

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Prospect Hill Cemetery of Towson		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
M. Washington	Forbes	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore County	\$300,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Prospect Hill Cemetery of Towson		
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
Frank Knott		410-371-4722
Senator Mary Washington		mary.washington@senate.maryland.gov
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>Prospect Hill Cemetery (PHC) is a six-acre non-sectarian cemetery located in the heart of Towson, MD. Friends of PHC is a 501 C3 organization run by a volunteer Board of Directors and a part-time Administrator. PHC relies on charitable donations to sustain daily operations. Board members manage all lot sales, coordinate burials, manage grounds and monument maintenance, research genealogy, and continually raise funds. More than 3,000 people are buried here, many of whom shaped Baltimore County and the nation. Headstones are vivid lessons in history and culture and date from the late 19th century. In 1984, after years of neglect, a group of Towson families purchased the cemetery and began a slow but deliberate restoration. PHCs mature trees, sculptural monuments, and panoramic views create a serene, welcoming place for reflection; it is open to the public every day.</p>		

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

The Board of Directors of Prospect Hill Cemetery in 2023 approved a \$2 Million Preserving Our Future Capital Campaign to preserve, improve and sustain Prospect Hill Cemetery for the next 100 years. \$1 million of this campaign is designated for capital improvements to the cemetery. The purposes of the capital improvements, supported by this LBI grant request, is to (1) improve access visibility, awareness and safety for public and family visitors via a new Gateway Entrance into Towson's largest green oasis/park accessible to the public, (2) accommodate ongoing demand for additional cremation lots; (3) provide a memorial garden plaza for ceremonies to honor families, veterans and civic leaders who have built and defended Towson, Baltimore, State of Maryland and our nation since the American Revolution.

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	\$65,000
Construction	\$685,000
Equipment	\$0
Total	\$750,000

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

Legislative Bond Initiative	\$300,000
Philanthropic Foundaitons	\$150,000
PHC Board Family and Friends	\$150,000
Baltimore County Community Improvement Grant	\$100,000
PHC Annual Capital Improvements Allocation	\$50,000
Total	\$750,000

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
August 2023	December 2026	March 2027	December 2027
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	
200000.00	50,000	50,000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
	\$0		
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Friends of Prospect Hill Cemetery of Towson, Inc P.O. Box 322 Riderwood, MD 21139		Prospect Hill Cemetery 701 York Road Towson, MD 21204	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	43B - 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:	Carolyn Parker Knott, President	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	410-371-0511		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
Carolyn Parker Knott, President Friends of Prospect Hill Cemetery of Towson, Inc. PO Box 322 Riderwood, MD 21139			

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	0	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
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			
Space to be Renovated GSF			
New GSF			

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	Not Applicable
28. Comments	
<p>BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY: Of the 3,000 people buried at PHC, many have direct or indirect ties to the Baltimore County community; a community that includes residents, commercial and retail entities, supporters of historic sites, and students/faculty of multiple college campuses. The Towson population alone is currently over 58,000 and growing. The grounds of PHC are publicly accessible 365 days a year, dawn to dusk. Entering and exiting onto York Rd will be decidedly safer and more visible with the construction of the new Gateway. The grounds also play an important role in the ecology of greater Towson; it is a key part of a green corridor that includes private gardens, street tree plantings, as well as the campuses of Goucher College, Towson University, and several hospitals. Even these loosely connected open spaces provide the opportunity for urban species to flourish with abundance and diversity, contributing to the areas sustainability and resilience.</p> <p>HISTORY OF FUNDRAISING SUCCESS: Since 1984, when Prospect Hill Cemetery was rescued by Towson families to prevent further demise of the cemetery, an expanding circle of families, friends and civic organizations have provided thoughtful investments of love, care and nearly \$3 million that have revived the cemetery to its cherished status as Towson's "treasure on the hill". Over the last 20+ years (2004-2026), the Board of Prospect Hill Cemetery of Towson has managed and administrated more than 14 multi-party grants focused on restoring PHC's burial grounds and landscape. Volunteer leadership raises annual gifts from 150+ donors to fund annual operating expenses. The all-volunteer board recruits an additional 2,000 hours of volunteer professional time to administer and manage all cemetery operations.</p> <p>STATUS OF PROJECT: Prospect Hill Cemetery's board engaged WT Squared Landscape Architects to develop a design master plan for all capital improvements. Multiple contractors have reviewed these preliminary designs. WT Squared expects to complete final design and construction drawings for The Gateway Entrance in August 2026 and for the expanded Hillside Burial Area, Memorial Plaza and Garden in December 2026. Construction of the Gateway Entrance will start in September 2026 and be completed in December 2026. Construction of the Hillside Expansion, Memorial Plaza and Gardens will start in March 2027 and be completed in August 2027. Fundraising and receipt of capital improvement grants to fund capital projects for the Preserving Our Future Campaign commenced in 2025 and will continue through 2028.</p> <p>CAPACITY TO MANAGE PROJECT: The board of directors is comprised of both active and retired design/construction professionals with deep experience in their fields and in managing the cemetery grounds. Historically grant management has been provided by the Prospect Hill Cemetery Board of Directors. Grants management for the Capital Campaign will be managed by Frank Knott, volunteer Director of Fund Development and Grants Management for PHC. Mr. Knott has overseen grants management of multi-million dollar grants for multiple non-profit and for-profit organizations over the past 40 years. The New Gateway Entrance and Hillside Expansion will be the primary focus of the Property Committee during all aspects of construction.</p> <p>Prospect Hill Cemetery is an official designated Baltimore County Preservation Landmark. The Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission unanimously approved the New Gateway Entrance project in July 2024.</p>	