



MORE THAN A WEEK—

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A LIFETIME!

## History

Sixty years ago in the fall of 1947, leaders of the Johnson City District broke ground at Buffalo Mountain Camp. The district had conducted a camping program for nearly ten years using various sites. Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Allison along with Mrs. Allison's father, P. M. Smith, purchased 534.5 acres on the flanks of Buffalo Mountain and offered it as a gift to the Johnson City District. The Allisons, who had no children of their own, declared, "Children are our life." The Allison's generosity ignited an excitement for sharing the love of Christ in the glory of God's creation. When the Kingsport District was formed in 1953, children and youth from that district participated in the life of the camp. The Kingsport District became a full partner in 1964. The two districts have actively worked in camping ministry as an extension of the work of the local church. Buffalo Mountain Camp has been showing God's love to numerous children, youth and adults for over 60 years.

## Current Ministries

### Summer Camp

During this past summer camp (from late May to early August) around 725 campers attended camp. Participants range from first grade through senior high and take part in activities including horseback riding, hiking, swimming, kayaking, & rock climbing. Many children make significant faith commitments during their summer camp experience.

### Environmental Education

Outdoor Education groups from local schools come for a full day or overnight for experiential instruction in environmental education. Over 715 students were taught in this program during 2007.

### Retreat Ministry

Our Weekend Retreat Ministry welcomes groups from all over the Holston Conference. Retreat groups can participate in a variety of staffed activities for their weekend stay, or may utilize their own instructors and leaders. In 2007, Buffalo Mountain Camp served about 2,182 Retreat Ministry guests.

## Strategic Planning Process

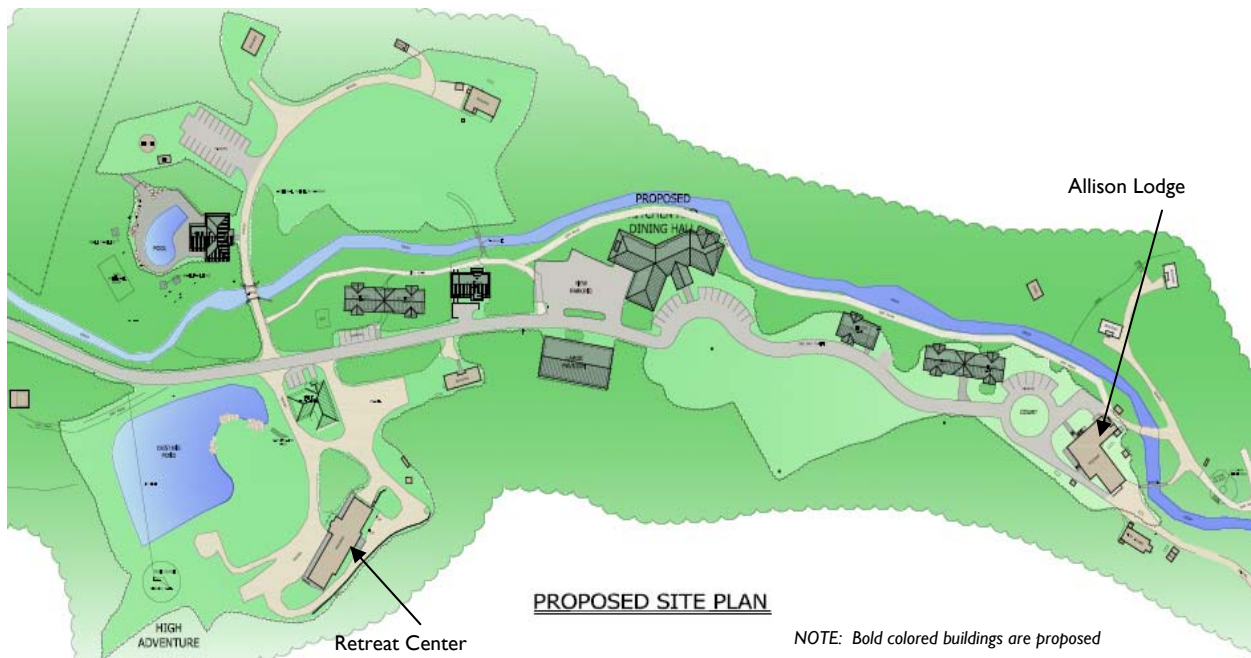
In 2007, the Buffalo Mountain Camp Board of Directors completed a strategic planning process that examined all aspects of camp operations. The resultant Master Plan includes the following mission statement:

***Buffalo Mountain Camp and Retreat Center is to offer Christ's love to all people by: Providing opportunities for Christian education and fellowship, Encouraging spiritual birth, growth, and renewal, Sharing the wonders of God's creation, Providing Christ-like hospitality in a place of beauty and healing, and Developing and Nurturing Christian leaders.***



**OFFERING CHRIST'S LOVE  
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## MAP OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS



### Highlights of the Master Plan

**To better serve local churches and their children, youth, and adults for the next half century, the Buffalo Mountain Board has identified the highest priority projects as follows:**

**New Pool and Bath House** – The current pool is out of date and too small for the large numbers that attend camp and retreats. The new pool will be in a new location that will better serve summer camp and retreats. A bath house will be constructed at the pool for use at the pool and also to serve the lower end of camp since no restroom facilities currently exist at that end of camp.

**Immediate Improvements to Allison Lodge** – Allison Lodge has served as the center of camp since its beginning. Allison Lodge is heavily used since it is the camp's dining hall and the only indoor gathering space. The constant demand on this historic structure has caused the need for immediate repair and renovation. A more extensive renovation is planned for later in the master plan.

**A Climbing Tower** – An adventure component that will offer opportunities to build confidence, teamwork, and trust that will attract older children and teens to Buffalo Mountain.

**A Ropes Course** – Another adventure element for retreat and summer camp usage that will help in building trust and confidence in young people as well as group building for youth and college groups.

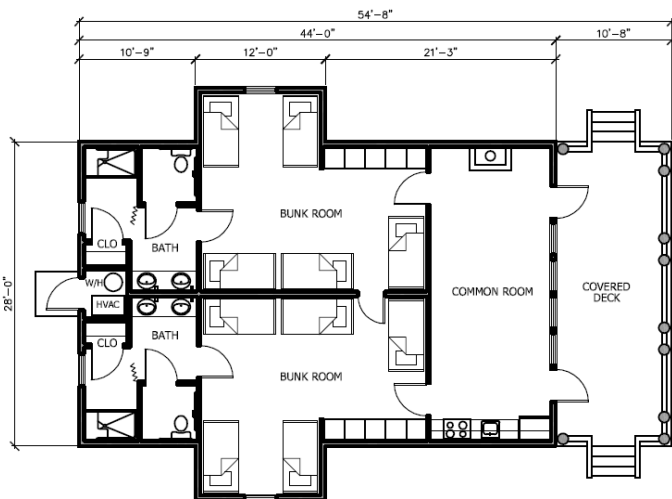
**A Walking Trail** – One of Buffalo Mountain Camp's assets is Ramsey Creek that flows down from the mountain through the center of camp. This trail will move children off the camp road and to the banks of the creek when going from one end of camp to another. This will help all users to encounter the beauty of the camp while having a safer walk away from the road.

**Cabins** – New cabins will add to the overall capacity of the camp with year-round facilities for church retreats and summer camp.

**Infirmary/Welcome Center/Office** – An infirmary area that will have a place for the camp nurse to stay, as well as office space, but perhaps most importantly a welcome center nearer the entrance to camp to extend the camp's hospitality better.



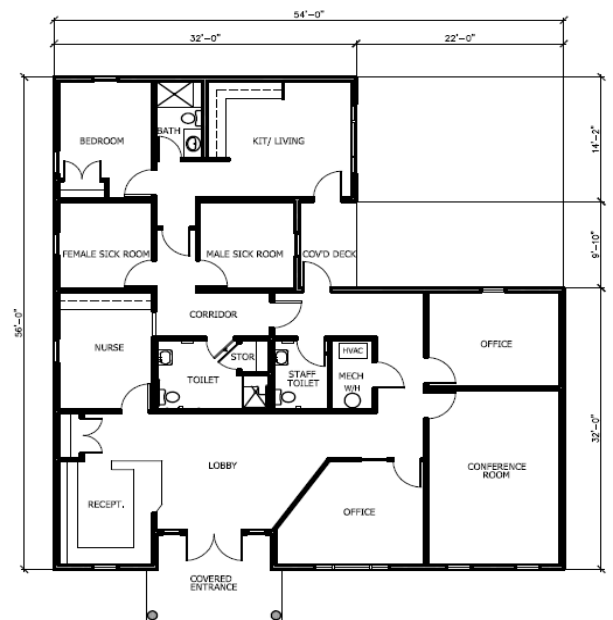
**Climbing Tower**



**Twenty-Person Cabin**



**Infirmary/Welcome Center/Office**



## Buffalo Mountain's Future Ministry Plans

New Pool and Bath House .....	\$400,000
Allison Lodge (Immediate Improvements) .....	\$ 10,000
Climbing Tower .....	\$ 80,000
Ropes Course.. .....	\$ 25,000
Walking Trail .....	\$ 80,000
Twenty Person Cabins .....	\$200,000
Pavilion.....	\$280,000
Infirmary/Welcome Center/Office.....	\$465,000
Infrastructure/Equipment.....	\$155,000
Contingency.....	\$150,000
Campaign Expenses.....	\$155,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>Campaign Goal .....</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>
<b>Challenge Goal .....</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>

### More Than a Week – A Lifetime!

Since 1949 children and youth have made life changing decisions at Buffalo Mountain Camp. The memory of a week of camp lasts a lifetime. The capital campaign is designed to continue the vital work that the Allison's and so many others have worked to build and maintain.

Individuals and churches can make an enormous difference in the life of a young person through the ***More Than A Week – A Lifetime!*** Campaign. Please prayerfully consider making a gift in the spirit of Mr. and Mrs. Allison for the love of our children, for God's Kingdom, and for the beauty and wonder of God's creation along the banks of Ramsey Creek at Buffalo Mountain.



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