



Tidbits and Trends

Site and Facilities

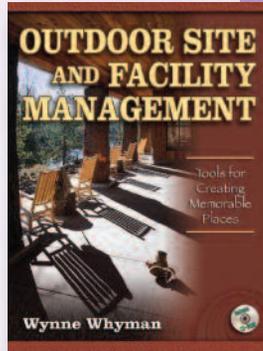


Outdoor Site and Facility Management

By Wynne Whyman
Human Kinetics, 2008

A practical resource for a variety of camp types, *Outdoor Site and Facility Management: Tools for Creating Memorable Places* offers creative, effective strategies for the complex task of maintaining and managing ministry property for long-term success. Since all properties are different, it also offers guidance about making decisions best suited to a specific camp or conference center.

Wynne Whyman, president of CCCA business member Callippe Solutions, LLC, discusses inte-



grating property and program, considering participants' needs, finding and working with appropriate staff and volunteers, understanding property rights, using natural resources wisely and managing risk. She also details how to create a safe, positive atmosphere by focusing on such property aspects as landscaping, timely maintenance and inspections, fencing, utilities, cleaning and transportation infrastructure.

To help camp leaders keep organized, a chapter is devoted to time management and savvy planning priorities. Whyman also addresses budgeting and keeping effectual property records.

Described by a YMCA camping leader as "like a college degree in camp property management," the nuts-and-bolts book is filled with helpful techniques, examples, forms and lists. In addition, an included CD-ROM provides editable job descriptions, a list of helpful resources for specific concerns, and dozens of forms and checklists for maintenance, inspections, finances, feedback, planning and staffing.

Good Read

A Qualified Contractor

Major facilities improvements may require that your camp hire one or more contractors. Following are a few suggestions from CCCA business member Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company to help ensure your ministry finds the best company for the job:

- Select several companies. Each company should have appropriate licensing and at least five years of comparable experience.
- Check each candidate's references. And gather information about each candidate from your local building contractor's association and Better Business Bureau.
- Ask questions of references such as: Was the project completed on schedule and within budget? Did you encounter problems with the contractor?
- Request a certificate of insurance to ensure each company has liability, auto and workers' compensation insurance. Coverage limits of at least \$1 million are best.
- Request bids from the top three companies. Keep in mind that the lowest bid should not always trump the others; consider the quality of materials and extent of work each offers.

Adapted from "Hiring a Contractor" and "Ministry Construction Planning Checklist" at www.brotherhoodmutual.com. Used with permission.

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Notable Quotes

"People give to vision, not programs and budgets. Changed lives, rebuilt homes, marriages restored and needs met among the poor are just a few of the solid, life-changing ministries that Christians want to support with their resources."

—Don Goehner, founder and president of The Goehner Group, on his blog, Don's Corner, Oct. 12, 2009

"The buildings, land and activity structures are not secondary, a supporting role nor only 'context'—they are vital, essential components to accomplishing the camp's or conference center's mission and need to be acknowledged as such."

—Wynne Whyman, president, Callippe Solutions, LLC, in *Camping Magazine*, March/April 2004

Spiritual Strategic Planning

A careful plan is critical for a successful remodeling project. The experts at CCCA business member Run River Enterprises believe that strategic planning is a spiritual process.

“Strategic planning as a faith process deepens our relationship with God, and strengthens the life of our group,” write the company’s Pamela Harris and Garrie Stevens. “It seeks to answer the question, ‘What is God calling us to do?’ Plans, goals, objectives and strategies are developed as a way of responding to God’s call.”



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Effective planning allows an organization to accomplish more, optimize its current and future resources and make wise decisions. The Run River experts outline four basic strategic planning steps for Christian organizations:

- **Research and analysis:** During the first stage, camp leaders gather important information, such as a review of operational strengths, a site and facility appraisal, and details about any organizational issues. Harris and Stevens encourage leaders to think about the ways God has blessed in the past to prepare to serve Him in the future.
- **Review data and focus direction:** With information in hand, camp leaders should begin to draw some conclusions about the plan’s direction. This should be in conjunction with biblical study and reflection to ensure the ideas align with God’s principles and plans.
- **Preliminary strategic plan:** At this point, ministry leaders are ready to develop a plan with specific information about facilities, programs, marketing and the like. They must ensure the plans are realistic and that they have or can develop a mechanism to gauge future progress. Pursuing biblical unity and building up other involved leaders are important at this stage.
- **Final report:** This is the time to hammer out the final details, and to evaluate plans and make any necessary revisions. In addition to including necessary schematics and budgets, the report should outline the vision, Harris and Stevens advise. Asking God to strengthen your commitment to complete these new goals is critical at this stage.

Adapted from the *Strategic Planning as Spiritual Discipline* booklet by Pam Harris and Garrie Stevens, available at www.runriver.net. Used with permission.

Facts & Stats

\$724 million

Total amount CCCA members planned to spend on capital improvements from 2010–2012, according to CCCA’s 2009 Waypoint Research



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35–44

The age group that is most likely to volunteer (32.2 percent do), according to a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report released January 2011



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48%

CCCA ministry leaders who believe that site/facilities/maintenance is one of the top three areas at

their ministries that needs improvement, according to CCCA’s 2009 Waypoint Research



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