



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2024.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).


PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Dinwiddie
Program Title: Spring Sports Facilities Project
Program Category: Parks & Recreation

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: W. Kevin Massengill
Title: County Administrator
Signature: 

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Dinwiddie County High School lacked adequate facilities for spring sports. Baseball, softball and tennis (boys and girls) had nowhere to change before practice or games; the only restroom facilities for softball and tennis were port-a-johns, which were not ADA compliant; and restrooms for baseball fans were on the back of a dilapidated shed that also housed a make-shift concession stand. There was no concession stand for softball and tennis. Construction of a brand new facility for softball and tennis, and renovation of the shed for baseball came with a price tag of \$1.5m. An interdisciplinary team that included Dinwiddie County government, Dinwiddie County Public Schools, the Dinwiddie Lady Generals Softball Booster Club, Inc., the Dinwiddie Baseball Dugout Boosters, Inc., parents, and local businesses worked together to devise a creative and cost-effective way to bring this much-needed project to fruition. The non-profit booster clubs took the lead and were able to accept donated labor and materials, along with monetary contributions from the County and public school system. In the end, the \$1.5m facility, cost a total of \$458,000...a savings of more than \$1m. In addition to two beautiful facilities that will support Dinwiddie High School spring sports for decades to come, this project brought the community together toward a common goal, generating investment and pride in the result.

PROBLEM or NEED:

Dinwiddie County High School spring sports athletes (baseball, softball, and boys/girls tennis) were without adequate locker room and restroom facilities.

The only restroom facilities on-site were port-a-johns and a small restroom on the back of a dilapidated shed at the baseball field. Students were required to change clothes in their cars before practices and games. There were no ADA accessible restrooms available for the public. The father of one of our athletes is in a wheelchair and had no access to restroom facilities when he came to see his child play sports. This was unacceptable.

Every four years, Dinwiddie High School hosts a regional tournament that brings hundreds of participants and spectators. Hundreds of people using port-a-johns and without concessions is not hospitable, not efficient; and definitely not the image we would like to portray to guests.

The facilities were beyond "less than adequate", they were abhorrent.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

To address the issue, a few concerned parents called a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools, Athletic Director, and County Administrator to pitch the idea of building a field house for spring sports. This proved unrealistic due to cost but the group continued to discuss the issues and brainstorm solutions.

After several meetings and a few field trips to neighboring localities. It was decided that the best option would be to construct a scaled-down spring sports facility that included three locker rooms for home teams (softball, boys' tennis, and girls' tennis); public (ADA accessible) restrooms; a concession stand; a coach's office; and storage. In addition to the new building, the existing structure adjacent to the baseball field would undergo a full renovation to accommodate a locker room, coach's office, storage, and ADA compliant restrooms. The cost of this project would be \$1,500,000, which was still more than the County could afford.

In order to bring this project to fruition, the stakeholders had to get creative. They enlisted the support of the Dinwiddie Lady Generals Softball Booster Club, Inc., and the Dinwiddie Baseball Dugout Boosters (both of which are 501(c)3 organizations). Under the umbrella of the non-profits, the County and public school system could make monetary contributions, and local contractors were willing to provide materials at cost and donate labor.

The resulting facilities compliment the architecture and design of the adjacent high school and provide safe and adequate space for locker rooms, restrooms, and concession stands that are available to spring sports athletes and teams. The restroom facility also supports practices for other sports including football, and cross country.

COST of PROGRAM:

This project began with a price tag of \$1,500,000. However, by working collaboratively, Dinwiddie County, Public Schools, non-profit booster clubs, and local businesses, the project was completed for **\$458,000**. That's an incredible savings of \$1,042,000!

RESULTS/SUCCESS of PROGRAM:

This project resulted two beautiful, ADA accessible facilities that will be used by every outdoor sport at Dinwiddie County High School. Students can feel safe and confident as they change for games and practices in well-equipped locker rooms. Fans will be able to use climate controlled restroom facilities, steps away from the field. Concessions will be sold providing refreshment to fans and much-needed revenue for sports programs. What makes this project such a success is the way the Dinwiddie government, schools, and the community came together to make it happen.

The Spring Sports Facilities Project was recently awarded a 2024 NACo Achievement Award.

WORTHINESS OF AWARD:

Since its inception, the VACo Achievement Awards program has recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Dinwiddie County's Spring Sports Facilities Project is the epitome of outstanding! The project is a shining example of local government, schools, local businesses, and a non-profit organization working together to meet a critical need. Not only was that need met, the partnership yielded a significant savings.

This project could easily serve as a model for other localities seeking to meet a need with limited resources. Projects such as this bring the community together as a whole and result in increased investment and pride.

Spring Sports Facilities

