

Facilities Committee Fall 2026 Membership Update

Hello from the Facilities Committee and/or Monday Facilities Crew of Mariah Scott, Steve Wester, Ethan Avery, Kevin Denning, William Merring, and Art Shook,

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. If you would like to join or know more, please reach out to the chair, Mariah Scott. 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, the Monday Facilities Volunteer Crew, staff of Circle Pines, members, volunteers, guests, and the larger community!

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. Having a dedicated crew come on Mondays to work on the grounds and all the great work that is done by Buttermilk Volunteers and the Summer Camp Construction Crew, the grounds are looking better and better! We will try to list the facilities work and upgrades since the spring membership meeting, but there will definitely be improvements we forgot to include. We hope you notice the improvements on the grounds!

- Keeping a maintenance log for facilities suggestions on the side porch
- A fantastic amount of work in the garden and landscaping areas near the farmhouse
- Mowing and cleaning of the grounds
- Repairs to the tractors, wood splitter, and golf carts
- Cleaning the farmhouse basement, swallows basement, fuel shed, large barn, Buttermilk storage shed, the old sawmill area, butler shed, laundry room, pizza chapel, rec hall, recycle shed, the yard in front of the green barn, and green barn itself to be functional work and storage spaces
 - Decluttering has been a major goal of the Monday Facilities Crew, that improves the cleanliness of Circle Pines, helps us better care for what we have, and allows us to respond to maintenance needs faster
 - With the advice of the CPC Staff, we have been finding the balance of sustainably reducing expensive clutter
- Removing larger pieces of clutter from the grounds
- Repairing and painting the recycle shed
- Repairs to the ramp to swallows and stairways around the farmhouse and swallows. The Swallows stairs and ramps and Farmhouse ramp and Broonzy Porch will soon need a full replacement
- Cleaning the Staff Lounge and Acorn Dining Room
- Repairing the yellow cabin roof, which is still in progress
- Assorted cabin and picnic table repairs, especially safety concerns in the Junior's unit
- Improving the shower areas of the Royal Flush bathhouse, which is still in progress
- Preparing the grounds for our busy season, which involved pipe repairs and improving the water areas.
- Assessing trees for what needs to be removed and when, along with several dead trees being removed near buildings and camping areas.
- Painting the yellow cabin, orchard bathhouse, art barn, rec hall benches, and butler shed. If a building with a mural needs to be repainted, we are photographing the mural beforehand, to make a scrapbook of the creativity of our community!
- Lots of cleaning!

Upcoming facilities projects in the near future will work on continuing to improve cabins, including repairing the storm damage to the yellow cabin, repairing water damage in Swallows bathrooms, and beautifying the campus.

Larger projects we are hoping to do when funds and supplies are available are to repair the sauna, replace the farmhouse and swallows ramps, and replace the kitchen floors.

We are continuing to work on shifting the space to be more welcoming to all and encourage people to leave the place better than they found it. A lot of volunteer hours and funds have been put into getting the grounds more clean and operational. We are hoping this reset to the cleanliness levels, change policies, and increased signage and communication will help people view care of the grounds as part of the cooperative spirit.

This summer, a pre-camp discussion with the staff on how to have campers cooperatively work on murals had a lot of positive creativity, channeled in a way that maintained the improvements to the grounds. The art barn murals flourished on the interior and camper, non-road side of the art barn. The construction crew also took a lot of notes from campers on the improvements they wanted to see, like recreational activity areas (volleyball net and soccer posts), as well as improvements to Royal Flush.