

State Of Maryland

2024 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Oregon Ridge Park Children's Nature Playground		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
	Pasteur	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore County	\$250,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Oregon Ridge Park Children's Nature Playground		
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 Hettleman		shelly.hettleman@senate.state.m d.us
Patrick McDougal		410-887-3822
	410-375-4378	ralphbrownmd@gmail.com
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>The Baltimore County Dept. of Recreation and Parks provides a wide range of recreational opportunities to the residents and visitors of the County, through hundreds of parks and recreation sites countywide. Recreational facilities are provided at parks, leased recreation sites, and public school recreation centers--the latter through a joint use agreement whereby many indoor and outdoor facilities at public schools are used for both educational and recreational purposes. The Department administers a wide range of parks, from countywide parks up to 1100 acres in size, to small neighborhood "pocket parks" of less than an acre. The parks feature a wide variety of facilities and free time recreational opportunities, and hundreds of organized recreation programs are provided through 45 non-profit recreation and park councils formed by volunteers.</p>		

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

The proposed project is to expand the the already existing nature children's playground at Oregon Ridge Park. This small play area near the nature center is already heavily utilized by young visitors to the park but with addition funding new, exciting play and learning areas, all constructed from natural materials, can be added. In addition, some of these new areas can be constructed so that they could be utilized by children with disabilities. This natural playground would be a unique experience for children in Baltimore County.

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	\$25,000
Construction	\$75,000
Equipment	\$150,000
Total	\$250,000

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

State Capital Grant	\$250,000
Total	\$250,000

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
4/1/2024	7/30/2024	9/1/2024	12/30/2024
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	
0.00	150,000	200,000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2022	\$100,000	Oregon Ridge Park	
2020	\$150,000	Cromwell Valley Park	
2019	\$100,000	Radebaugh Park	
2019	\$50,000	Linover Park	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
County Executive and County Council of Baltimore County 400 Washington Avenue Towson, MD 21204		Oregon Ridge Nature Center 13555 Beaver Dam Road Cockeysville, MD 21030	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	11A- 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:	Patrick McDougal	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	410-887-3822		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
Baltimore County Recreation and Parks 9831 VAn Buren Lane Cockeysville, MD 21030			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
3 Full Time	3 Full Time	92000.00	93840.00
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	
28. Comments	
<p>Oregon Ridge Park, at over 1000 acres, is the largest county park in Baltimore County, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors yearly from both within and outside the County. Besides its over seven miles of hiking trails, it is the home of the first nature center to have been established in the County. Since the opening of the nature center in 1983, one of the most important priorities of the park has been its role in educating the public about the importance of protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Our children's nature playground contributes to this goal. Besides offering all the usual benefits of a playground--promoting physical activity, encouraging social interaction, prompting manageable risk-taking and resilience--a nature playground offers experiences that differ from the usual playground adventure. Rather than having fixed structures this playground encourages creativity and problem solving skills by giving children the ability to move materials around and create unique structures that they can then destruct and rebuild in endless ways. With increased funding we can not only add new, natural elements of water, wood, sand, and stone but we can ensure that through design and signage children can learn about such concepts as biodiversity, stewardship, and sustainability. By adding wheelchair friendly, gently sloping surfaces and areas like sensory gardens we can make certain that all children can use this playground and enjoy the benefits of outdoor play. As a former pediatrician I have had the opportunity to study the extensive body of research that has demonstrated that not only do nature playgrounds, like traditional playgrounds, increase children's strength, gross motor skills and coordination, they also have the added advantage of reducing stress and anxiety, improving attention span, increasing imaginative play, and promoting sensory awareness. By giving children the chance to engage with natural materials it can promote a sense of wonder and contribute to the park's mission of encouraging environmental stewardship.</p>	