Branch Greenway as a community asset, unifying feature and a rare natural area right in the heart of Westbard will become a reality.