

# State Of Maryland

## 2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

<b>1. Name Of Project</b>		
Fair Hill Nature Center Playscape		
<b>2. Senate Sponsor</b>	<b>3. House Sponsor</b>	
Hershey	Ghrist	
<b>4. Jurisdiction</b> (County or Baltimore City)	<b>5. Requested Amount</b>	
Cecil County	\$500,000	
<b>6. Purpose of Bond Initiative</b>		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Fair Hill Nature Center Playscape		
<b>7. Matching Fund</b>		
Requirements:	Type:	
Grant		
<b>8. Special Provisions</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian	
<b>9. Contact Name and Title</b>	<b>Contact Ph#</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Laura Hannan		410-398-4909
<b>10. Description and Purpose of Organization</b> (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>Founded in 1990, the Fair Hill Nature Center (FHNC) is a 501c3 located within 5,600 acres of Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area. For 36 years, FHNC has been inspiring stewardship and community through outdoor environmental education for children, families, educators, and community members from Cecil County and the tri-state area of MD, PA, and DE. Each year, 7,500 public elementary students participate in experiential, STEM-based field trips that align with grade-level science standards and COMAR Environmental Literacy objectives. 59% of students are economically disadvantaged, 17% are disabled, and 25% are black or multi-racial. Our programs aim to reduce barriers to over-burdened and underserved areas through affordable, inclusive, and welcoming experiences for school groups, families and the general public.</p>		

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

FHNCs destination playscape will create a nature-based outdoor environment that supports public health, child development, and community livability. Designed with sustainable materials, the playscape will encourage physical movement, social connection, and time spent outdoors key factors in improving physical and mental health for children and families. The playscape has been intentionally designed with inclusivity at its core, ensuring that all children can: 1. Get Around through accessible pathways and safe, navigable surfacing; 2. Stay by offering zones for diverse play and points for breaks, and 3. Play through diverse activity options that offer varying levels of challenge, movement, and opportunities for both social and independent play. Serving thousands of visitors annually, the playscape will increase access to safe, inclusive outdoor recreation for MD residents, while encouraging increased tourism from surrounding communities in PA and DE.

*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**

<b>Acquisition</b>	\$0
<b>Design</b>	\$0
<b>Construction</b>	\$300,000
<b>Equipment</b>	\$500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>

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

State of Maryland LBI Grant	\$500,000
MD DNR Greenspace Equity Grant (TBD)	\$150,000
FHNC Capital Campaign (corp gifts)	\$100,000
FHNC Capital Campaign (individual gifts)	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>

<b>14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)</b>			
<b>Begin Design</b>	<b>Complete Design</b>	<b>Begin Construction</b>	<b>Complete Construction</b>
Complete	Complete	9/1/2026	12/31/2026
<b>15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised</b>	<b>16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site</b>	<b>17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete</b>	
40000.00	10,000	20,000+	
<b>18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years</b>			
<b>Legislative Session</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	
<b>19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee</b>		<b>Project Address (If Different)</b>	
Fair Hill Environmental Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Fair Hill Nature Center 630 Tawes Drive Elkton MD 21921		N/A	
<b>20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located</b>	36 - Kent, Queen Anne's, Cecil, and Caroline Counties		
<b>21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)</b>			
<b>Local Govt.</b>	<b>For Profit</b>	<b>Non Profit</b>	<b>Federal</b>
[ ]	[ ]	[ X ]	[ ]
<b>22. Grantee Legal Representative</b>		<b>23. If Match Includes Real Property:</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Laura Hannan	<b>Has An Appraisal Been Done?</b>	Yes/No
<b>Phone:</b>	410-398-4909		No
<b>Address:</b>		<b>If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value</b>	
Fair Hill Nature Center 630 Tawes Drive Elkton MD 21921			

<b>24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site</b>			
<b>Current # of Employees</b>	<b>Projected # of Employees</b>	<b>Current Operating Budget</b>	<b>Projected Operating Budget</b>
15	20	500000.00	600000.00
<b>25. Ownership of Property</b> (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond purposes)			
<b>A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?</b>			Lease
<b>B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?</b>			
<b>C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?</b>			No
<b>D. If property is owned by grantee any space is to be leased, provide the following:</b>			
<b>Lessee</b>	<b>Terms of Lease</b>	<b>Cost Covered by Lease</b>	<b>Square Footage Leased</b>
<b>E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:</b>			
<b>Name of Leaser</b>	<b>Length of Lease</b>	<b>Options to Renew</b>	
State of Maryland, Department of Natural	5 years	3	
<b>26. Building Square Footage:</b>			
<b>Current Space GSF</b>	N/A		
<b>Space to be Renovated GSF</b>			
<b>New GSF</b>			

<b>27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion</b>	2026
<b>28. Comments</b>	
<p>The project is located in an overburdened area and within 5 miles of Elkton, an area that is defined as overburdened and underserved. Other overburdened &amp; underserved communities in Cecil County within our service area are Perryville and Rising Sun. The Fair Hill Playscape will provide a free place for residents to play and enjoy a safe outdoor space that encourages discovery &amp; recreation in nature.</p> <p>The playscape would enhance our current programming AND provide an engaging outdoor space that is ADA compliant. While the first level of our historic building is ADA accessible, many of our outdoor areas are not. This improvement to our campus would dramatically improve our ability to serve and engage our disabled student population.</p> <p>After interviewing several playground designers, we have selected to work with Kompan. We will be using their Robinia line for the playground elements. Robinia is an extremely durable hardwood with 20+ year lifespan for untreated wooden posts with ground contact. It is grown sustainably in accordance with the EUs deforestation regulation ban. The substrate will be Engineered Wood Fiber, in accordance with State Park guidelines. We will not be adding lighting or impervious surfaces.</p> <p>In order to serve our communities, we will be partnering with several local organizations to promote general public access. Fair Hill NRMA currently shares our programming in their newsletter and will share news of the playscape. The County has recently added directional road signs for the Nature Center to surrounding County roadways. Elkton Alliance and the Town of Elkton have agreed to share the news of the playscape to their constituents, both individuals and companies. Cecil Tourism &amp; Cecil Economic Development have agreed to promote the playscape, as well as the Cecil Chamber of Commerce. We will do a press release, share information with the school system and create programming around the playscape to draw visitors.</p>	