

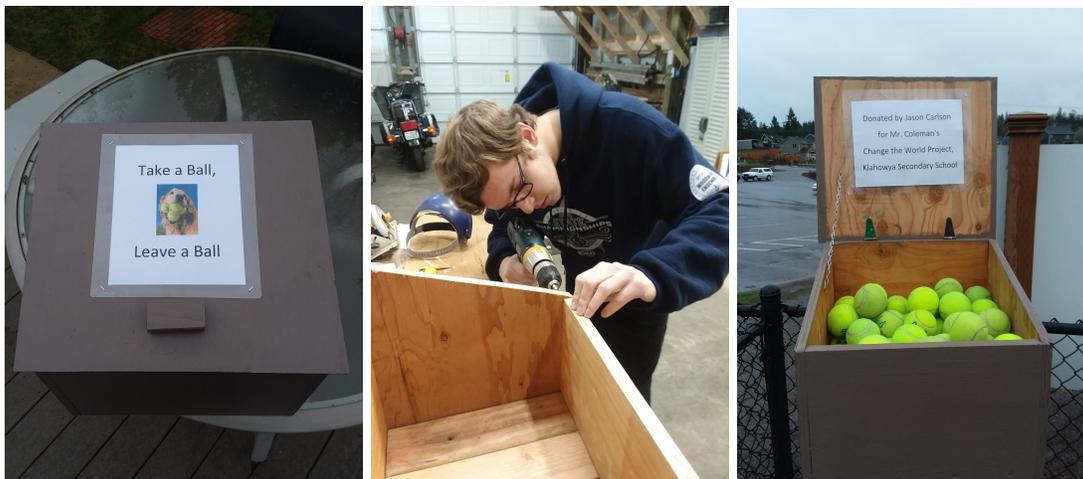
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Civics

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Take a Ball / Leave a Ball Box



PROJECT EVALUATION

When someone goes to a dog park, there are many times where an owner may forget to bring any toys to play fetch with their dogs. My goal for this project was to make it so that even if an owner forgets to bring a toy to the Silverdale Dog Park, there will be tennis balls to play fetch with, and a box to store them in if anyone decides to donate balls to the park. To start my project, I emailed the President of the Silverdale Dog Park, Robert Boddy, and pitched my idea of a Take a Ball / Leave a Ball box. The president loved it, saying “We would love to have you use the park for your project,” (Boddy 2018) and told me to get to work. My dad and I measured

how large the box would need to be to fit seventy-four tennis balls in it, which is how many balls I had at the time, and then we built the box from scratch, painting it once we were done. In total, it took around two weeks to build, paint, and install.

This project, while taking longer to start than first anticipated, as the president was hospitalized and sick for quite some time, went off without a hitch. When I was installing the box, and saw all the happy dogs playing with each other, I knew that my box it would impact the Silverdale Dog Park for the better. Now, owners won't have to worry about bringing toys for their dogs if they forget or don't want to, as they can have them for free thanks to the box. Dogs will be happier, so people will be happier, and that's all I really wanted out of this project.

This project had many relations to Civics concepts, including the dog park itself. The Silverdale Dog Park is a public good, as it is funded through donations, and doesn't exclude anyone, or compete with anyone. My donation to the Silverdale Dog Park was an example of civil society, as it is run by volunteers who do not get paid, but volunteering is the building blocks of a civil society. Finally, it is my civic responsibility to keep the quality of public goods, such as the Silverdale Dog Park, as high as they can be.

CIVIC COMMUNICATION

During my project, I used the email found on the Silverdale Dog Park website to contact the president of the Silverdale Dog Park, so that I had permission to install my box in the park itself. (Silverdale Dog Park, Contact Us, 2017) Before building the box, I interviewed my dad to find the best way to go about building it. "Well, first you need to draw a sketch." (Carlson 2018) He helped me build it as efficiently as possible, first by drawing a sketch of the box to scale, then helping me cut the wood in the right shape and dimensions, and so on.

In this project, I worked with my dad, and the Silverdale Dog Park to build this Take a Ball / Leave a Ball box, and install it in the park, and I would not have been able to do it without them. If I didn't have my dad helping me through every step of the way, I wouldn't have known how to build the box, let alone even where to start. Without the consent of the president, I would not have been able to do such a great thing for the community of Silverdale, and I wouldn't have been able to make people in that community happier.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Because of the stress in wondering if I would get the project done in time, and how well I would do, I feel as though I'm more qualified for college, and whatever else life throws at me. Even now, while I'm not in college, there are so many things that are much more stressful than they should be, but that is how life is, and each stressful project like this is one step closer to becoming a fully functional adult. I've found out that as satisfying as it is in the moment, procrastination is not a good habit to get into, as it just adds to the already massive amount of stress in these kinds of projects. Besides the stress, I feel great pride knowing that so many dogs will feel a whole lot happier with a tennis ball in the park, playing fetch, because of me, and I'm glad that I finished it successfully.

REFLECTION

While building the box, my dad gave some insight on working with lumber, painting, and tools, which will all be useful in later life. Thanks to this project, I know that I should start planning much further in advance, as I waited two months to ask the president for permission, and start the project. The president happened to be sick at the time, which made me think for a while that I would have to forget the whole project, or think of a new project entirely, which made me

even more stressed. Despite me having no reason to start as late as I did, luckily, it all worked out in the end, and I made the world just a little bit better.

Works Cited

Boddy, Robert. 9 January 2018, Conversation About Building the Box, Email.

Contact Us. Silverdale Dog Park. 2017. 12 December 2017.

<<http://silverdaledogpark.org>> Website.

Carlson, David. In My Dad's Shop. 9 January 2018, Conversation on the Best Way to Build the Box, Interview.