

From: [Varun Vivek](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Community Sports Equipment Proposal
Date: Monday, April 6, 2026 4:07:37 PM
Attachments: [Sports Stack Plan \(1\) \(1\).pdf](#)

Dear Parks & Community Services Commission of Livermore,

We are a group of students [REDACTED] [REDACTED] As lifelong residents in the community, parks have been the setting for many of our childhood adventures.

Over the years, community parks have been an enjoyable place for kids to run around, play on the play structure, and get some exercise. We believe a simple addition can make visits to these spaces even more engaging and memorable.

We would like to propose the placement of a **Sports Stack** in public parks.

The **Sports Stack** would be a community resource, an accessible box filled with sports equipment available for neighborhood children to borrow and enjoy. Easy access to equipment allows kids to participate in various activities without the need to bring their own gear. This setup encourages outdoor play among children and helps make parks more interesting.

The City Council in Dublin, Ireland, conducted a similar project, installing lockers with free sports equipment in community parks. The idea later expanded to Switzerland and France, where it recorded 15,000 users and 50,000 hours of activity. The lockers invited people of all ages and abilities to enjoy public parks, and we're sure that this idea will help residents make the most out of Livermore's parks.

Earlier this year, we built a prototype of our box and carried out a supervised, controlled experiment in a park located nearby. Many people were eager to use the box and even donated some of their own sports equipment, showcasing their willingness to support this idea. After collecting data and feedback, we refined our design and are ready for broader implication.

We respectfully seek your support in bringing **Sports Stacks** to Livermore and welcome any suggestions to make this project more effective.

Thank you for considering this proposal. We look forward to your feedback and hope for your partnership in making this project a reality.

Sincerely,

Varun V., Neti V., Anushree T., Laya T., Pranav V., Vrindha P.

[REDACTED]

All aspects of the plan are up for change in regard to your concerns

Overview

- **Project Name:** Sports Stack
- **Purpose:** Encourage children and families to spend more time outdoors by providing shared sports equipment in public parks.
- **Concept:** A secure, weather-resistant box placed in a park that contains simple sports equipment donated by the community and available to anyone to borrow while they are there.

How Sports Stack Works

- The box contains basic recreational equipment such as soccer balls, basketballs, frisbees, jump ropes, and similar items. To get this project started, we would host a sports equipment drive to gather donations from our community.
- Park visitors can freely borrow equipment while at the park and return it when finished based on the honesty system.
- The system operates similarly to community sharing initiatives such as Little Free Libraries.
- The goal is to remove the barrier of needing to bring equipment from home in order to participate in active play and allow families to share the equipment that they don't use as much.

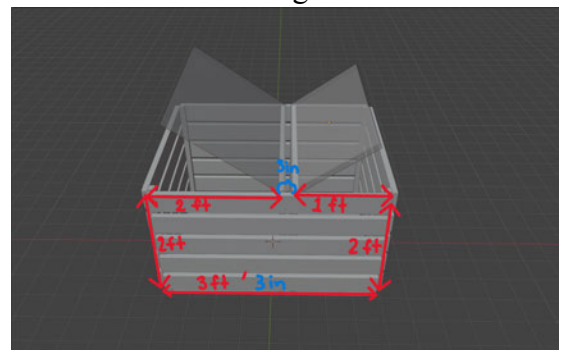
Prototype and Initial Testing

- Our team designed and built a working prototype earlier this year.
- We conducted a supervised trial at Creekside Park to observe how people interacted with the system.
- Many families and children showed interest in using the equipment.
- Several visitors voluntarily donated additional sports items, demonstrating community willingness to support the idea.
- Based on feedback from users, we improved the design and are now exploring methods to spread our idea to other near by parks.

Pictures from Initial Testing



Another Possible Design:



Sports Stacks Design

- Safety Concerns:
 - *Our priorities when designing this box are to make sure the lid closes slowly to ensure no injuries, and the surface of the box is smooth for users to safely interact with it.*
- The box will mostly be made out of wood.
- The lid would use either soft-close or slow-closing hinges to prevent the kid's finger from being caught when opening or closing the box.
 - Hinges and other hardware will be stainless steel
- All edges will be rounded out and sanded
- The structure would be securely anchored to the ground or have a concrete base
 - Two options for a base:
 - The concrete base can either be poured into a hole and connect the box directly to the ground.
 - Or a separate fully enclosed section can be added to the bottom of the box, in which concrete would be poured, making the box too heavy to move.
- The overall size of the box would be low to the ground, 3 feet or less, for easy accessibility to children. Ensures safe use without the need for climbing.
- The box will include small ventilation holes and drainage holes on the sides to prevent water buildup and keep equipment dry.
- The lid will have a clear sign containing simple usage guidelines
 - E.g., Please only use equipment at a time, Please return equipment, etc.
- Each box will consist of different equipment based on the park
 - E.g., A box in a park without only a basketball hoop would only have basketballs, whereas a box in a park with an open field, a basketball hoop, and a tennis court would have tennis balls, basketballs, footballs, and soccer balls.
- *The projected cost per box(excluding the equipment) depends on the quality of the materials used, making it difficult to provide an exact cost. However, a rough estimate would be around \$100 to \$200. Apologies for the lack of information.*

Maintenance Considerations

The proposal is intentionally designed to minimize maintenance requirements for the city.

- Equipment consists only of *durable and low-cost items* such as balls or frisbees.
- Items are inexpensive and easily replaceable if necessary.
- The structure itself would be **weather-resistant and simple**, as we would apply *spar varnish* over the wood to prevent expansion in the rain, reducing the likelihood of repairs.
- Replacement equipment can come from **community donations or inexpensive items**, limiting cost and maintenance responsibility.

Suggested Pilot Program

To ensure the idea works effectively, we propose starting with a small pilot.

- Install **one improved Sports Stack at a single park**
- Our team would monitor the box and collect user feedback.
- Usage and community response could be evaluated after a trial period.
- If successful, the city would decide whether to expand the program.

Goal of the Project

Our goal is simply to help make parks more engaging spaces for children and families while ensuring the program remains easy to manage. By providing accessible sports equipment, we hope to encourage outdoor activity and increase the use of local parks.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. We would be happy to provide additional information or discuss the idea further.

Sincerely,

Varun V., Neti V., Anushree T., Laya T., Pranav V., Vrindha P.

