

2025 INNOVATION CHAMPIONS CONTEST

Temporary and Portable Mailbox

COUNTY: Richland County
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PROBLEM STATEMENT:

When the inevitable happens and a mailbox accidentally gets broken off while plowing snow, a temporary fix needs to be made for the homeowner to continue to receive mail. Frozen ground makes it impossible to drill new holes and steep ditches can make it hard to place a temporary box at a correct angle. We designed this to be lightweight, portable and adjustable.

SOLUTION:

We made a framework that is adjustable for the grade of the ditch, lightweight to make moving easy, and quick to set up and take down.

LABOR, EQUIPMENT, AND MATERIAL:

Equipment Used: *(to build innovation)*

- Handsaw to cut the telespar to length
- Wire welder
- Impact driver

Materials:

- 25' x 1.5" scrap telespar
- Scrap 2x6 board
- 14" of 2x2 angle iron

New Materials:

- Mailbox
- 14 x 1" wood screws
- Two 3.5" x 3/8" bolts and nuts

Total Labor Hours: *(No. of persons, number of hours for each)* *(Note: Consider time required for design and discussion)*

- 2 employees @ 2hrs each

COST SUMMARY: *(approximate cost of each item purchased)*

- Mailbox – \$24
- Hardware – \$5

Total Cost: \$29 plus labor

SAVINGS AND BENEFITS: *(to agency – monetary and/or safety related)*

No trying to chip away frozen ground to replace posts, no attempting to reattach post to remaining stump, less time exposed to elements and traffic, quick and easy replacement of mailbox means safer employees and happier county resident.

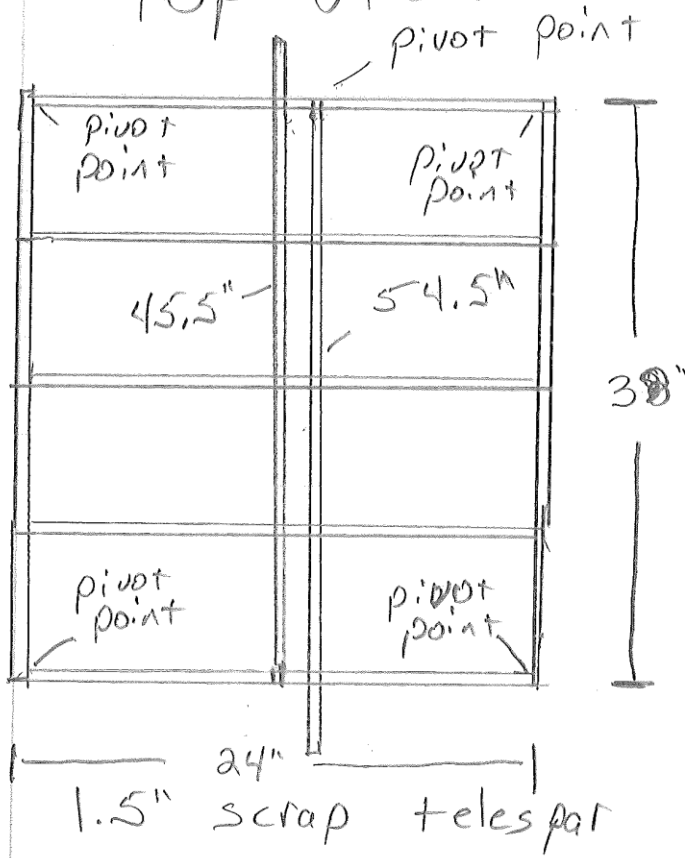
ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS:

- Prior to using the innovation – NA
- After using the innovation – NA

DRAWING (SCHEMATIC) WITH DETAILS: *(label material parts/components in detail)*

Schematic and pictures are attached below.

top view



side view

