

HOUSE BILL 1358

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4lr2169
CF SB 1183

By: **Delegates Ruff, Attar, Addison, Amprey, Boyce, Clippinger, Conaway, Edelson, Embry, R. Lewis, J. Long, Rosenberg, Smith, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – ~~Establishment of~~ Gwynns Falls State Park – Focus Group,**
3 **Advisory Committee, and Report**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish Gwynns~~
5 ~~Falls State Park as a partnership park between the Department and Baltimore City,~~
6 ~~requiring that Gwynns Falls State Park consist of certain properties in Baltimore~~
7 ~~City and include certain landscapes and facilities;~~ requiring the Department of
8 Natural Resources and Baltimore City to ~~take certain surveys,~~ convene certain focus
9 group meetings on certain subjects, ~~and~~ establish a certain advisory committee, and
10 develop a list of priority needs and associated costs for park improvements; and
11 generally relating to the ~~establishment of~~ Gwynns Falls State Park.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Natural Resources
14 Section 5–1012(a) and (b)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Natural Resources
19 Section 5–1012(f–1)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

5–1012.

(a) In this section, “partnership park” means a unit of the State park system managed by the Department in partnership with a local government, a bicounty agency, or a nonprofit organization.

(b) The Department may enter into:

(1) A memorandum of understanding with a local government, bicounty agency, or nonprofit organization to establish a partnership park in the State; or

(2) A partnership agreement with a local government, bicounty agency, or nonprofit organization to manage a partnership park in the State.

~~(F-1) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK AS A PARTNERSHIP PARK BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND BALTIMORE CITY THAT SEEKS TO PROVIDE VISITORS WITH ACCESSIBLE OUTDOOR, NATURE BASED RECREATION AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.~~

~~(2) GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK SHALL BE HELD BY THE STATE AS A STATE PARK UNDER THE PROTECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.~~

~~(3) (i) GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK SHALL CONSIST OF PROPERTIES THAT ARE:~~

~~1. OWNED BY THE STATE AND DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO BE ADMINISTERED AS PART OF THE STATE PARK; OR~~

~~2. A. OWNED BY BALTIMORE CITY OR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION; AND~~

~~B. DESIGNATED AS PART OF THE PARK BY A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY AND THE DEPARTMENT.~~

~~(ii) GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, INCLUDE:~~

~~1. LEAKIN PARK;~~

~~2. THE GWYNNS FALLS TRAIL;~~

~~3. WINANS MEADOW/CARDIN PAVILION; AND~~

~~4. THE CRIMEA SECTION.~~

~~(4) THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ESTABLISHING THE
GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK SHALL DEFINE:~~

~~(i) THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING FINANCIAL
RESPONSIBILITIES, OF THE DEPARTMENT AND BALTIMORE CITY IN MAINTAINING
AND OPERATING THE STATE PARK; AND~~

~~(ii) A PARTNERSHIP ROLE FOR THE FRIENDS OF GWYNNS
FALLS/LEAKIN PARK IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE PARK'S MISSION AND
VOLUNTEERS.~~

~~(5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A SUMMER CONSERVATION
JOBS CORPS PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT GWYNNS FALLS STATE
PARK.~~

~~(6) (F-1) (1) THE DEPARTMENT AND BALTIMORE CITY SHALL:~~

~~(i) 1. TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF BALTIMORE
CITY RESIDENTS REGARDING THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD:~~

~~A. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GWYNNS FALLS STATE
PARK; AND~~

~~B. OUTDOOR RECREATION IN GENERAL, INCLUDING
THEIR INTERESTS IN AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION AND
BARRIERS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION; AND~~

~~2. (I) CONVENE FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK PARK WITH COMMUNITY
MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS THAT RESIDE OR OPERATE IN THE VICINITY OF THE
PROPOSED STATE PARK;~~

~~(II) DEVELOP A LIST OF PRIORITY NEEDS AND ASSOCIATED
COST ASSESSMENTS FOR PARK OPERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING:~~

~~1. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS;~~

2. CRITICAL MAINTENANCE;

3. ENHANCED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF A BIOHABITATS STUDY;

4. HISTORIC SITE RESTORATION;

5. ENHANCED OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES, INCLUDING TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS; ~~AND~~

6. ADDING PARK STAFF AND PROCURING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES; AND

7. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY; AND

(III) ESTABLISH A STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT AND BALTIMORE CITY ON THE SCOPE AND MANAGEMENT OF GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK THAT CONSISTS OF:

~~1. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRIENDS OF GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK;~~

~~2. AT LEAST THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS FROM NEIGHBORHOODS THAT BORDER THE STATE PARK;~~

~~3. AT LEAST TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BALTIMORE CITY;~~

~~4. AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION IN BALTIMORE CITY; AND~~

~~5. ANY OTHER MEMBERS AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.~~

1. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS OF GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK;

2. AT LEAST SIX MEMBERS REPRESENTING LOCAL PARK ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS, NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS FROM NEIGHBORHOODS THAT BORDER THE FUTURE GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK SITE; AND

1 **3. ANY ADDITIONAL MEMBERS AS DETERMINED BY THE**
2 **DEPARTMENT AND BALTIMORE CITY.**

3 ~~(7) (2)~~ **ON OR BEFORE ~~DECEMBER 1, 2024~~ DECEMBER 1, 2025, THE**
4 **DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN**
5 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:**

6 **(I) PROPERTY OWNED BY THE STATE IN BALTIMORE CITY**
7 **THAT IS SUITABLE FOR INCLUSION IN GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK;**

8 **(II) PROPERTY OWNED BY BALTIMORE CITY OR A NONPROFIT**
9 **ORGANIZATION IN BALTIMORE CITY THAT IS SUITABLE FOR INCLUSION IN GWYNNS**
10 **FALLS STATE PARK AND FOR WHICH THE LANDOWNERS ARE WILLING TO ENTER**
11 **INTO A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT; AND**

12 **(III) THE FUNDING NEEDED TO ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE**
13 **GWYNNS FALLS STATE PARK.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
15 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.