



**Howard County Local Bills Hearing Testimony**  
*Creation of a State Debt – Howard County – Barnard Fort House*

To: Howard County Delegation

From: A. Raul Delerme, Director of Recreation and Parks

Date: November 17, 2020

The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks **SUPPORTS** nomination of this project by the Howard County Delegation

The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks is requesting your support for a \$150,000.00 Bond Bill Grant for the design, construction, restoration, renovation, rehabilitation, and equipping of the historic Barnard Fort House, located within the historic district of Ellicott City and the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area.

Howard County acquired this property in 2013, which was built by an English-born cabinet maker in the mid-1800's. The building is constructed of local materials, including local granite, and is an excellent example of a middle-class home typical to skilled craftsmen of the area and time. The property was owned and occupied by descendants of Mr. Fort for generations and underwent several renovations before experiencing some neglect and subsequently being acquired by the County prior to subdivision.

This project aims to restore and preserve the original structure while renovating the later additions to the house such that adaptive reuse of this vacant property will be possible. The site has great potential for public enjoyment and County use, but not in its current configuration and condition. Financial assistance through this Bond Bill Grant will allow for the creation of classrooms, the proper preservation of local historic artifacts, and the development of educational and recreational programming relevant to the site and the surrounding area. Part of the renovation of the structure will include the creation of office space for the Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Inc., a Maryland 501 (c)(3) corporation and the managing organization for the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area.

Howard County is prepared to match this grant through matching funds in the Department of Recreation and Parks' proposed FY2022 Capital Budget.

Accordingly, the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks respectfully requests the Howard County Delegation nominate this Bond Bill initiative request for inclusion in the 2021 Regular Session of the Maryland General Assembly.