

State Of Maryland

2023 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center Welcome Center		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
West	Mangione	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore County	\$350,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of a welcome/visitor center facility		
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 Ph#	Email Address
Senator Chris West		chris.west@senate.state.md.us
Jane LaMonica		410-343-0101
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>For 40 years, Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center has provided high quality experiential learning through facilitated exercises to promote personal growth and nourish character development in individuals of all ages and backgrounds. In the words of our founder Tom LaMonica, "To thrive in life, people need real experiences and challenges. And our collective future brightens when they find them." Located in northern Baltimore County, GVOLC's Experiential Programs utilize our extensive challenge course to develop communication, cooperation, healthy risk taking, leadership, trust, and problem solving. Participants grow through verbal discussions and physical challenges that encourage them to step outside their comfort zone. When returning to classrooms, corporate offices, sports fields or homes, these skills serve as a basis for personal growth and positive change.</p>		

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

While GVOLC has access to an abundance of outdoor space it lacks a modern, multipurpose indoor facility to accommodate a diversity of groups and their needs. The Meeting House will not only provide space for a new Environmental Education Center, but an indoor facility for training, reflection sessions, professional development, corporate seminars, club meetings, offices, and shower/toilets. The Meeting House will allow us to serve participants who would benefit from our programs, but are uncomfortable with roughing it. Growing demand for outdoor experiences is driven by factors including social and academic setbacks from the pandemic, concerns over climate change, and the prevalence of digital media. A new partnership with Balance Point Wellness led to the creation of a summer 2023 Nature Therapy Camp and also the Adventure Therapy program. On the horizon is the restoration of 9 acres of wetlands running through GV as part of the Cox Creek Dredging mitigation.

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	\$2,000
Design	\$3,000
Construction	\$350,000
Equipment	\$345,000
Total	\$700,000

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

Private funding	\$200,000
Fundraising	\$150,000
Bond	\$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
1/30/2023	2/28/2023	9/1/2023	6/1/2024
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	
350000.00	24,000 participants	28,000-30,000 participants	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
NA			
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center Inc. 1717 Rayville Road Parkton, MD 21120			
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	42A - Baltimore 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:	Lawrence Schmidt	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	410-821-0070		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
600 Washington Ave. Towson, 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
25	45	740000.00	850000.00
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?			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 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	
Genesee Hedrick Corporation	50 years	Yes	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	NA		
Space to be Renovated GSF	NA		
New GSF	8000 GSF		

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

NA

28. Comments

Experiential education is a philosophy that informs many activities, in which educators purposefully engage with learners in direct experience and focused reflection in order to increase knowledge, develop interpersonal skills, clarify values, and develop individuals capacity to contribute to their communities. Activities are introduced through imaginary scenarios that are metaphors for real life experiences. Experiential education has grown out of the philosophies and theories of such thinkers and organizations as Kurt Hahn, Karl Rohnke, the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), and Project Adventure. This form of education is not to be confused with recently developed for-profit leisure activities that use similar outdoor equipment but have no educational component and do not provide the value of a meaningful learning experience. Over the last 40 years Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center (GVOLC) has served over one million participants from our surrounding region. almost 30,000 of them are from underserved and low socioeconomic communities. GVOLC awarded last year over \$10,000 in scholarships to families in need in the Baltimore County region for their child to have the summer camp experience.

We currently serve many Maryland Title One schools and various Maryland mentoring programs such as, Safe Alternatives, Harlem Lacrosse and Building Steps. Getting these participants out of their environment and into the natural setting of GVOLC is an experience that will encourage self reflection and growth.

Our founder Tom LaMonica created these leadership programs that challenged traditional methods of education and encouraged success through shared outdoor experiences. " Our mission is to provide quality learning experiences that promote growth and nourish the development of individuals of all ages and backgrounds. The Genesee Valley Meeting House will be an asset to the organization as well as the Northern Baltimore County community. Genesee Valley will be able to accommodate more schools, corporations, and other non-profit organizations. It will also modernize our very simple and humble organization. Thank you for your consideration.