Proposal in Trash Removal and Wellness:
Trash Cans on the Disc Golf Course and Disc Share Program

Philosophy 140
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The Problem

Every time we get together with our friends to go disc golfing there seems to be more litter on the disc golf course, and we feel that something needs to be done about it. My group decided that a simple solution to this problem would be installing trash/recycle bins. We chose to throw a disc golf tournament where the profits from the event would go toward these trash/recycle bins. We raised $100, and we are hoping Luther cares about the litter problem enough to match our contribution. Once all the money is raised, we will work with the grounds crew to figure out how to go about installing the trash/recycle bins, and who will empty them. We also plan to start a disc-share program, allowing people with no experience to try the sport. This would give people who cannot afford a disc, and people just wanting to try it out a chance to do so.

Cole, Levi, and Curt are all avid disc golfers, and it is easy to take notice to the new trash lining every hole while trying to enjoy the sport. Each of us has noticed that there are no trash bins on the course (except on hole four by the entrance of Miller). Many people who have soda cans or water bottles do not want to hold on to them until they reach this trash bin. People want things that are convenient, and installing these trash/recycle bins would be a very easy solution to help reduce the amount of litter on the Luther Campus. Not only is it an easy solution, but also, it is one that we can accomplish within the year. We also thought the disc-share idea would be a great way to encourage students to get outside and experience the sport for themselves. People who do not have a disc can try it out and see if it is something they would like to pursue, without having to first purchase a disc. Levi has been working with Greg Lonning to accomplish this goal. Cole, Curt, and Levi have been working with Dan Bellrichard to get the disc golf tournament into action.

Actions Taken to Correct Problem

The disc golf tournament was held on October 30th, and despite the awful weather, we had twenty people show up. That meant we were able to raise $100, which was more than we had expected. We wanted to show that we were willing to raise money to jump-start the project. The
disc golf tournament was held in correspondence with the “Glow Out Event.” This was a pledge that each student made in which all electronic devices, and lights would be unplugged/turned off during the tournament. We felt this was a great way to incorporate sustainability with our tournament. Our group also went to local businesses and told them about our cause. Surprisingly, we were able to get many donations, which we handed out as prizes for the winners of the tournament. We now need to work with the grounds crew to figure out the ways in which we can purchase/install the trash bins. Should we install them, or will the grounds crew? Where should we buy them? Will Luther match the money we raised? These are all questions which will need to be answered. As winter is approaching, we will not need these trash/recycling bins until the spring. But we would like to answer these questions sooner than later. The disc-share program has also been an interesting project.

Levi has been working with Greg Lonning in the hopes of creating a disc-share program. After meeting with Greg Lonning about starting up a disc share program it was evident that the biggest issue about starting this program would be finding a convenient place to check the discs out at. We are still talking with different people to try and figure out the proper place to set this up to where you have a variety of times to come and get disc to golf with. We think that the best place to have it would be at the desk in the entrance of the regent’s center where you can already check out basketballs, racquets, and other sporting supplies. This way Luther College can create a new work-study position to check out disc and other equipment by extending the hours that these services are available to the student body.

**What the Future Holds**

Our proposal is to work with the Grounds Crew and Greg Lonning to install trash/recycling bins and start a disc-share program. We feel that the trash/recycling bins would be an easy and cheap way to reduce the amount of litter on the disc golf course. The trash/recycling bins will be purchased with the money we raised, and possibly some from Luther. Our goal is to work with the grounds crew to insure that the can will be installed in the spring. Greg Lonning is helping our group with the disc-share program and we will be continually be in contact with him after the semester to ensure that this program is running by this spring. The disc-share program will be an easy way for newcomers to enjoy the sport without any expense to them. We need to work with Greg Lonning to find out the best location for the disc-share program, and finding people to work at this new job. It would most likely be a work-study position, but that has yet to be determined.

Our group feels this is a very important project because it is a cheap and easy way to reduce the amount of litter on our beautiful campus. Luther takes very good care of its landscape, but it seems there are a few improvements that would help encourage more people to not litter and start recycling. There are no trash/recycling bins on the disc golf course, and many people will not
hold on to empty cans and bottles for the remaining holes. No, most people will throw the empty can into the woods. We feel this is a very simple solution, which will dramatically reduce the amount of litter on the disc golf course. It will also be easier for the ground crew to empty trash bins rather than pick up litter. The disc-share program is also a great project. We feel it will encourage people to get outside and enjoy the disc golf course. It will allow people to try a new sport at no expense to them, and it will also create a new work-study position.