

A brief narrative of the project we are requesting funding for.

The Dodge County Sports Complex Board of Directors respectfully asks for \$10,000 in seed money to help us pay for a portion of the feasibility study to gain the data needed to start construction and funding requests on a local sports complex. Local athletes have to seek training, instruction, and competition opportunities outside the Fremont area. Underrepresented families have also lacked affordable youth sports opportunities and therefore miss life-changing personal development and scholarship opportunities by being absent from top tournaments and competitions. Studies show that youth in rural counties experience obesity at a higher rate than their suburban or urban counterparts. Our proposed complex addresses these youth community needs. The Fremont community continues to face growing difficulty in attracting and retaining young professional talent. Often these talented people weigh the availability of recreational facilities as a key factor in career and location choices.









The Dodge County Sports Complex will be managed by a nonprofit community-based board of directors comprising community leaders, community partners, and community business owners. We are creating with the board now, we have applied for nonprofit status and have hired an attorney to complete our articles of incorporation. Currently, we are looking for seed money to start the feasibility process of this project. We have met with both the nonprofit team at Cresa and Jeff Weaks a consultant that has done the feasibility for all the Sports Complexes in Nebraska, including Valley and Grand Island. In addition, in the future, we plan to explore a legislative bill that has been established to support the financing of sports facilities – LB 39, which allows nonprofit organizations to apply for state assistance to build a sports complex.

In 2019, 55% of youth ages 6-17 say they “participated on a sports team” or “took sports lessons after school or on weekends.” According to the Project Play State of Play Report 2022, in 2019, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services also set a long-term objective: **63.3% of students playing by 2030.** This creates a huge need for activity space in Fremont, Nebraska.

The graphic below shows growth in two areas we would like to address, basketball and volleyball as growing significantly in participation. Soccer and baseball are other areas that we’d like to address with the possibility of a phased approach with fields. We are confident that the feasibility study will help us determine the right path forward.

## Core Participation in Select Sports

Percentage of children ages 13-17 who participated on a regular basis in 2021  
(number of days varies by sport)

Sport	2008	2019	2020	2021	2020-21 Change	# Kids in 2021
 Baseball	8.2%	10.4%	8.7%	9.5%	9.5%	1,980,057
 Basketball	18.3%	16.5%	16.9%	17.5%	4.0%	3,657,654
 Soccer (Outdoor)	7.9%	7.1%	5.7%	6.7%	18.6%	1,403,949
 Softball (Fast-Pitch)	2.1%	2.0%	1.7%	1.8%	6.8%	369,298
 Swimming (Team)	N/A	2.8%	2.3%	2.2%	-3.6%	461,918
 Tennis	6.0%	6.8%	7.9%	8.0%	0.9%	1,659,298
 Track and Field	6.3%	5.5%	5.2%	4.9%	-6.0%	1,026,422
 Volleyball (Court)	7.3%	5.6%	5.0%	5.2%	5.0%	1,086,800

This information is specific to Nebraska below, on participation in afterschool activities

**Data Source:** National Survey of Children's Health, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.  
<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/data/national-surveys>

**Citation:** Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. 2019 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) data query. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). Retrieved [11/20/22] from [www.childhealthdata.org].

Participation in sports teams or sports lessons after school or on weekends  
Children age 6-17 years  
Nationwide vs. Nebraska

