

Hello everyone,

Thank you from the Facilities Committee of Earl Hall, Mariah Scott, and Steve Wester. If you would like to join or know more, please reach out to the chair, Mariah Scott.

I am excited to talk to you all about the Facilities Committee and Circle Pines Center's work to uphold our mission. While each committee's role is difficult to define, we in the Facilities Committee plan and work to keep the grounds of Circle Pines safe and functioning in a way aligned with our mission statements of environmental stewardship and cooperation. Circle Pines is also a community of caring, hardworking individuals. So, facilities work at Circle Pines happens as a result of both collaborative and self-guided efforts of the Facilities Committee, staff of Circle Pines, members, volunteers, guests, and the larger community!

I would love to give a special mention to Victor McManemy, Benny Brewer, Baby DuBose-Carlson, Robin Connel, Sean Ricksgers (Dino), Chris Schleuder, Tera John, Gerardo Reyes, Noah Silver-Mathews, Danielle Hoskins, Ethan Avery, and Eddie DeGraw for all the work they have done for the Circle Pines grounds!

The committee has been focused on how to do a lot with a little. We have been utilizing limited funds, lumber milled from the property, our local connections, our expertise, and wonderful members of our community to get a lot done during the colder months of the year. This is in part to compensate for the facilities work going over budget this previous fiscal year and to prevent our efforts from risking Circle Pines' larger goals. So much work is still occurring! We will try to list the facilities work and upgrades since the fall membership meeting, but there will definitely be improvements we forgot to include. On the grounds you will notice chickens and ducks, as well as Eddie's goats, horse, and miniature ponies.

- Keeping a maintenance log for facilities suggestions on the side porch
- A fantastic amount of work in the garden and chicken coop areas (they look amazing)
 - This was a vision of many people, led by Baby DuBose-Carlson, who worked before, during, and after the garden institute
 - We now have chickens and ducks at CPC, as well as our visiting goats, miniature ponies, and a horse.
- Mowing and cleaning of the grounds
 - A special and extreme thank you to Steve Wester for donating our new mower!
- Repairing windows in the farmhouse, as an ongoing process
- Repairing the youthie cabin roof that had been damaged by a fallen tree, in a work project led by Earl Hall
- Improving the road to the beach for emergency and mobility access
- Cleaning the farmhouse basement
- A new mailbox post
- Tera John planted two white pines saplings to grow into a beautiful gateway by the farmhouse
- Making progress on painting the kitchen

- Cleaning the staff lounge, making it a new available conference room
- Dino and Danielle repaired the Swallows water heater, though this is an ongoing process to improve its performance. Additionally Danielle organized an agreement with Bradford White to donate a new water heater as well.
- Assorted cabin repairs
- The farmhouse septic has been repaired and emptied
- Amazing progress has been made on the Strawbale House, organized by Gerardo Reyes, with community members from Earthen Build and strawbale builders from Toledo.
- Winterizing and de-winterizing, which involved pipe repairs and improving the water areas, especially upgrading the safety of the pipe access by the rec hall water fountain
- Trails clearing
- Lots of cleaning!