

# SENATE BILL 1183

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CF HB 1358

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By: **Senator Carter (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2024

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Energy, and the Environment, March 9, 2024

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 23, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – ~~Establishment of~~ Gwynns Falls State Park – Focus Group,**  
3 **Advisory Committee, and Report**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish Gwynns~~  
5 ~~Falls State Park as a partnership park between the Department and Baltimore City,~~  
6 ~~requiring that Gwynns Falls State Park consist of certain properties in Baltimore~~  
7 ~~City and include certain landscapes and facilities;~~ requiring the Department of  
8 Natural Resources and Baltimore City to ~~take certain surveys,~~ convene certain focus  
9 group meetings on certain subjects, ~~and~~ establish a certain advisory committee, and  
10 develop a list of priority needs and associated costs for park improvements; and  
11 generally relating to the ~~establishment of~~ Gwynns Falls State Park.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Natural Resources  
14 Section 5–1012(a) and (b)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Natural Resources  
19 Section 5–1012(f–1)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Natural Resources**

4 5–1012.

5 (a) In this section, “partnership park” means a unit of the State park system  
6 managed by the Department in partnership with a local government, a bicounty agency, or  
7 a nonprofit organization.

8 (b) The Department may enter into:

9 (1) A memorandum of understanding with a local government, bicounty  
10 agency, or nonprofit organization to establish a partnership park in the State; or

11 (2) A partnership agreement with a local government, bicounty agency, or  
12 nonprofit organization to manage a partnership park in the State.

13 ~~(F-1) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH GWYNNS FALLS STATE~~  
14 ~~PARK AS A PARTNERSHIP PARK BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND BALTIMORE CITY~~  
15 ~~THAT SEEKS TO PROVIDE VISITORS WITH ACCESSIBLE OUTDOOR, NATURE-BASED~~  
16 ~~RECREATION AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.~~

17 ~~(2) GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK SHALL BE HELD BY THE STATE AS A~~  
18 ~~STATE PARK UNDER THE PROTECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE~~  
19 ~~DEPARTMENT.~~

20 ~~(3) (I) GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK SHALL CONSIST OF~~  
21 ~~PROPERTIES THAT ARE:~~

22 ~~1. OWNED BY THE STATE AND DESIGNATED BY THE~~  
23 ~~DEPARTMENT TO BE ADMINISTERED AS PART OF THE STATE PARK; OR~~

24 ~~2. A. OWNED BY BALTIMORE CITY OR A NONPROFIT~~  
25 ~~ORGANIZATION; AND~~

26 ~~B. DESIGNATED AS PART OF THE PARK BY A~~  
27 ~~PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY AND THE~~  
28 ~~DEPARTMENT.~~

29 ~~(II) GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK SHALL, AT A MINIMUM,~~  
30 ~~INCLUDE:~~

31 ~~1. LEAKIN PARK;~~

~~2. THE GWYNNNS FALLS TRAIL;~~

~~3. WINANS MEADOW/CARDIN PAVILION; AND~~

~~4. THE CRIMEA SECTION.~~

~~(4) THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ESTABLISHING THE GWYNNNS FALLS STATE PARK SHALL DEFINE:~~

~~(i) THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES, OF THE DEPARTMENT AND BALTIMORE CITY IN MAINTAINING AND OPERATING THE STATE PARK; AND~~

~~(ii) A PARTNERSHIP ROLE FOR THE FRIENDS OF GWYNNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE PARK'S MISSION AND VOLUNTEERS.~~

~~(5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A SUMMER CONSERVATION JOBS CORPS PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT GWYNNNS FALLS STATE PARK.~~

~~(6) (F-1) (1) THE DEPARTMENT AND BALTIMORE CITY SHALL:~~

~~(i) 1. TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF BALTIMORE CITY RESIDENTS REGARDING THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD:~~

~~A. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GWYNNNS FALLS STATE PARK; AND~~

~~B. OUTDOOR RECREATION IN GENERAL, INCLUDING THEIR INTERESTS IN AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION AND BARRIERS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION; AND~~

~~2. (I) CONVENE FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GWYNNNS FALLS STATE PARK WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS THAT RESIDE OR OPERATE IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED STATE PARK;~~

~~(II) DEVELOP A LIST OF PRIORITY NEEDS AND ASSOCIATED COST ASSESSMENTS FOR PARK OPERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING:~~

~~1. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS;~~

- 1                                   2.     **CRITICAL MAINTENANCE;**
- 2                                   3.     **ENHANCED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND**  
3 **RESTORATION, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF A BIOHABITATS STUDY;**
- 4                                   4.     **HISTORIC SITE RESTORATION;**
- 5                                   5.     **ENHANCED OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES,**  
6 **INCLUDING TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS; ~~AND~~**
- 7                                   6.     **ADDING PARK STAFF AND PROCURING EQUIPMENT**  
8 **AND SUPPLIES; AND**
- 9                                   7.     **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY; AND**

10                                (III) **ESTABLISH A STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO**  
11 **ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT AND BALTIMORE CITY ON THE SCOPE AND MANAGEMENT**  
12 **OF GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK THAT CONSISTS OF:**

- 13                                1.     ~~**A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRIENDS OF GWYNNS**~~  
14 ~~**FALLS/LEAKIN PARK;**~~
- 15                                2.     ~~**AT LEAST THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF**~~  
16 ~~**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS FROM NEIGHBORHOODS THAT BORDER THE**~~  
17 ~~**STATE PARK;**~~
- 18                                3.     ~~**AT LEAST TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF**~~  
19 ~~**ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BALTIMORE CITY;**~~
- 20                                4.     ~~**AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A HISTORIC**~~  
21 ~~**PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION IN BALTIMORE CITY; AND**~~
- 22                                5.     ~~**ANY OTHER MEMBERS AS DETERMINED BY THE**~~  
23 ~~**DEPARTMENT.**~~
- 24                                1.     **AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS OF GWYNNS**  
25 **FALLS/LEAKIN PARK;**
- 26                                2.     **AT LEAST SIX MEMBERS REPRESENTING LOCAL PARK**  
27 **ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL**  
28 **HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS, AND NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS**  
29 **FROM NEIGHBORHOODS THAT BORDER THE FUTURE GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK**  
30 **SITE; AND**

1 **3. ANY ADDITIONAL MEMBERS AS DETERMINED BY THE**  
2 **DEPARTMENT AND BALTIMORE CITY.**

3 ~~(7) (2)~~ **ON OR BEFORE ~~DECEMBER 1, 2024~~ DECEMBER 1, 2025, THE**  
4 **DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN**  
5 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:**

6 **(I) PROPERTY OWNED BY THE STATE IN BALTIMORE CITY**  
7 **THAT IS SUITABLE FOR INCLUSION IN GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK;**

8 **(II) PROPERTY OWNED BY BALTIMORE CITY OR A NONPROFIT**  
9 **ORGANIZATION IN BALTIMORE CITY THAT IS SUITABLE FOR INCLUSION IN GWYNNS**  
10 **FALLS STATE PARK AND FOR WHICH THE LANDOWNERS ARE WILLING TO ENTER**  
11 **INTO A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT; AND**

12 **(III) THE FUNDING NEEDED TO ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE**  
13 **GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
15 1, 2024.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.