

## Facilities Committee Report

October 2024

Written by Mariah Scott

Here are some short updates about various facilities and gardening initiatives happening or planned at Circle Pines. If you would like to know more, please reach out to Mariah Scott or Eddie DeGraw. We would love to know your thoughts and how you want to become involved! Please know that all the efforts described below were the work of dozens of people. A special shout out to Earl, Fred, Gerardo, Victor, Steve, Pat, Noah, Eddie, Russ, and Harrison, but for all those of you who have helped out, your work is deeply appreciated!

This summer, Circle Pines finalized the insulation, installation of electricity, and remodeling of four new cabins in orchards. This is in addition to the new log cabin created as part of the land-use committee's work. Building, automotive, and appliance repairs have also been made in many areas of camp. The summer camp construction work project used lumber from our trees to make many useful items, including bird houses, benches, and a collaborative art piece. Campers learned important life skills, while creating functional and aesthetic goods, primarily using trees historically planted for harvest. With so many new facilities, our focus for the coming year is on preventative maintenance, pest prevention (primarily squirrels), organization of the items we have, and beautification.

It is important to note that facility improvements went over budget this year. With Circle Pines in our current, tight financial situation, we will need to adapt, do what we can when we can, and get creative. We are a mission-based retreat center. So, we are excited to continue improving the space, but know that may not be the first priority everyday.

**With your donations of money, time, and items along with some creativity, we can maintain frugality and create a wonderful space for mission-based events, weddings, memorials, and retreats!**

Skill Share:

So many of us have skills to share or enthusiasm to help. We might also know someone with skills to share! While we are happy to pay professionals, you or someone you may know may be interested in donating time or working as part of a barter. For example, maybe you know a roofer, who would love to send their kids to summer camp. Perhaps you would like spending a weekend doing some painting or landscaping. If you think you have time and skills to offer Circle Pines, please contact

Mariah Scott ([MariahWScott@gmail.com](mailto:MariahWScott@gmail.com)). We would love to talk if you have any help to offer and the skills we could especially use right now are:

- Mechanics (appliance and automotive)
- Painters
- Arborists
- Roofers
- Landscapers
- Carpenters

Suggested Donations:

Not everyone can donate money, but there are many quality items Circle Pines Center can benefit from. If you think you have items Circle Pines would like, please contact Mariah Scott ([MariahWScott@gmail.com](mailto:MariahWScott@gmail.com)), so they can confirm it is something that would benefit the center. If it is not on the list, feel free to reach out anyway, as these are just initial ideas.

- Industrial Coffee Maker
- Water heater
- Mower, tractor, or golf cart
- Tools, especially carpentry tools
- Chainsaws and wood processing tools
- Bedsheets and mattress protectors

Documenting needed improvements

A large effort went into cataloging all of our facility needs. That is an excellent starting position to prioritize projects based on available budget and resources. We are adding informative signage to many areas of camp, including a maintenance suggestion sign, with a QR code link to note suggestions you seek. While we appreciate the additional eyes looking for things to improve, also note that there may be resource limitations to immediately fixing everything. We would love your help in improving the facilities, from cleaning to repairs!

Upcoming bigger projects

There are many big projects we are hoping to complete as soon as possible. **The first is getting a new water heater for Swallows. We are fundraising for that right now, so anything you can offer is appreciated.** Additional projects on the horizon are roof repair and replacement on the yellow cabin, a youthie cabin, and the orchards bathhouse. All repairs will happen as soon as we are able, as protecting these buildings is a priority for us.

## Upcoming smaller projects

In the meantime, there are many small repairs we will be working on.

- Preventative maintenance: Steve is donating his money towards an end of year tune up on our mower, we are working on winterizing facilities and equipment, we will be processing wood to cut costs and fossil fuel use, and we will continue to take care of our equipment and grounds as best as we can.
- Pest prevention: We have a lot of adorable wildlife at Circle Pines, which becomes a concern if we are not proactive about keeping them out of buildings. Our primary goal is to cover squirrel holes in Swallows, Royal Flush, and anywhere else they are found.
- Organization of the items we have: Circle Pines has a lot of items, tools, and lumber on hand, which can be better organized, cleaned, and possibly sold if there is no future use. Cleaning and organizing will also produce the side benefit of freeing up more storage space.
- Beautification: We want to honor the improvements Tom and Kat made to Circle Pines, when they renovated so many buildings. We also want to get the used buildings and grounds looking as good as possible. There is a lot to paint, patch, clean, and improve. All of this work will help us be the best space for people to enjoy themselves!