

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Serenity Community Gardens and Urban Farm		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Waldstreicher	Solomon	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Montgomery County	\$42,751	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the GFNCA Serenity Community Gardens and Urban Farm		
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
Jim Epstein		240 271 8423
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>Glenmont Forest Neighbors Civic Association (GFNCA) is an all-volunteer nonprofit representing approximately 1000 households in the extremely diverse Wheaton/Glenmont area of Montgomery County. While we have successfully advocated for multiple infrastructure & quality of life improvements over the past 15+ years, our current emphasis is the development of the Glenmont Forest Community Park. We have successfully converted an abandoned construction site into a valuable community green space, allowing for multi-generational community activities & recreation. As a result, in addition to a small playground, pavilion & ADA-compliant sidewalk/pathways, GFNCA has designed & installed the Gathering Tree public art project & established the Serenity Community Gardens and Urban Farm project. We have managed multiple grant awards from a variety of sources successfully.</p>		

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

GFNCA has developed the Serenity Community Gardens & Urban Farm as a solution to food insecurity within our community. Utilizing a cooperative model, it promotes community cohesion & provides food/produce for our significantly underserved & diverse neighborhood & surrounding area. The funds from this LBI will support the installation of a safe, secure, reliable & economical water source for the gardens project. A weather-proof underground line will begin at Fire Station #18 & end in a pump/hydrant in the gardens area. A drip irrigation system will then be installed to the existing & new garden plots. Additionally, electrical supply will be run from an existing meter to the gardens for pumps & a future farmers' market. A branch of the power line will also be installed to the existing pavilion to support events including our annual block party & provide public use.

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	
Design	
Construction	\$125,000
Equipment	
Total	\$125,000

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

LBI (applied)	\$43,000
Water and Power Infrastructure Grant (award pending))	\$75,000
MoCo OFSR Community Gardens Grant (application pen	\$7,000
Total	\$125,000

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
Complete	Complete	April 2026	June 2026
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	
	100 (Garden Stewards & food	300+ (garden stewards &	
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)	
Glenmont Forest Neighbors Civic Association, Inc 2603 Weisman Road Wheaton, MD 20902		12220 Georgia Avenue Wheaton, MD 20902	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	18 - 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:	Jim Epstein, GFNCA President	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	2402718423		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
2603 Weisman Road Wheaton, MD 20902			

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	5000.00	20000.00
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?			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	
Montgomery County via Department of	ongoing	County owned property	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	approximately 3 acres		
Space to be Renovated GSF	400 sf		
New GSF	1000 sf		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	N/A
28. Comments	
<p>This project is managed by GFNCA on County property managed by the Department of General Services. It is supported by our County Executive and Councilmember (currently Council President). We collaborate with additional local nonprofit organizations including Impact Silver Spring, One Montgomery Green, Rock Creek Conservancy, Grandview Opportunity Circle and HarvestShare, among others. We are also supported by the MoCo Department of Environmental Protection and the MoCo Fire and Rescue Service. We work with volunteer garden stewards, community members and several student groups. In addition to our all-volunteer garden stewards operating the Serenity Community Gardens and Urban Farm, we have been establishing safe pathways through the adjacent forested area. We have worked to remove dangerous invasive plants and replace them with native plants and seeds donated from Sanctuary, a local urban farm in Kensington. This project has had a significant positive impact on the community.</p>	