

## 4Q 2017 Update William Blair Bond Fund

### OBJECTIVE

Current Income and Capital Appreciation

### CHARACTERISTICS

The Fund seeks to outperform the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index by employing a broad range of fixed income sectors, including up to 10% in non-investment grade holdings.

### WHY CONSIDER THIS FUND?

- Seeks to offer a conservative, diversified core fixed income portfolio with a duration similar to that of the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index
- Seeks diversified alpha sources, which include corporate, mortgage-backed, asset-backed, and Treasury securities
- Focuses on outperforming its benchmark through a security selection process that adheres to a time-tested, disciplined approach
- Managed by an experienced, tenured team that has been in place since 2006

### EXPENSE RATIOS (%)

	Gross Expense	Net Expense
Class I	0.58	0.50
Class N	0.82	0.65

Expenses shown are as of the most recent prospectus. The Fund's Adviser has contractually agreed to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to limit fund operating expenses until 4/30/18.

### FUND FACTS AND STATISTICS

Total Net Assets (\$MM)	\$560
Number of Holdings	239
Trailing 1-Year Turnover (%)	17.3
Cash (%)**	0.7
Average Maturity (Years)	9.1
Duration	5.8

\*\* Cash represents cash and any short-term or overnight investments held by the Fund.

### 30-DAY SEC YIELDS % (as of 12/31/17)

Class I	2.52
Class N	2.32

### INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE % (as of 12/31/17)

	QTR	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	10Y
Class I (SI: 05/01/07)	0.72	4.16	4.16	2.86	2.51	4.92
Class N (SI: 05/01/07)	0.67	3.83	3.83	2.64	2.31	4.74
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index <sup>1</sup>	0.39	3.54	3.54	2.24	2.10	4.01
Morningstar Intermediate-Term Bond Category <sup>2</sup>	0.29	3.71	3.71	2.22	2.05	4.06

### CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE %

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Class I (SI: 05/01/07)	4.16	4.55	-0.05	5.37	-1.28	8.54	7.62	7.89	11.40	1.72
Class N (SI: 05/01/07)	3.83	4.40	-0.23	5.10	-1.37	8.33	7.41	7.86	11.11	1.64
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index <sup>1</sup>	3.54	2.65	0.55	5.97	-2.02	4.21	7.84	6.54	5.93	5.24

**Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Returns shown assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate with market and economic conditions and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call +1 800 742 7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). Class N shares are available to the general public without a sales load. Class I shares are available only to investors who meet certain eligibility requirements.**

### MORNINGSTAR RATINGS AND RANKINGS\*

	Overall	1Y	3Y	5Y	10Y
Class I Rating	★★★★	—	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Class N Rating	★★★★	—	★★★★	★★★	★★★★
Class I Percentile Ranking		33	17	25	15
Class N Percentile Ranking		47	28	34	22
# of Funds in Category		986	847	778	554

\***Morningstar Rating**\*: The Morningstar Rating for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. **Morningstar Ranking**: Morningstar Percentile Rankings are based on the Fund's total return (excluding sales charge) relative to all the funds in the same Morningstar category, where 1 is the highest and 100 is the lowest percentile rank. Ratings and rankings are one measure of performance. Some of our Funds have experienced negative performance for the time periods shown. For the most current performance, please visit [williamblairfunds.com](http://williamblairfunds.com).

### TOP TEN HOLDINGS (%)<sup>3,4</sup>

Company	Coupon/Maturity	% of Fund
United States Treasury Inflation Indexed Bonds	3.88% due 04/15/29	5.6
Fannie Mae Pool	5.50% due 12/01/41	3.3
Freddie Mac Gold Pool	6.00% due 10/01/39	3.0
Freddie Mac Gold Pool	5.50% due 07/01/38	2.8
Fannie Mae Pool	6.00% due 02/01/37	2.5
Freddie Mac Gold Pool	5.00% due 02/01/40	2.3
Fannie Mae Pool	4.00% due 02/01/29	2.3
Fannie Mae Pool	7.50% due 12/01/30	1.9
Fannie Mae Pool	6.00% due 01/01/42	1.6
Fannie Mae Pool	5.50% due 11/01/33	1.2
<b>Total Top 10</b>		<b>26.5</b>

### PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT



**Christopher Vincent, CFA**  
Started in Industry: 1983  
Education: M.B.A., Saint Louis Univ.; B.S., Univ of Missouri



**Paul J. Sularz**  
Started in Industry: 1990  
Education: M.B.A., Univ. of Chicago; B.A., Univ. of Illinois

### SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION (%)<sup>3,4,6</sup>

Sector Type	Fund	Index <sup>1</sup>
U.S. Agency Mortgage-Backed Pass Through	47.6	28.1
Developed Markets Credit	38.0	29.3
Emerging Markets	6.9	1.7
U.S. Treasury	5.7	37.0
Asset-Backed Securities	1.1	0.5
Cash	0.7	0.0
Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities	0.0	1.8
U.S. Agency Debentures	0.0	1.6

### QUALITY DISTRIBUTION (%)<sup>3,4,5</sup>

Credit Quality	Fund	Index <sup>1</sup>
U.S. Treasury	5.7	37.0
U.S. Agency	47.5	30.5
Cash	0.7	0.0
AAA	2.2	4.6
AA	1.1	5.6
A	15.6	12.6
BBB	19.1	9.7
BB	5.2	0.0
B	2.9	0.0

- The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index is an unmanaged index that represents the investment grade bond market. It is composed of securities from the Bloomberg Barclays Treasury, Government-Related, Corporate and Securitized Indices. It is not possible to directly invest in an unmanaged index.
- The Morningstar Intermediate-Term Bond Category represents the average annual composite performance of all mutual funds listed in the Intermediate-Term Bond Category by Morningstar.
- Top ten holdings are shown as % of total net assets. Investment type and credit quality diversification are shown as % of total investments which includes cash equivalents.
- Information about the Fund's holdings should not be considered investment advice. There is no guarantee that the Fund will continue to hold any one particular security or stay invested in any one particular sector. Holdings are subject to change at any time.
- The credit quality of securities in the Fund's portfolio and Index are derived from Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. In cases where the credit rating agencies have assigned different credit ratings to the same security, the higher rating is used. In cases where only one rating agency has assigned a credit rating to a security, that rating is used. Credit quality designations range from high (AAA to AA) to medium (A to BBB) to low (BB, B, CCC, CC to C). The lower the rating, the higher the probability of default. Securities rated D are in default.
- Credit is a sector categorization used by Bloomberg Barclays. The sector is comprised of SEC-registered, fixed-rate, investment-grade, U.S. dollar-denominated securities that meet the inclusion criteria of the U.S. Aggregate Index set forth by Barclays. The sector has two main components: Corporate and Non-Corporate. The corporate sectors are Industrial, Utility, and Finance, which include both U.S. and non-U.S. corporations. The non-corporate sectors are Sovereign, Supranational, Foreign Agency, and Foreign Local Government. All of the Fund's holdings are corporate holdings. Over 75% of the Credit sector's composition are corporate sector bonds. The Developed Market Credit category is comprised of securities issued by issuers domiciled outside the emerging markets.  
Source: William Blair, Blackrock Solutions

**Risks:** The Fund's returns will vary, and you could lose money by investing in the Fund. Investing in the bond market is subject to certain risks including market, interest-rate, issuer, credit, and inflation risk; investments may be worth more or less than the original cost when redeemed. Current conditions may result in a rise in interest rates, which in turn may result in a decline in the value of the fixed income investments held by the fund. Convertible securities may be called before intended, which may have an adverse effect on investment objectives. The Fund's investments in below investment grade securities may have additional credit risk. In some cases, below investment grade securities may decline in credit quality or go into default. High-yield, lower-rated, securities involve greater risk than higher-rated securities; portfolios that invest in them may be subject to greater levels of credit and liquidity risk than portfolios that do not.

**Please carefully consider the Fund's investment objective, risks, charges, and expenses before investing. This and other information is contained in the Fund's prospectus, which you may obtain by calling +1 800 742 7272. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. Investing includes the risk of loss.**

This content is for informational and educational purposes only and not intended as investment advice or a recommendation to buy or sell any security. Investment advice and recommendations can be provided only after careful consideration of an investor's objectives, guidelines, and restrictions.

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