

Z00S
Miscellaneous Grant Programs

Robert E. Lee Park (Baltimore County)

GO Bonds **\$3,000,000** **Recommendation: Disapprove**
Nonbudgeted **\$3,079,000**

Bill Text: Provide a grant to the County Executive and County Council of Baltimore County for the design and construction of improvements to Robert E. Lee Park in Baltimore County, subject to the requirement that the grantee provide an equal and matching fund for this purpose. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1(5) of this Act, the matching fund may consist of funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act.

Program Description: This request is for planning and construction funding for improvements to Robert E. Lee Park – a 415-acre park used primarily by dog owners for recreating with their pets in and around the adjacent Lake Roland. The improvements include replacing a condemned pedestrian/utility access bridge; paving a new parking lot and installing erosion control measures along the main entrance to the park – Lakeside Drive; building a new dog enclosure area; and conducting erosion control work along the shoreline of Lake Roland. The improvements are intended to serve a population that is anticipated to increase from 41,600 to 87,400 visitors annually within five years.

Fund Data

Authorization Request
(\$ in Millions)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>2009 Request</i>	<i>2010 Estimate</i>	<i>2011 Estimate</i>	<i>2012 Estimate</i>	<i>2013 Estimate</i>
Planning	\$0.000	\$0.592	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
Construction	0.000	5.487	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Equipment	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	\$0.000	\$6.079	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000

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Authorization Sources
(\$ in Millions)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Prior Appropriation</i>	<i>2010 Request</i>	<i>2011 Estimate</i>	<i>2012 Estimate</i>	<i>2013 Estimate</i>	<i>2014 Estimate</i>
GO Bonds	\$0.000	\$3.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
Nonbudgeted	0.000	3.079	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	\$0.000	\$6.079	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000

The request includes \$3.0 million in State general obligation bonds and \$3.079 million in Baltimore County general funds matching funding. No future funding is requested.

Baltimore County states that there are no other funds or suitable funding sources for the project, yet Baltimore County has approximately \$15.5 million in the unobligated Program Open Space (POS) local balance as of January 28, 2009. In addition, Baltimore County does not appear to have requested funding from Baltimore City, even though Baltimore City actually owns the park; Baltimore County will enter into a long-term lease with Baltimore City, similar to the Fort Smallwood Park arrangement between Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County.

Baltimore County responds that approximately 75% of the county's remaining unobligated POS balance must be used for park acquisition and that other applications have already been submitted that use the majority of the remaining unobligated balance.

The total proposed project includes \$0.6 million for planning and \$5.5 million for construction. The three main components of the park improvements are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

**Exhibit 1
Robert E. Lee Park Improvements Funding**

<u>Component</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Construction</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bridge replacement	Replace a condemned 103-foot bridge with a concrete beam structure designed to local, State, and federal regulations	\$276,000	\$2,557,600	\$2,833,600
Roadway improvements and parking	Provide a gravel road shoulder, guardrail, and vegetative cover along Lakeside Drive; replace the existing parking lot with a 45- to 74-space parking lot	121,000	1,122,720	1,243,720
Dog park and erosion improvements	Replace the existing 2,500 foot perimeter foot path; build a dog enclosure; and install shoreline erosion control measures	195,000	1,807,000	\$2,002,000
Total		\$592,000	\$5,487,320	\$6,079,320

Source: Baltimore County; Department of Legislative Services

Recommended Actions

ZA00 (S) Robert E. Lee Park \$3,000,000

Allowance
3,000,000

Change
-3,000,000

Authorization
0

Explanation: This project should be funded with either Program Open Space local funding or some funding arrangement with Baltimore City – the actual owner of the park.