



The [Towson Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library](#) invites children of all ages to play. Our Towson Dragon, a playable art feature, provides opportunities for teaching early literacy skills in a whimsical environment. Children can count the Dragon's features, solve a maze, walk a path from 'home' to the Towson Library, name the colors and creatures in the design, or just let their imaginations soar. Finding the five artists' and painters' names hidden in the design is fun too!

#### **Towson Dragon's history:**

- In 2006 a staff team began discussion, with the goal of replacing the popular, but aging Fish Pond.
- The generous **Friends of the Towson Library** voted to fund a playable art feature.
- The team brainstormed themes and media and returned to the themes used in The Castle, the Towson Library Children's Area.
- We consulted Artist Sydney Hopkins, creator of the Castle's dragon art, inspired by, and with permission from, popular children's author/illustrator, Gail Gibbons.
- Meetings with several contractors helped define project parameters.
- Contract bids were submitted.
- Construction began in May, 2009 and was completed in June 2009.

**Artist:** Sydney Hopkins, Baltimore County resident

**Contractor:** Hunt Valley Contractors, with artist/stencil maker, Rachel Bruce

**Funders:** The Friends of the Towson Library, Arthur Lynch, President

**Total Cost:** approximately \$27,000

**Size:** 22'

**Original Fish Pond creators:** William Hermann and son, Towson area artists

**BCPL Team:** James DeArmey, Jennifer Haire, Amie Lee, Kelly McCoy, Dave Otto, Andy Spera, Pat Sweaney, Susan Walters