

# LostNFound

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## Project Description:

LostNFound is a web-based lost-and-found hub for the Northeastern community. It gives students and staff a single destination to report missing belongings, upload details about items they discover, and coordinate returns securely. The platform focuses on rapid discovery through structured metadata (category, location, time found), real-time search, and intuitive post management.

## User personas:

### 1) Sourav Das — A graduate student who lost an item

**Profile:** 1st-year student; moves between classroom, library, and gym; mostly mobile user.

**Goals:** Posting a 'Lost' item quickly; get accurate match suggestions; recover within a day.

**Pain points:** Too many similar posts; hard to prove ownership; worries about sharing phone/email publicly.

**Key tasks:** Creates post with photo with last-seen location and time, reviews suggested matches, messages the finder and marked it as returned.

**Success metrics:** Time to first relevant match, successful handoff, minimal back-and-forth.

### 2) Puneet Singh Puri — Student who finds items while commuting

**Profile:** A senior who carries a busy schedule, often spots items in common areas.

**Goals:** Records a 'Found' item with minimal friction and sets a pickup and holding location.

**Pain points:** No time to create long posts or pasting images from phone and getting spammy messages.

**Key tasks:** Posting photo and holding place, toggling status to '*Matched/Returned*' after handoff.

**Success metrics:** Post completion in less than 60 seconds, reduction in duplicate "Is this yours?" pings.

### 3) James Wolowitz — Campus helpdesk/moderator

**Profile:** A student who works at the front desk, receives physical items and ensures posts are legitimate.

**Goals:** Verify obvious matches, hide spam/duplicates, and keep an audit trail.

**Pain points:** Repeated/low-quality posts and no single place to link a Lost with a Found.

**Key tasks:** Reviewing flagged posts, link *Lost-Found* pairs, and marks *Returned* to add moderator notes.

**Success metrics:** Fewer unresolved open posts; fast resolution of flagged content.

### 4) Sam Raimi — International graduate on the go

**Profile:** Lives off-campus; commutes; uses low-connectivity cellular data.

**Goals:** Search and filter quickly; save time with good defaults; receive email notifications.

**Pain points:** Slow networks; long lists; needs accessible, readable UI on small screens.

**Key tasks:** Search by category/location/date; subscribe to updates; view detail; contact safely.

**Success metrics:** Time to locate relevant posts; number of clicks to reach an item detail.

# User Stories:

## A. Lost-item owner (Sourav)

- **Create Lost post** - *As a student who lost an item, I want to create a Lost post with photo, last-seen location, and time so that others can help me find it.*  
**Success Criteria:** Required fields validated; success redirects to detail; status = **Open**; shows contact panel.
- **Edit/Update** - *As a poster, I want to edit my post to correct details or add a better photo so that matches improve.*  
**Success Criteria:** Only owner can edit; changes logged with timestamp; feed updates reflect edits.
- **Match suggestions** - *As a poster, I want to see suggested Found items so that I can quickly check potential matches.*  
**Success Criteria:** Suggestions ranked by category/keywords/date proximity; each links to candidate detail.
- **Mark returned** - *As an owner, I want to mark my item as Returned so that the listing stops appearing in open searches.*  
**Success Criteria:** Status changes to **Returned**; item de-emphasized in feeds; write to history trail.
- **Safe contact** - *As a poster, I want to share email (or masked contact) so that I'm reachable without exposing private data.*  
**Success Criteria:** Toggle "show email"; copy-to-clipboard; safety note displayed.

## B. Finder (Puneet)

- **Create Found post fast** - *As a finder, I want a quick form with image upload/URL and pickup location so that I can post in under a minute.*  
**Success Criteria:** Mobile-friendly; image preview; default time = now; status = **Open**.
- **Hold & update** - *As a finder, I want to update holding location and status so that the owner can retrieve it easily.*  
**Success Criteria:** Location editable; status transitions **Open** → **Matched** → **Returned**; changes timestamped.
- **Reduce duplicates** - *As a finder, I want the system to warn me if a similar post already exists so that I don't create duplicates.*  
**Success Criteria:** Inline hint when title/category/date match an existing Found post; user can proceed or view similar.

## C. Searcher on the go (Sam)

- **Search & filter** - *As a student, I want to filter by category, location, and date so that I can narrow to relevant posts quickly.*  
**Success Criteria:** Query params preserved across pagination; empty state and loading skeletons implemented.
- **Notifications** - *As a user, I want notifications for matches and status changes so that I don't need to keep checking the site.*  
**Success Criteria:** Unread badge increments; "Mark all as read"; each notification deep-links to item.

## D. Moderator (James)

- **Moderation queue** - As a moderator, I want a queue of flagged/new posts so that I can review and clean up the feed.

**Success Criteria:** Filter by type/status/flags; table with bulk actions **Verify/Hide/Delete**; reasons captured on hide.

- **Link Lost–Found** - As a moderator, I want to link a Lost post to a Found post so that both show **Matched** with cross-references.

**Success Criteria:** Both items get matched to set; statuses updated; audit entry recorded.

- **Verify post** - As a moderator, I want to mark legitimate posts as ‘Verified’ so that users trust the platform.

**Success Criteria:** Verified badge visible on public card/detail; reversible by admin.

- **Audit trail** - As a moderator, I want every action logged so that we maintain accountability.

**Success Criteria:** Log stores actor, action, before/after, timestamp, optional note; read-only timeline view.

## E. Cross-cutting (all users)

1. **Accessibility & mobile** - As any user, I need clear text labels, keyboard navigation, and readable layouts on small screens so that the app is usable for everyone.

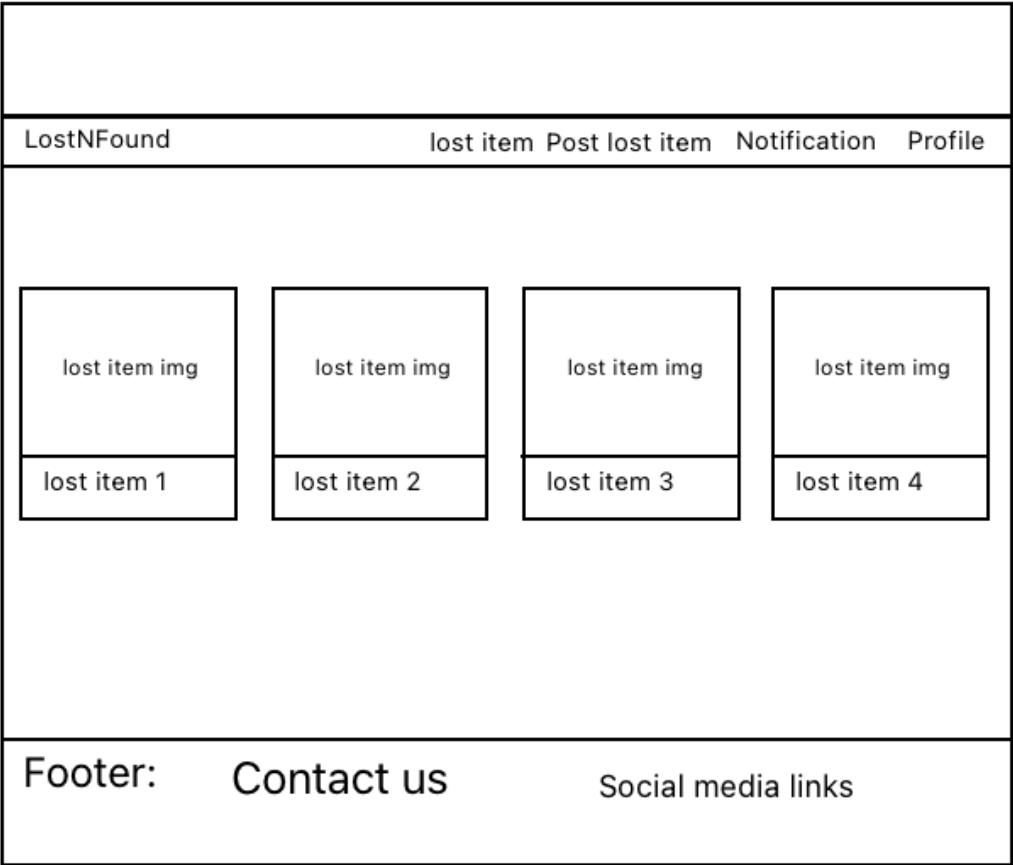
- **Success Criteria:** Color and text for statuses, alternative text on images, focus states and responsive grid.

2. **Performance** - As any user, I want lists to load quickly so that the site feels responsive even with 1k+ records.

- **Success Criteria:** Paginated endpoints; client caching of last page; API returns in less than 500ms on seeded data.

# Design Mockups:

## Home Feed



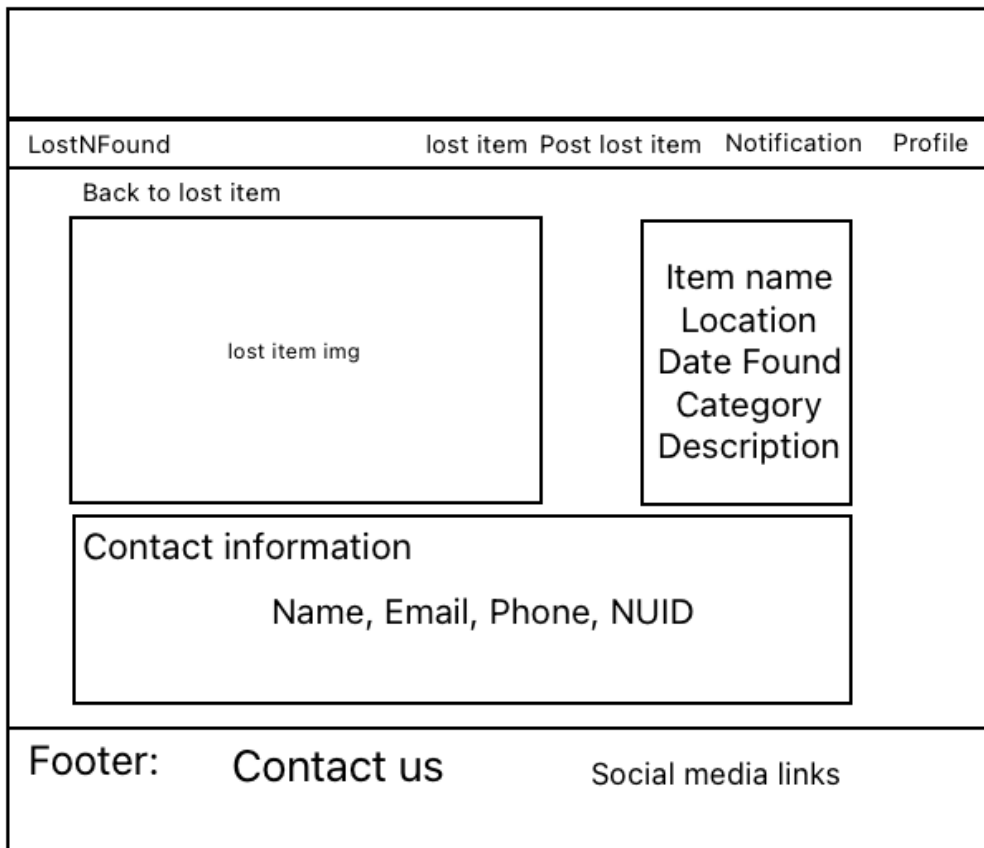
The **Home Feed** shows a simple, top navigation bar with brand, quick links (Lost Items, Post Lost Item, Notifications, Profile), and a clear primary CTA to create a post. Below it, a responsive **card grid** lists recent lost items, each card displaying a thumbnail, item title, category badge, and a small status pill. Users can click any card to view full details. A slim info/hero strip (optional) can highlight value or stats. The **footer** provides Contact Us and social links for support and credibility.

## Lost Items Catalog:

LostNFound	lost item	Post lost item	Notification	Profile
<div>Search bar</div>				
<div>Filtering options: Location, Date Found, Category</div>				
<div>lost item img</div> <div>lost item 1</div>	<div>lost item img</div> <div>lost item 2</div>	<div>lost item img</div> <div>lost item 3</div>	<div>lost item img</div> <div>lost item 4</div>	
<div>Pagination</div>				
<div>Footer:      Contact us      Social media links</div>				

This page lists all lost-item posts with a prominent **search bar** and a **filter row** (Location, Date, Category) to quickly narrow results. Below, a responsive **card grid** displays each item's thumbnail, title, and a small meta line (posted time/location) with a **View Details** quick action. Results support **pagination** (or infinite scroll) for long lists while preserving active filters and search terms. The standard top navigation and footer remain consistent for easy access to posting, notifications, and contact links.

## Item Detail:



This page shows a large item photo (or carousel) on the left with a right-side **metadata panel** containing the item name, category, where/when it was lost/found, and a short description. A dedicated **Contact panel** displays the poster's name and email/phone/NUID with a copy button and a brief safety note. An action bar provides **View Matches**, **Report Issue**, and, for the owner, **Edit** plus **Mark as Matched/Returned**. A breadcrumb ("Back to Lost Items") and a small timeline (created/updated) help navigation and transparency.

## Post Item:

LostNFound		lost item	Post lost item	Notification	Profile
<div>Posting an item</div> <div><div>Name</div><div>Location</div></div> <div>Item image(upload option)</div> <div>Description</div> <div><div>Date Found</div><div>Category</div></div> <div><div>Post Item</div><div>Clear Form</div></div>					
Footer: <div>Contact us</div> <div>Social media links</div>					

A simple, step-style form to create a new lost/found post, capturing **Name**, **Location**, **Image (upload/URL)**, **Description**, **Date**, and **Category**. Fields validate inline (required, email / URL format, reasonable date) and show a compact **live preview** so users see exactly what will be published. Primary actions are **Post Item** (creates with status *Open* and redirects to the item detail) and **Clear Form**. Small tips beneath fields guide what to include (e.g., proof-of-ownership hints) and a brief safety note appears near the contact section.

## Login:

LostNFound	lost item Post lost item Notification Profile
<div><div>Sign in</div><div><div>Sign in</div><div>Create account</div></div><div>Email address</div><div>Password</div><div>Sign in</div></div>	
Footer: Contact us	Social media links

A centered auth card offers tab '**Sign in**' with clear fields for email and password. Inline validation shows format/strength hints and explains campus-only access if required (e.g., *@northeastern.edu*). Helpful links include **Forgot password** and a brief privacy note about how contact info is used on posts. On success, users are redirected back to their prior context (e.g., the post form or item they were viewing).



## Create Account:

LostNFound		lost item	Post lost item	Notification	Profile
<div><div>Create account</div><div><div>Sign in</div><div>Create account</div></div><div><div>NUID</div><div>Full name</div><div>Phone number</div><div>Email address</div><div>Password</div><div>Confirma password</div></div><div>Create account</div></div>					
Footer: Contact us		Social media links			

A centered auth card offers tab **'Sign in'** with clear fields for email and password. Inline validation shows format/strength hints and explains campus-only access if required (e.g., *@northeastern.edu*). Helpful links include **Forgot password** and a brief privacy note about how contact info is used on posts. On success, users are redirected back to their prior context (e.g., the post form or item they were viewing).

## Profile Dashboard:

LostNFound		lost item	Post lost item	Notification	Profile
<div>Account Details</div> <div>Name Email Nuid Phone</div> <div>Change password</div> <div>Logout</div>	<div>All the posts</div> <div><div>Item image</div><div>Mark claimedDelete</div><div>name,Search status, location, description</div></div> <div><div>Item image</div><div>Mark claimedDelete</div><div>name,Search status, location, description</div></div> <div><div>Item image</div><div>Mark claimedDelete</div><div>name,Search status, location, description</div></div>				
Footer:      Contact us                      Social media links					

A two-column dashboard shows an **Account panel** on the left (name, email, NUID/phone) with quick actions for **Change Password** and **Logout**. The main area lists **My Posts** as compact cards with image, title, location/date, and a status pill, each offering **Edit**, **Delete**, and **Mark as Claimed/Returned** actions. Filters (status/date) and a small counter help track open vs. resolved posts. Edits and password changes open in lightweight modals, so users stay in context.

## Notifications:

LostNFound	lost item Post lost item Notification Profile
Notifications	Mark all as read
	Mark as read Close
	Mark as read Close
	Mark as read Close
Pagination	
Footer: Contact us	Social media links

A clean feed lists timestamped alerts related to your posts—match suggestions, claim requests, messages, and status changes—each entry linking directly to the relevant item. A top **“Mark all as read”** control and per item **Mark as read / Close** actions keep the inbox tidy. Simple filters (Unread/Read, Type) and pagination help manage long histories. Badges on the nav show the unread count, and read items de-emphasize visually.