

Camp Ondessonk

Swimming Area Cabana
Construction



Project Purpose

- Primary purpose to improve the swimming campfire area. For many years this area has been a gathering place for campers prior to swimming area orientation, storage for personal belongings during swim sessions, and seating. The area is also used throughout the year for evening campfires and cookouts. The new facility is utilized in same manner.
- Create a shelter that immerses campers and guests in the outdoors.
- Create an “outdoor” gathering location for campfires held during inclement weather.
- Improve camper and guest experience.



Summer campers awaiting their swim session on one of the old swimming area benches.

Design Concept

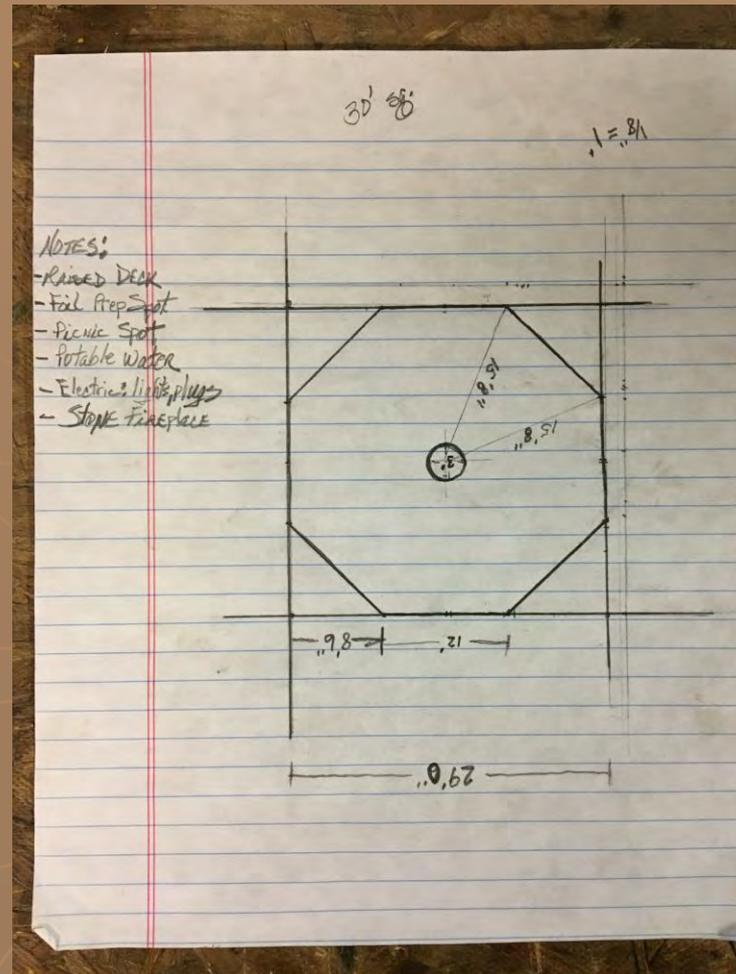
- Remove existing storage benches, campfire ring, and rock/concrete walkways to create a clean slate.
- Construct an eight sided 32' X 32' gazebo style shelter with design elements and construction materials similar to those found in other buildings throughout Camp Ondessonk.
- Structure will contain a central fireplace, perimeter seating for 40 people, a food preparation "wing", storage for participant belongings, and a water hydrant.

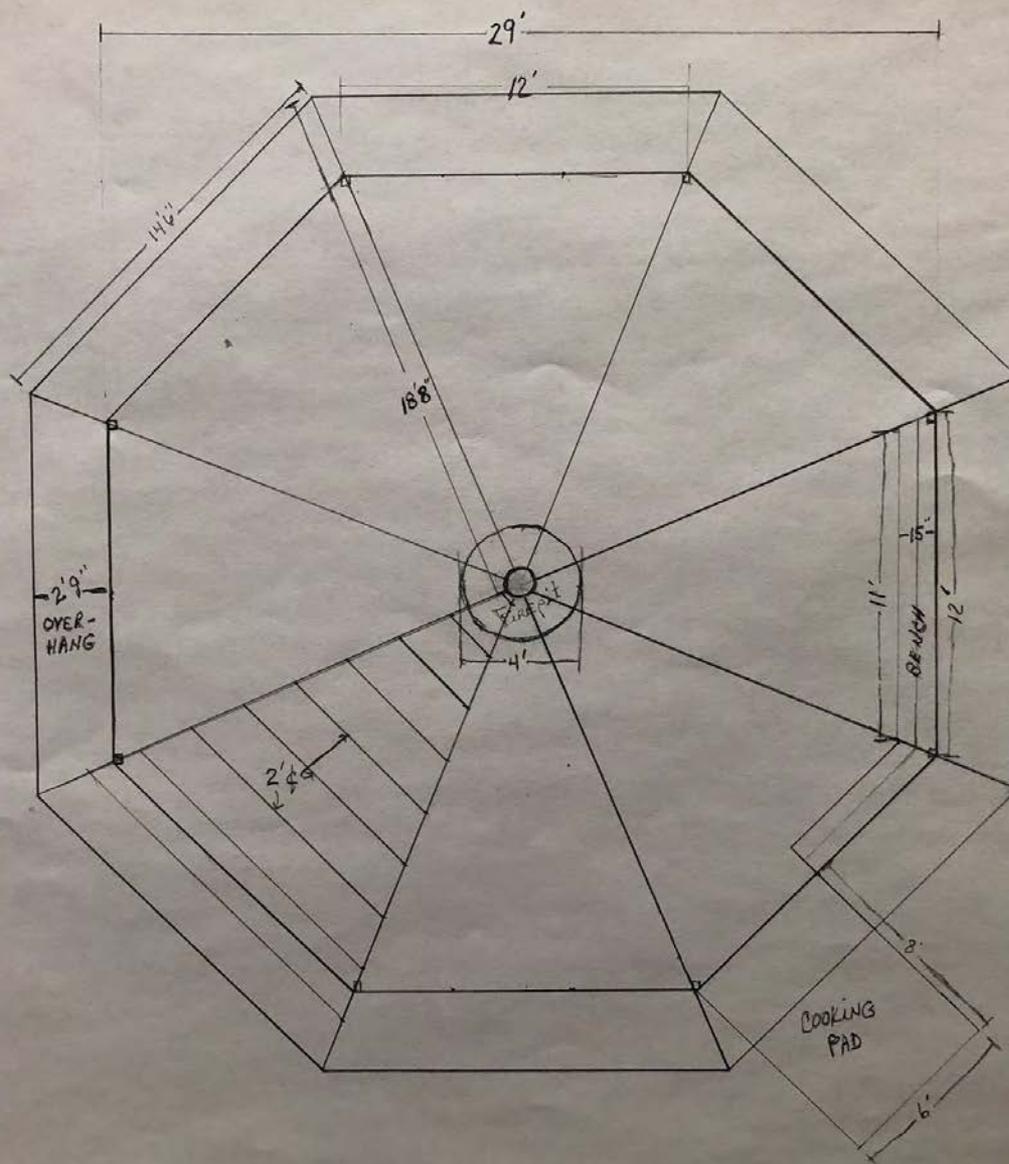
Project Budget

- \$23,000 (materials)
- Camp Ondessonk is able to complete construction projects for far less money than one would expect. For context, this project would likely be three times more expensive, or higher, if completed by a paid building contractor. This is largely the result of harvesting building materials on site when possible, acquiring materials at wholesale prices, and enthusiastic, skilled volunteer help. It should be noted the project also required a great deal of effort from camp's full-time maintenance crew - Mike Jennings, Brandon Dalton, Kavern Kerley, and John Blu. It also required significant contributions from project donors.

Design Process

- Mike Jennings, longtime Camp Ranger, originally pitched the idea of building a gazebo style shelter. Mike is a clever guy. The camp staff immediately loved the idea.





$\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$

Crowd Sourcing for Design Features



Daniel King
March 22, 2019

The gazebo is beginning to take shape. Thanks for your suggestions. We will do our best to incorporate as many of your ideas as possible.



Lindsay Rathnow, Paul Wesselmann and 7 others
Seen by everyone

Like Comment

Greg Junior
January 30, 2019

Key components already in the plans for this project include:

1. benches along the perimeter, similar to the old layout
2. cubbies along the back of the benches for kids clothes and shoes, similar to the old ones.
3. A center fire pit 3 feet high perfect for doing foil burgers
4. A metal hood and chimney over the fire pit that will not block visibility of people seated across from each other on the benches
5. Electric lighting and drinking water access
6. Concrete slab on the side for a grill (Tommy's Cafe) and or picnic tables.
7. Built-in table space underneath pavilion for food service.
8. Extended concrete patio and walk ways to eliminate walking on gravel in bare feet.
9. A multi-use, year-long concept to be used as and enjoyed by summer campers, school year groups, weekend events, rainy day covered space, shade structure, food service, evening camp fires, foil burger meals, meeting space, etc.
10. Cedar post and beam design to match the rustic style of the new Handicrafts Building.

5
7 Comments Seen by everyone

Like Comment

Marr Elise First off, this is so so exciting! This is something the aquatics area has needed for a long time!

My only thing I can think of now is will the pavilion roof extend over the benches in order to protect campers' dry shoes and clothes in case it is raining during their swim block? Or will the benches line the exact perimeter? I love the cubbies we have and it'll be great to have them in the new benches, but I know an issue is the rain still coming in the back of the benches.

Heepwah to all working on this!! It warms my heart. A special S/O for adding usable drinking water!!!!

Like Reply 1y

Greg Junior Mary Elise Klueh yes. The roof will cover the benches and should extend over the cubbies. Good idea.

Like Reply 1y

Carmen Cronin Agreed, the water is definitely a necessity for that area for guards and for parents on check in days- I'll keep thinking of ideas. So far I like the plans! Heepwah!

Like Reply 1y

Justin Bushong Can we update the janky feet wash station? Or I assume the drinking water can be used for that as well

Like Reply 1y

Greg Junior I think redoing the footwashing station is a good idea to make it look better, but I think it should still pump out of the lake to save water costs.

Like Reply 1y

Marr Elise I don't think there is any problem using lake water, it would just help if the foot bath base and the drainage was reworked 😊

Like Reply 1y

Write a reply...

Mandy Marggraf

Like Reply 1y

Write a comment...

- Once the basic design was chosen, a group of current and past Ondessonk lifeguards and a few other camp friends were asked to share their ideas in an on-line brainstorming session.
- That process helped solidify the design.

Construction



- Site preparation began in early February of 2019.
- Construction began in late February of 2019.
- The initial eight sided structure was completed in May of 2019, several weeks prior to summer camp.
- The food preparation wing and surrounding concrete work was completed during the Fall of 2019.
- The following photos tell the rest of the story.



Construction site after the old benches were cleared.









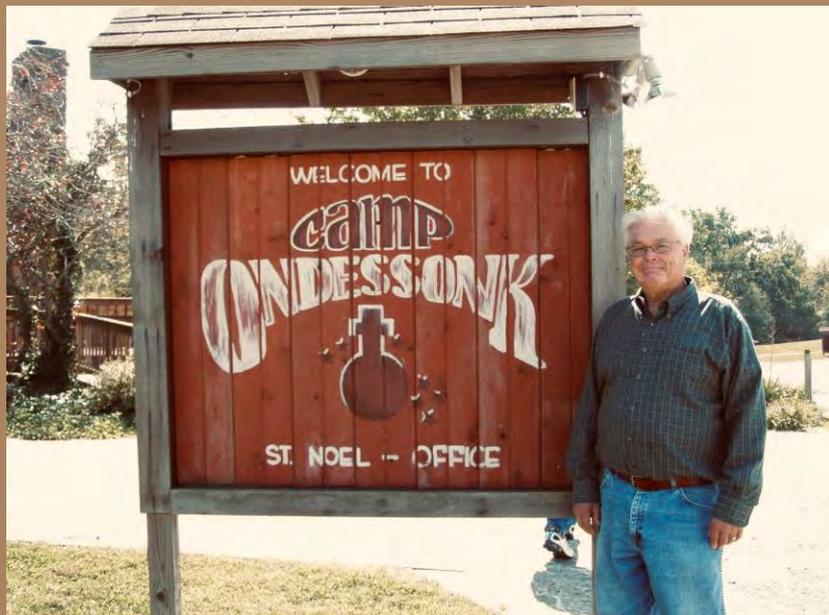
Cedar posts were harvested from camp property. Numerous building at Camp Ondessonk feature cedar posts and beams.



The work up to this point was completed by Mike and the camp maintenance crew.

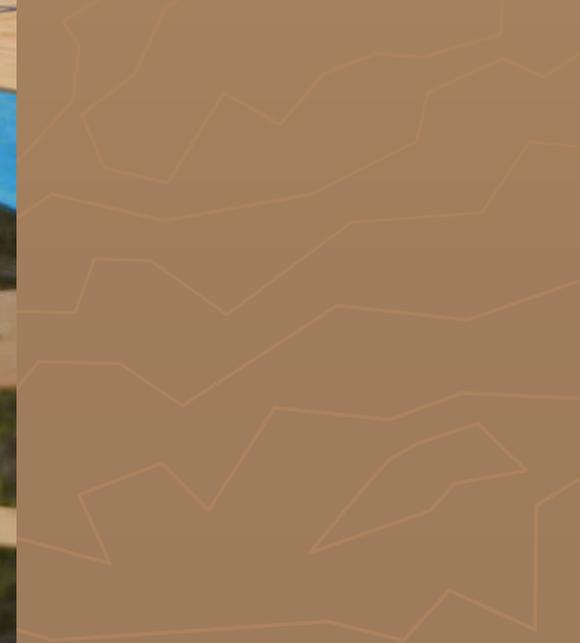


The first volunteer group to work on the project is comprised of individuals loosely affiliated Holy Trinity Parish, Fairview Heights. Formerly known as the St. Albert the Great volunteer group, many of its members began volunteering at camp decades ago with their fathers and grandfathers.



Dave McCoy (R), the longtime coordinator of the St. Albert the Great / Holy Trinity volunteer group, died on May 3 of 2019. His family encouraged his many friends and loved ones to make memorial contributions to camp. The gifts partially funded construction of the Swimming Area Cabana.





















Frank Pace currently organizes the Holy Trinity volunteer group. A former camper, he's been a camp volunteer since his teens. He was hand chosen by Dave McCoy for the coordinator role. Camp is grateful for his dedicated service and leadership.

















Jim Richter coordinates the St. Augustine / St. Dominic, Breese, IL volunteer group. A retired carpenter, he and his group were instrumental in completing the Cabana project.



Holy Trinity, Fairview Heights and St. Augustine / St. Dominic, Breese volunteers taking a break for lunch.



Building storage boxes for camper belongings.





Installing storage boxes to be used for camper belongings.





St. Dominic / St. Augustine and Holy Trinity volunteers.



The Cabana as it looked prior to summer camp 2019. Construction resumed after summer camp.



Construction resumed in September and October of 2019.













Construction of food preparation shelter.





Completed fire ring and custom hood.





Mike Jennings (Camp Ranger). Mike designed the building and coordinated its construction. Assistant Camp Rangers Brandon Dalton & Kavern Kerley, as well as Maintenance Technician John Blu, worked tirelessly with Mike and dozens of volunteers to complete the building while simultaneously tending to maintenance needs throughout camp. Camp Ondessonk and its campers are very lucky to have Mike and his crew.

Heepwah Project Donors and Volunteers!





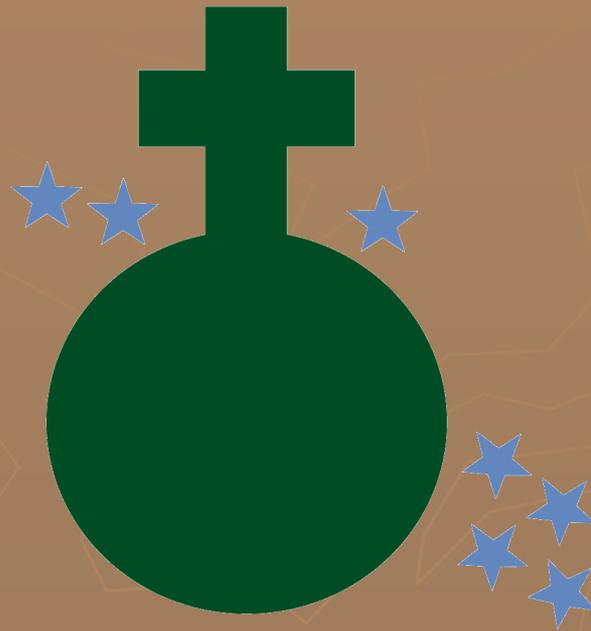
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“Teaching what matters most”



Camp Ondessonk