

State of Maryland

2014 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
lr2471	sb0511	lr2472	hb0654	Dinosaur Park Improvements
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Peters				Hubbard
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)			5. Requested Amount	
Prince George's County			\$25,000	
6. Purpose of Bill				
<p>Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$25,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Dinosaur Park, including park amenities such as fencing, a parking lot, or play equipment.</p>				
7. Matching Fund				
Requirements:		Type:		
Equal		The matching fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act.		
8. Special Provisions				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian		
9. Contact Name and Title		Contact Phone	Email Address	
Ashley Haymond			ashley.haymond@pgparks.com	
10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (Limit Length to Visible area)				
<p>The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is a bi-county agency empowered by the State of Maryland in 1927 to acquire, develop, maintain, and administer a regional system of parks in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties.</p> <p>The M-NCPPC is also empowered to prepare and administer a General Plan for the physical development of most of the bi-county area and operate the public recreation program in Prince George's County.</p>				

11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit Length to Visible area)

Bond Bill funding will help fund additional capital improvements for Phase 3 at Dinosaur Park. The park is owned and managed by the M-NCPPC and is the site of one of the richest fossil deposits of pre-historic plants and animals known on the East Coast. The M-NCPPC hosts the very popular bi-monthly educational programs that are open to the public. The site is also open by appointment for group tours and school programs. Under supervision of paleontologists and trained volunteers, the public assists with the search for fossils at the site. All finds are kept for science and significant fossils go to the Smithsonian Institution.

Each phase of the park development improves access, education and enjoyment of the park for visitors. The proposed improvements in Phase 3 will improve the discovery, protection, and interpretation of 115 million year old fossils of plants, dinosaurs, and other early animals at Dinosaur Park. Phase 3 Improvements will include: 1) Installation of additional fencing that will not only protect the fossil bearing area, but also expand the area where visitors can recover fossils; and 2) The addition of interpretive signage will enhance the educational experience for visitors.

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	\$30,000
Construction	\$323,000
Equipment	0
Total	\$353,000

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

Source	Amount
MNCPPC CIP PAYGO Approved Prior to FY 2010	\$50,000
MNCPPC CIP PAYGO Approved FY 2013	\$250,000
State Bond Bill Approved FY 2013	\$25,000
State Bond Bill FY 2015 Pending	\$25,000
Rotary Foundation	\$3,000
Total	\$353,000

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
11/1/2011	4/15/2015	6/4/2012	12/31/2015
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
\$9,000		4,200	5,000
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2012	\$25,000	Phase 2 Improvements: sluice, comfort station, utility connections, play structure, parking, accessibility	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Prince George's Dept. of Parks and Recreation 6600 Kenilworth Avenue Riverdale, MD 20737		Dinosaur Park 13200 Mid Atlantic Blvd Laurel, MD 20708	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located			
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check one)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Adrian Gardner, General Counsel	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	301-454-1670		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
M-NCPPC Office of the General Counsel 6611 Kenilworth Ave Riverdale, MD 20737			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
4-part time	1-full time, 6-part time	\$25,000	\$40,000
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance 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 and 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	0		
Space to Be Renovated GSF	0		
New GSF	0		
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion			NA

28. Comments: (Limit Length to Visible area)

The M-NCPPC is ready to implement and expend the \$25,000 Bond Bill funding within 18 months of June 1, 2014 because matching funds are in place and design is underway. The park generates revenue by charging for school and group tours. Revenues are used to pay part-time paleontologists to instruct and supervise the search for fossils during open houses and tours. Additionally, the Rotary Foundation has raised funds to purchase select features within the park, such as a shade structure, supply shed, drinking fountain and picnic tables and to publish marketing materials.

Design of Phase 1 began in November 2011. A civil engineer was hired to complete the construction drawings and secure the grading and building permits for the shade structure and storage shed. Construction was completed in July 2012. Design of Phase 2 began in July 2012 and includes utility connections, restroom, accessibility improvements, visitor amenities and a sluice. Start of construction is anticipated to begin during the Summer of 2014 and be completed by the end of 2014.

Phase 3 will involve extending the existing fence to enclose an area that will be double the size of the fossil resource area that is currently protected. At present, a significant portion of the fossil deposit is unsecured to unauthorized digging. The extended fence will also significantly increase the area of parkland available to visitors and will reduce stress on the existing resource. Additional interpretive panels will provide more educational opportunities. Construction for Phase 3 is expected to be completed in 2015.

Dinosaur Park is a 41-acre site in Laurel, Maryland which preserves a rare deposit of fossils from the Cretaceous period (144 to 65 million years ago). It is the only site in the state of Maryland where visitors can actively participate in the process of scientific discovery and explore an active fossil deposit. Even with limited hours, bare bone facilities and little promotion, Dinosaur Park has drawn over 3,000 visitors each year since its opening, over 80% of whom are citizens of Maryland.

In 2013, the twice-monthly free open houses received as many as 200 visitors during the four hour period, during which visitors take part in the process of scientific discovery by searching the fossil deposit under the supervision of four part-time staff members and trained volunteers. In addition to the open houses, 237 additional visitors took part in school field trips and guided tours. There is also an unrecorded number of visitors who come to Dinosaur Park when the fossil site is closed. Interpretive signs, a garden of living fossil plants and online distance learning resources are available when the park is unstaffed.

Dinosaur Park puts Maryland on the must-see list for paleontologists and fossil aficionados. Its tourism draw is undeniable and the hands-on educational experience the park provides would be impossible to duplicate without this rare resource. The modest improvements offe