



**CITY OF ALBANY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION**  
7 HOFFMAN AVE  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12209  
TELEPHONE (518) 434-5699  
WWW.ALBANYNY.GOV

**JONATHAN JONES**  
COMMISSIONER

**KATHY SHEEHAN**  
MAYOR

Bakary Janneh, Commissioner  
Albany County Parks & Recreation  
390 New Salem Rd,  
Voorheeville, NY 12186

## **Re: Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Initiative Grant Opportunity- Louonello**

### **I. and II. Executive Summary and Project Expenses:**

The City of Albany is seeking funding from Albany County to secure the purchase of new playground equipment and seating for the community in Louonello Park (Sunset St. Park) in the Eagle Hill Neighborhood, located in the City of Albany. We believe that the continued revitalization of this valuable public space will attract a broader range of age groups while fostering accessibility and inclusivity. Your support will be greatly appreciated in seeing the playground continue to be an enjoyable place for all members of our community.

**Playground Equipment:** The funding provided will be used to purchase a range of new equipment designed for both play and comfort. This investment will enable us to enhance the park with modern play structures and amenities that cater to a variety of needs, ensuring a more enjoyable and inclusive experience for all visitors.

The piece of playground equipment is the Surprise Basket game. A basketball style activity designed with four hoops, allowing for one to ten players at a time. This engaging game encourages teamwork and cooperation among participants while enhancing their hand-eye coordination skills. It is a fantastic way to promote physical activity, social interaction, and healthy competition. The Triple Ball Shot game is suitable for a wide range of ages and skill levels, making it a versatile addition to any recreational area.

We are currently working with Kompan to find another age appropriate (9-12) piece of equipment that the City can either partner on or is, with shipping and installation with in the \$19,000 grant. We humbly request the full amount of the grant funding to help achieve our goals for Louonello Park.

**Park Benches:** The city-approved horizontal strap benches provide a modern and versatile seating option for any location. These stylish and comfortable benches are being installed across all parks within the City of Albany as replacements for older models. Designed for durability, they require minimal maintenance once



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installed. Additionally, these benches offer a practical benefit, allowing caregivers and parents to easily keep an eye on their children while they play in the park.

By selecting this project for grant funding, you will help transform Louonello Park into an even more vibrant and welcoming public space for the residents of Albany. The addition of new features, including the modern horizontal strap benches, the engaging Triple Ball Shot game, and the interactive Chain Climber, will greatly enhance the park's playability and appeal.

The horizontal strap benches will provide stylish and durable seating, allowing caregivers and parents to comfortably watch their children play. The Triple Ball Shot game will offer fun and dynamic basketball activities that promote teamwork and coordination. Meanwhile, the Chain Climber will offer challenging and inclusive play opportunities, supporting physical development and social interaction.

Together, these improvements will foster a stronger sense of community, well-being, and belonging, creating a safe and stimulating environment for all ages to enjoy. We eagerly anticipate your partnership in bringing this vision to life and making Louonello Park a cherished destination for years to come.

**Budget:**

**Playground Equipment**

Four Shot Ball Game:

Total: \$2,619.00

Freight: \$523.80

Installation: \$2,372.00

Total: \$5,514.80

**Benches:**

Benches: \$1,855 each

Freight: \$822.00

Total: \$4,592.00

Total for the project: \$19,000 total. 10,106.80 for the current quoted equipment.

**III. Benefits Statement**

City parks and fields are crucial to the social, economic, physical, and mental well-being of Albany's residents. They attract new residents and provide essential recreational opportunities and green spaces, which are especially valuable in a city where nearly 65% of the population rents their homes (per 2023 U.S. Census data). Improving Louonello Park will positively impact the community in the following ways:



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1. **Promoting Safety and Playability:** Installing new playground equipment will ensure that the park remains safe, usable and age appropriate, protecting both users and visitors while encouraging physical activity through inclusive sports and play activities for all ages and abilities.
2. **Fostering Social Bonds:** Upgrading seating options with modern benches will enhance social interaction among Albany's diverse community members, including parents, grandparents, friends, and families who visit to support their loved ones and enjoy the park together.
3. **Enhancing Accessibility and Inclusivity:** By addressing play ability for children older than nine years of age we open the park to a larger range of children and families who will use the park. Louonello Park will become more accessible and welcoming, ensuring that individuals of all ages and abilities can fully enjoy and participate in the park's offerings.
4. **Improving Community Engagement:** The continued revitalization of Louonello Park will create a more vibrant and attractive public space, fostering a sense of belonging and well-being among residents, and encouraging greater community involvement in recreational activities.

#### **IV. and V. Need for Assistance**

Without funding from the county, the transformation of Louonello Park into a more vibrant and inclusive community space cannot proceed. While the park will continue to serve as a valuable resource, we will miss the opportunity to significantly enhance its safety, accessibility, and overall appeal. The installation of play structures, new benches, and communal features are essential upgrades that will revitalize Louonello Park, making it a more engaging and welcoming environment for all Albany residents.

These improvements are not just about maintaining the park—they are about elevating it to a space that meaningfully contributes to the quality of life in our city. Enhancing the playability and safety of the park ensures that residents of all ages and abilities can enjoy Louonello Park comfortably and securely. The addition of new seating will foster social interactions, encouraging physical activity and creating a welcoming atmosphere for community gatherings and events.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica J. Morgan".

Jessica J. Morgan, Deputy Commissioner

Albany County Parks and Recreation  
390 New Salem Rd  
Voorheesville, NY 12186

Re: Albany Co. Municipal Park Improvement Initiative Grant Opportunity

To Whom it may concern:

This packet will serve as my application for a grant for Sunset Park from your Improvement Initiative Grant Program.

Sunset Park is in the Eagle Hill Neighborhood on the corner of Cortland and Sunset, across from Eagle Point Elementary School. As the park is owned by the City of Albany, I was told by Eric Ford the city must submit this application for me.

I reached out to Jonathan Jones, Commissioner of the City of Albany Parks and Rec. Department and have included his response agreeing to submit the proposal.

I am a long-time resident of the Eagle Hill Neighborhood. I am Treasurer of the Eagle Hill Neighborhood Association, a member of the Eagle Point PTA and most importantly a mother and grandmother to children who grew up using and continue to use the park.

I am a strong advocate for our neighborhood, Eagle Point Elementary and the City of Albany as a whole. I feel after you review my application you will agree with the need for improvements to our park.

Thank you for your time-

Leah Hoey  
19 Vine St  
Albany, NY 12203

As shown in the aerial photo of Louonello (Sunset) Park and the surrounding area, the park is the only park within walking distance for many families and their children.

The Eagle Point neighborhood is home to numerous immigrant and refugee families, as well as elderly people, many of whom do not drive and only have access to what is within walking distance.

A great deal of grandparents and parents pick up children after school also utilize the park, as does the after school program. It is a local park that parents and caregivers feel comfortable allowing their children to bike or walk to.

The park consists of a basketball court, a swing set, several spring rides, seesaws, a tire swing, an overhead spinner, a slide and soccer goals.

The soccer goals were obtained through a separate grant approximately seven years ago and installed by the city. These goals, used by the school, neighborhood families and AYS U6 team for practice.

Much of the equipment in Louonello (Sunset) Park is geared towards younger children, seeing that there is an elementary school beside it. However, this leaves out nine to twelve year olds and above.

At any given time of day, you will see the park occupied by many families. Any additional equipment and seating areas can only improve the quality of life for our neighbors and neighborhood.

A visit to Swinburne Park or Rosemont Street Park, for example will show the inequities in the amount of equipment as compared to Louonello (Sunset) Park.

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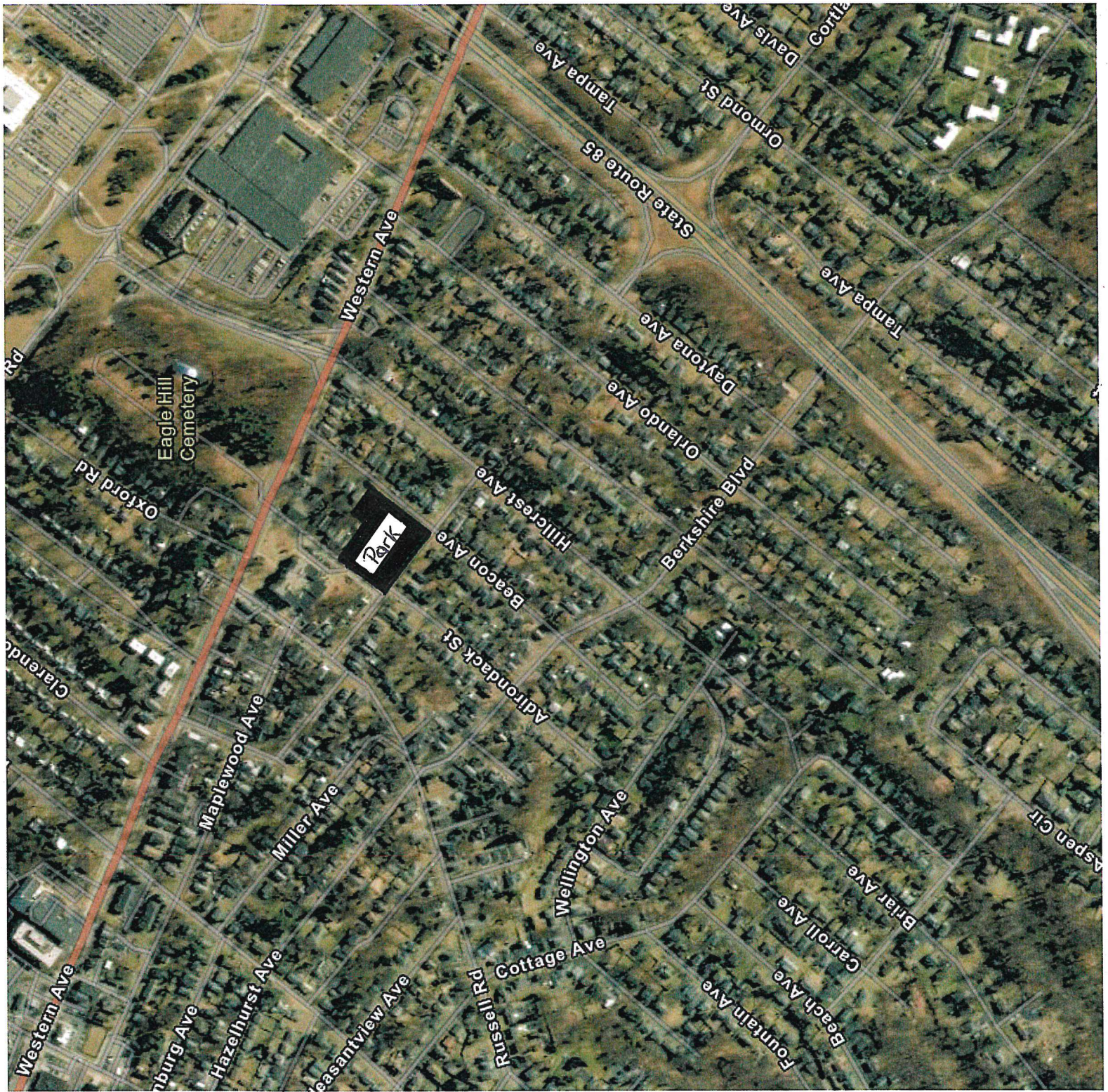
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A visit to Swinburne Park of Rosemont Street Park, for example will show the inequities in the amount of equipment as compared to Louonello (Sunset) Park.







Danielle Slater  
95 Buckingham Dr  
Albany, NY 12208  
Danielle.unser@gmail.com

August 19, 2024

Albany County Parks & Recreation  
390 New Salem Road  
Voorheesville, NY 12186

Dear Albany County Parks & Recreation,

I am writing to express my support for the addition of more play equipment at Lounello Park. As a parent of two children, ages 6 and 9, and a resident who grew up in this neighborhood, I have a vested interest in the development and enhancement of our local park. Our family, along with many others in the community, frequently visits Lounello Park, and we believe that additional play equipment would greatly benefit the neighborhood.

Lounello Park is not only a recreational space for neighborhood families but also serves as an extended playground for Eagle Point Elementary School, which is located just across the street. Given the limited playground facilities at the school, the park plays a crucial role in providing a safe and engaging environment for students to play and socialize both during the school day and after school hours.

Currently, the park offers a variety of equipment suitable for younger children. However, there is a noticeable lack of facilities that cater to older kids, particularly those that encourage climbing and fitness activities. Adding such equipment would not only enhance the physical development of older children but also provide them with more opportunities for outdoor play and exercise.

The presence of diverse play structures would be a significant asset to our community, encouraging families to spend more time outdoors and fostering a sense of community among residents. It would also support the developmental needs of children from Eagle Point Elementary, who rely on the park for their recreational activities.

I urge you to consider this request and look forward to seeing Lounello Park evolve into an even more vibrant and inclusive space for all age groups. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to improving the quality of life in Albany County.

Sincerely,

Danielle Slater

To whom it may concern –

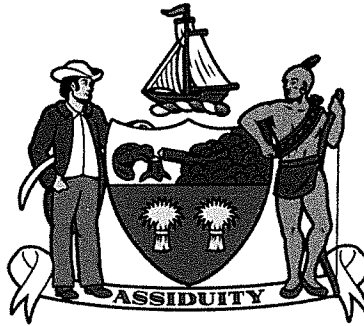
My name is Emily King and I am Vice President of the Eagle Point Elementary PTA. I am also a parent to two young children, ages 7 and 10, living off Russell Rd. I am writing to you in support of a proposal for new playground equipment and seating at Sunset Park, submitted by Leah Hoey and the City of Albany.

Sunset Park is my children's neighborhood playground, as well as an extension of their school playground. Eagle Point is incredibly fortunate to border Sunset Park and be able to take advantage of the amenities it provides, and we on the PTA are fully in support of the proposal to add additional equipment to better serve the range of ages and abilities we have in both the neighborhood and the school community. Further, I know monitoring staff and parents will appreciate the additional seating, which is currently sparse around the play equipment.

Please consider supporting this proposal.

Sincerely,

Emily King  
VP Eagle Point PTA



CITY OF ALBANY  
COMMON COUNCIL  
CITY HALL – ROOM 206  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207

August 21, 2024

Dear Albany County Parks and Recreation,

I am writing in support of a grant for equipment for Lounello Park (Formerly named Sunset Park) it is located on Cortland Street between Cortland and Beacon Avenues. Lounello Park is also directly across the street from Eagle Point Elementary School that has 320 students from grades Pre-K through 5. Over half the students live below the poverty line and the park is a needed outlet for them to play and to be kids. This is a well written and thought-out proposal and adding benches will be a welcome relief to the many tired feet that come to the park. The children will love the new piece of equipment that is well made and should last for a good many seasons.

Thank You,

*Thomas Hoey*

Thomas Hoey

Common Council Member 15<sup>th</sup> Ward

19 Vine Street

Albany, New York 12203

(518) 378-1474

Albany County Parks and Recreation  
390 New Salem Road  
Voorheesville, N.Y. 12186

This letter is in regards:

Albany County Municipal Parks Improvement Initiative Grant opportunity

To Whom It may concern:

Eagle Hill Neighborhood Association along with Eagle Point School are applying for the grant for numerous reasons. The play ground is directly across from Eagle Point school which has enrolment of 300+ students.

The Playground needs updating since the equipment that is there has outlived its life. You will see all the playgrounds throughout the city of Albany, have been updated EXCEPT for “Lounello Park” that is the parks name.

The 2 pieces of equipment we selected are geared for 4-5th graders. The existing equipment is for Pre-K, first, second, third grades.

The park gets utilized by the school when weather permitting at lunch time and after school. The residents of Eagle Point have a large number of young families whose children attend Eagle Point School. It also has an after-school program and these children also use the park.

We have many Immigrants with children that use the park. Most or maybe all walk to the park. For that reason, we need additional benches. We only have 2 now and they get kind of crowded.

I hope Albany County Municipal Parks Improvement Initiative Grant opportunity will give us the “Grant Money” so we can update our Park.

Thank You

Vincent Rigosu, president

Eagle Point Neighborhood Association

Leah Hoey

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**From:** Jonathan Jones <jjones@albanyny.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2024 9:48 AM  
**To:** Leah Hoey  
**Cc:** Brittney White  
**Subject:** Re: Albany Co Parks Grant

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization and may contain **potentially dangerous** website links or attachments. Please use caution before clicking any links, attachments or following instructions below. Never supply NYSTRS credentials based on an external email request. Please contact the Helpdesk x4357 if in doubt.

Good Morning Mrs. Hoey,

Recreation can submit your request for the new funding. If you could send as much information as possible to myself and brwhite@albanyny.gov, we can submit the application before the grant closes.

Best,

**Jonathan P. Jones**, MS, CPRP  
Commissioner  
Department of Recreation, Youth & Workforce Services  
City of Albany  
24 Eagle Street  
Albany, NY 12207  
O: 518-434-5699  
M: 518-391-8500  
jjones@albanyny.gov  
[www.albanyny.gov](http://www.albanyny.gov)



1050 Columbia Dr.  
Carrollton, GA 30117

1.800.327.8774  
superiorrecreation.com

QUO0290949

CREATED: 8/28/2024  
EXPIRES: 9/27/2024

PROJECT NAME	NOTES
<b>BILL TO</b> Patsy@863-421-3281 Department of General Services- Albany, NY One Corners Blvd. Albany NY 12204	<b>SHIP TO</b> Patsy@863-421-3281 Department of General Services- Albany, NY One Corners Blvd. Albany NY 12204
	<b>TERMS</b> Net 30

QTY	ITEM	UNIT PRICE	EXTENDED PRICE
2	<b>B6WBHORZCASINO</b> - 6 Ft. Bench with Contoured Back, Ribbed Steel, 1 1/2" x 12 Gauge Square Galvanized Tubing Legs and Arms, Portable or Surface Mount. ** RB ** <b>OPTIONS:</b> Select Stickers: Webcoat	\$1,855.00	\$3,710.00
1	<b>Freight: Freight Out Billable and Handling</b> - Freight: Freight Out Billable and Handling	\$882.00	\$882.00
		<b>Subtotal</b>	\$4,592.00
		<b>Tax (0%)</b>	\$0.00
		<b>Net Total</b>	\$4,592.00

Important note: Superior customers are responsible for any and all sales tax due. Tax rate(s) are fluid and dependent upon the exact ship-to and the effective rate on the date the order ships from any Superior facility. If exempt, please provide tax exempt documents when submitting your signed quote or purchase order, if not already provided. Taxes may not be displayed on the quote or sales order but will be billed where required by law.

Thank you for the opportunity to quote your upcoming project! If you have any questions, please contact our Customer Service Department at 1.800.327.8774. Quotes do not include installation or safety surfacing unless otherwise noted. In the event of any inconsistencies in regards to terms, the terms stated on this quote shall control.

## Sales Proposal

City of Albany - Recreation  
 Jessica Morgan  
 7 Hoffman Avenue  
 Dept. of Recreation  
 Albany, NY 12209

Quote No. SP141147-1  
 Customer No. 630078  
 Document Date 08/29/2024  
 Expiration Date 10/28/2024

Sales Representative Brie Martinez  
 Email BriBus@Kompan.com  
 Phone No. 315-592-1404 / 800-426-9788

Customer Ref. Basket w/ Install

Project Name US320372 City of Albany Grant Project

No.	Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Discount %	Net Price
<u>FRE3024-3717</u>	Surprise Basket In-ground 90cm	1	Pieces	2,910.00	10.00	2,619.00
	Add RE000200-00US					
INSTALLATION SERV	Installation of Products	1	Pieces	2,372.00		2,372.00
FREIGHT	Freight	1	Pieces	523.80		523.80

Description	Qty	Retail Price	Discount	Net Price
No. of Products	1			
Subtotal - Products		2,910.00	291.00	2,619.00
Subtotal - Installation		2,372.00		2,372.00
Subtotal - Freight		523.80		523.80
<b>Total USD</b>				<b>5,514.80</b>

Payment Terms Net 30 days