



**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS
TASC TOP PROJECTS COMPETITION**

High School

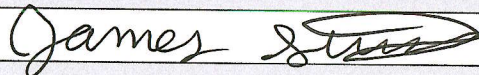
Middle Level

ENTRY COVER SHEET

PLEASE INDICATE:

THIS IS AN INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL PROJECT.

THIS IS A COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL PROJECT.

School Name submitting the application.	School Address:
Baird High School	600 West 7 th Street
School City/State/Zip:	Size of Community(ies):
Baird, TX 79504	1544
Advisor Name:	Advisor E-Mail:
Peggy Grimes	pgrimes@bairdisd.org
Principal Name:	Principal Signature & Email Address
James Stevens	
School UIL Classification:	
1A	jstevens@bairdisd.org
Project Name:	Project Dates:
Investing in Tomorrow - The Whistle Stop Community Park & Daycare Playground	March - October 2025
Total Number of Students in Council(s):	Number of Members Involved in the Project:
31	19
Total Number of Students Enrolled in School(s):	Number of Other Students Involved in Project:
74	15
Total Number of Faculty employed in School(s):	Number of Faculty Involved in Project:
21	7
Number of Community Groups Involved in Project	Number of Community Members Involved in Project
10	25

THIS INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE. THE TASC WEBSITE DOES NOT ACCEPT GOOGLE DOCS.

This application must be submitted online via the TASC website.

Upload photos, newspaper articles, etc. **Scan all pages into one document and upload for judging.**

Please upload one good jpeg of the project separately.

Please consider submitting a proposal for a table talk (HS) on your project at the high school conference or for a breakout at the Middle-Level Conference for extra points. You must apply to do that.

Updated July 2025

Investing in Tomorrow – Community Park and Daycare Playground

The only Daycare Center in Baird had outgrown their old playground area. They searched for a new facility but were unable to find one. It looked like they would have to close or move to another town, which would be a hardship on some of our teachers who use the facility. The Development Corporation of Baird purchased a lot next to the daycare and asked if we would collaborate with the city by revitalizing the property into a community park/daycare playground area. We chose four student council members to head up this project.

Student Council Members meet with the City of Baird, FFA sponsor and welding instructor, School Mentors, class sponsors, and Professional Artists (design the mural) to plan the project and a timeline for the completion.

A large project like this was going to be very expensive. Students presented the project to the Tax and Economic Development boards and received several grants. In addition, local citizens and businesses gave monetary donations, materials and services. The city of Fredericksburg gave us metal trashcans, all we had to do was make a trip to pick them up, refurbish and paint them. Students also held fundraisers including selling snow cones at softball games and after school, selling Easter egg cookies, and hiding eggs in yards.

The lot had been vacant for over 30 years and had not only become a huge mess but was an eye sore in our downtown. We scheduled multiple clean up days for Student Council members and the Junior and Senior classes. After the hauling off the debris and rubbish, masonries started work on securing loose rock to the walls. This was much larger project than we first planned and we got behind schedule and were unable to use the Welding class for building the fence. A local business stepped in and built the fence for us. We covered sections of the brick with concrete so the murals could be drawn and painted. The large mural depicts the history of Baird including “stamps” of a train, the State of Texas, the old Court House, the Bears Den and other things that represent our town and county. Other sections of the walls were painted with bright and cherry murals.

The back section of the park is for the daycare center and the front section is the pocket park. Artificial turf covers the daycare playground and under four picnic tables in the front section. Handmade planters filled with seasonal flowers and container sized trees bring nature alive to the park. One of our local business built a fence to enclose the park and keep the children safe. When the daycare children are not using the playground, the public is welcome to use it.

On Friday, October 10, 2025, the ribbon cutting was held. A large crowd came to check out the project. People were amazed at the transformation. “To say we are proud of what the students have accomplished is an understatement,” said the City Manager. “This will be utilized not only by the daycare, but the community for years to come.”

Baird High School

600 West 7th Street, Baird, TX 79054

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Dear Texas Association of Student Councils,

On behalf of Baird High School, I am proud to share the story of an extraordinary project completed this past year by our Student Council—one that reflects the very best of student leadership, service, and community pride.

This year, our Student Council learned that the Little Bear Learning Academy, the only daycare in the City of Baird, was in desperate need of a new outdoor playground area. By law, the daycare is required to provide an outdoor space; however, its location in Baird's historic downtown business district left no room for such an area. At the time, the daycare was leasing a small outdoor space from a nearby homeowner, but the owners, Clint and Shauna McArthur, had outgrown the space. As a result, they faced the difficult possibility of relocating—or even leaving Baird altogether.

When presented with this challenge, our students immediately recognized the importance of keeping the only daycare in town. They understood that access to childcare is critical not only for families, but also for the long-term success of our schools, local businesses, and community. Determined to help, the students partnered with the City of Baird and both local economic development boards to purchase a lot adjacent to the daycare. Together, a vision was formed to transform the space into something that would benefit the entire community.

The result was the creation of the Whistlestop Pocket Park in historic downtown Baird. The front portion of the lot was designed as a public “pocket park” for community use, while the back portion is leased to the daycare for a small fee, providing a safe, permanent outdoor play space and allowing the McArthurs to remain in Baird.

What makes this project truly remarkable is the commitment behind it. Student Council members gave up significant portions of their summer, volunteering countless hours of labor, planning, and coordination. Junior and senior class workdays were scheduled by the school to support the effort, and students actively involved community members, organized multiple fundraisers, solicited donations, and personally picked up materials and supplies from locations across the state of Texas. Their hard work brought new life and pride to historic downtown Baird.

These students gave their summer, their energy, and their hearts to serve others. Their work not only provided a safe outdoor space for Little Bear Learning Academy, but also strengthened childcare access for families—an essential component of a thriving school system and community. The Whistlestop Pocket Park now stands as a lasting symbol of what student leadership and service can accomplish.

We are incredibly proud of our Baird High School Student Council and are honored to share their story with the Texas Association of Student Councils.

Sincerely,

James Stevens
Baird High School
Baird Independent School District

