



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF

Grant Opening Webinar

November 18, 2025



Vonda Martin, Program Manager
Lillian Heaton, State Grant Specialist
Grants & Outreach Program



Webinar Agenda

- Staff Introductions
- Program Overview
 - Establishing Legislation
 - Grant Cycle Timeline
 - Eligible applicants and projects
- Application Overview
 - Review application elements
- Questions from Audience
 - You may add questions to the chat as we go. RRS will monitor the chat. Questions from the chat will be reviewed aloud.
 - You may unmute and ask your question directly once we open for questions.
 - Please make sure your question would benefit everyone. If you have a project specific question, please contact your RRS consultant after the webinar to review the specific details.



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go.ncsu.edu/rrs



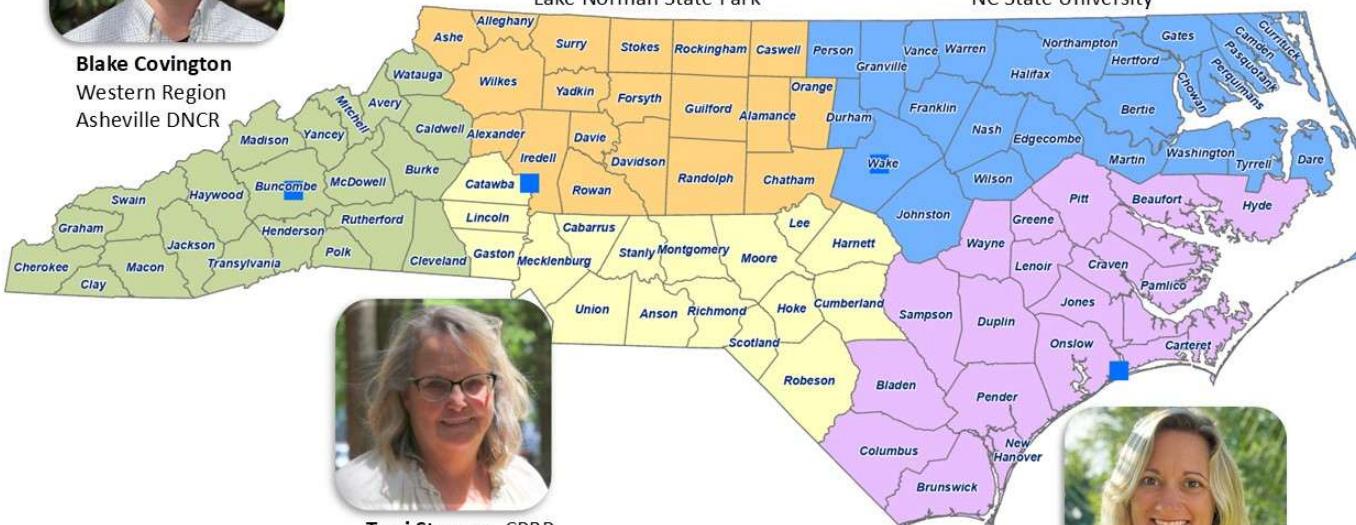
Blake Covington
Western Region
Asheville DNCR



Trey Fouché
Central North Region
Lake Norman State Park



Scott Payne
Northeast Region
NC State University



Terri Stowers, CPRP
Central South Region
Lake Norman State Park

A portrait of a woman with blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark top and is outdoors with greenery in the background.

Meet The Team



Statewide Team Support



Charlynne Smith, Ph.D.
RRS Director
NC State University



Holly Henry
University Program Associate
NC State University



Alex Godette
Outreach Consultant
Lake Norman State Park



Krista White
Graduate Research Assistant
NC State University

Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Program Overview

The Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 – Part II (S.L. 2025-26)
became law on June 27, 2025, allocating

\$4,158,875

to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) for eligible
uses in the Hurricane Helene affected areas for local
governments.



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Eligible Applicants

Per S.L. 2025-26, eligible counties are listed below and include counties designated under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act as a result of Hurricane Helene.

Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Nash, Polk, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey.



FEMA-484 / -DR, North Carolina Disaster Declaration as of 12/18/2024



FEMA



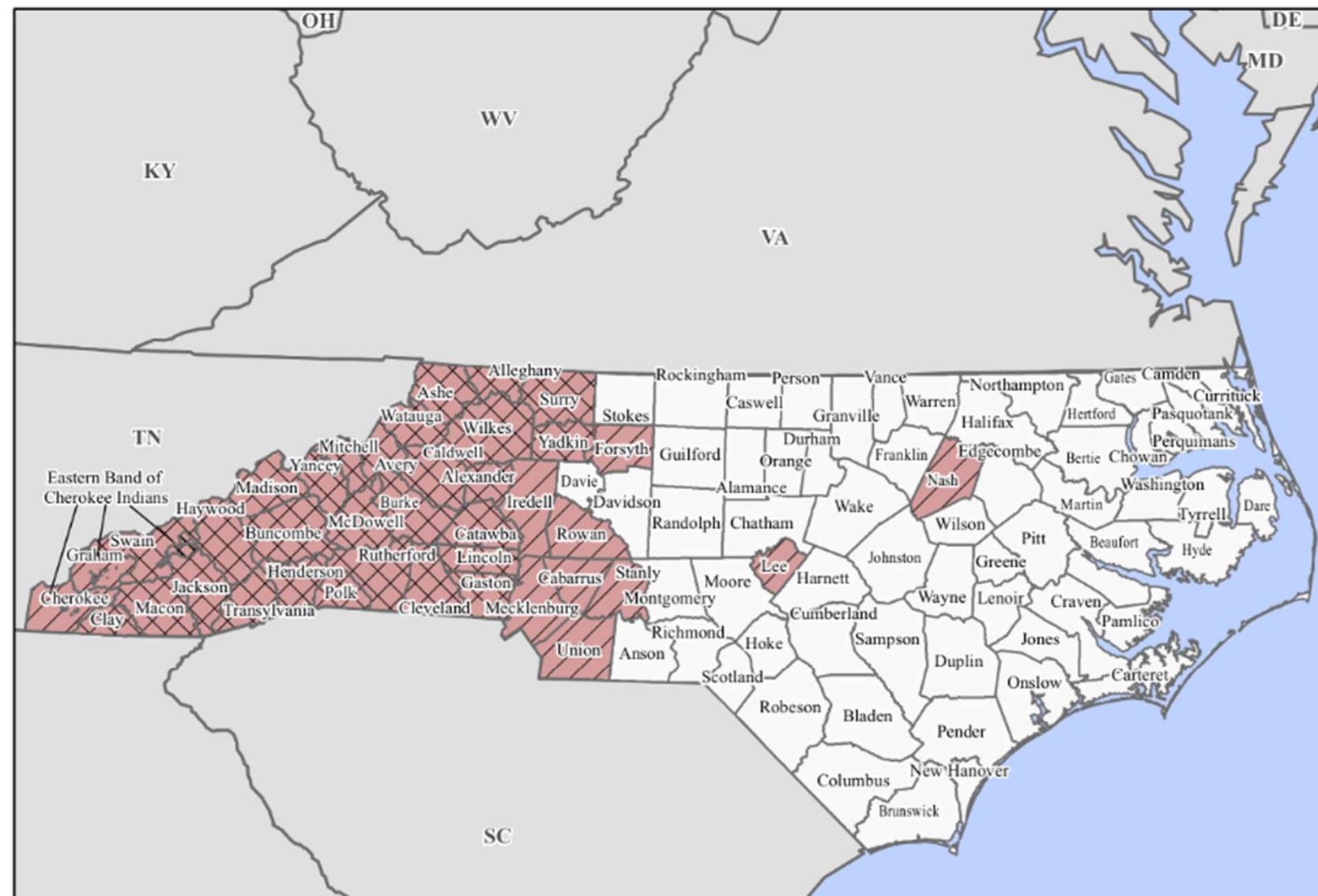
Data Layer/Map Description:

The types of assistance that have been designated for selected areas in the State of North Carolina.

All areas in the State of North Carolina are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Designated Counties and Tribal Areas

- No Designation
- Individual Assistance and Public Assistance (Categories A and B)
- Individual Assistance and Public Assistance (Categories A - G)



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Eligible Projects

Eligible applicants can apply to acquire land for parks and build recreational facilities for use by the public in the affected areas. A project must be located on a single site.



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Funding Notes

Maximum Request: Per S.L. 2025-26 and decision of the Parks & Recreation Authority, there is no maximum request for this grant.

Dollar-for-Dollar Match: An applicant must match the grant at least dollar-for-dollar. The appraised value of land to be donated to the applicant can be used as matching funds. The value of in-kind services, such as the applicant's force account labor or volunteer work, cannot be used as part of the match. The grantee is required to provide all matching funds within the three-year grant period.



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Funding Notes

Prioritization. Projects damaged or affected by Helene are eligible to prioritization if from counties that (i) were designated, in whole or in part, by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the most impacted and distressed counties from Hurricane Helene and (ii) have a population of 300,000 or fewer based upon the 2023 Certified County Population Estimates from the State Demographer.

To seek this prioritization, applicants must attest that (i) the application for funds is for repair, replacement, or construction of equipment, buildings, or natural features due to damage or effects from Hurricane Helene, including capacity-building, and (ii) the amount of funds requested is the amount of unmet need above the amount paid by insurance and available federal aid. For applicants choosing to utilize this prioritization, there will be an additional 10 points available in the scoring system.

HUD-Identified MID Areas:	Full Counties: Ashe; Avery; Buncombe; Burke; Haywood; Henderson; McDowell; Mitchell; Rutherford; Transylvania; Watauga; Yancey Full Counties Based on HUD-Identified zip code: Caldwell (zip code 28645); Cleveland (zip code 28150); Madison (zip code 28753); Polk (zip code 28782) Partial Counties Based on HUD-Identified zip code: Mecklenburg (zip code 28214)
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Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Funding Notes

Reversion: Per S.L. 2025-26, these funds must be expended or encumbered by June 30, 2030.

Receipt of Allocations: A recipient of State funds under S.L. 2025-26 shall use best efforts and take all reasonable steps to obtain alternative funds that cover the losses or needs for which the State funds are provided, including funds from insurance policies in effect and available federal aid. State funds paid under S.L. 2025-26 are declared to be excess over funds received by a recipient from the settlement of a claim for loss or damage covered under the recipient's applicable insurance policy in effect or federal aid.

Remittance of Funds: If a recipient obtains alternative funds, the recipient shall remit the funds to the State agency from which the State funds were received. A recipient is not required to remit any amount in excess of the State funds provided to the recipient under this act.



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Requirements

Site Control: For development projects, the applicant must have legal control of the park property where the proposed facilities will be located at the time of application (January 30, 2026).

Public Use: Parks and trails must be open and accessible to the public with no restrictions such as membership. Facilities built or renovated with a grant are to be used for public recreation for at least 25 years. Facilities still under a PARTF 25-year restriction are eligible for assistance through the Helene Recovery Fund grant.



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Grant Cycle Timeline



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Application Deadline

Applications are due by 5pm on January 30, 2026.

SharePoint Submissions: Contact your RRS consultant to request a SharePoint folder at least two weeks in advance of the application deadline. Your digital files should be uploaded no later than 5pm on January 30, 2026. **DO NOT** wait until January 30 to request a SharePoint folder. Technical support is not guaranteed on the day of the deadline.

Paper Submissions: Submit one complete paper copy of the application as well as a flash drive containing the digital files in PDF format. **Only application packets postmarked or received by January 30, 2026, will be accepted.** Paper applications may be:

Mailed to: NC Division of Parks and Recreation

Attention: PARTF Program
1615 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1615

Delivered no later than 5 p.m. January 30 to: NC Division of Parks and Recreation

Nature Research Center, 3rd Floor
121 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Application Overview

The elements of the grant application include the following. Items are required unless otherwise noted:

- Basic Facts & Assurances
- Description & Justification
- Site Plan & Vicinity Map
- Project Costs & Matching Funds
- Site Control
- Environmental Review
- Prioritization (Optional)
- Resiliency Planning (Optional)
- Completed Self-Scoring



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Application Templates

Applicants should use the templates provided in the application packet to ensure their applications are eligible for consideration.

The application packet can be found on the Division's website:

<https://www.ncparks.gov/grants-documents/application-helene-recovery-fund-partf/open>



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Project Information

Basic Facts & Assurances: Must be signed by chief elected official to certify the applicant will have the required match available upon award.

Project Description: This should be a concise description, 3-5 sentences maximum. This description will be published and/or used publicly, so keep that in mind when drafting.

Project Justification: This should address why the project is needed and how the repair, replacement or addition of parks and trails projects will support long-term community resilience, environmental recovery, and equitable access to outdoor recreation following damage or effects from Hurricane Helene. It will be used in application evaluation and will be provided to the Authority to consider in their selection.



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Maps & Site Control

Site Plan: Please use the guidance provided in the application packet to create the site plan. The site plan is provided to the Parks & Recreation Authority for their consideration in selection.

Site Vicinity Map: Please use the guidance provided in the application packet to create the vicinity map. Project address and latitude/longitude must be included.

Site Control: An attorney must certify that the local government has control of the entire site of a proposed development project for providing public recreation by January 30, 2026. The application can be declared ineligible without this certification.



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Budget

Project Costs: A sample budget is included in the application packet. It is important that you submit an accurate and specific project budget. Ineligible expenses will be removed from the budget during application evaluation, and the grant request / total project costs will be adjusted accordingly.

Matching Funds: Matching funds must be available during the three-year grant period.

*Matching funds + grant request **MUST** cover the total project costs outlined in the budget.*



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Prioritization

To seek prioritization, project must be located in one of the HUD identified counties with a county population of 300,000 or less, and application must include the attestation statement signed by the chief elected official.

HUD-Identified MID Areas:	<p>Full Counties: Ashe; Avery; Buncombe; Burke; Haywood; Henderson; McDowell; Mitchell; Rutherford; Transylvania; Watauga; Yancey</p> <p>Full Counties Based on HUD-Identified zip code: Caldwell (zip code 28645); Cleveland (zip code 28150); Madison (zip code 28753); Polk (zip code 28782)</p> <p>Partial Counties Based on HUD-Identified zip code: Mecklenburg (zip code 28214)</p>
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Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Resiliency Planning

Applicants should utilize the resources outlined in the application packet to complete the resiliency planning portion.



Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Self Scoring

Applicants should complete the application scoring tool and evaluate their application using the point system provided. This completed self-evaluation is required for submission.



Questions from the Audience

You may add questions to the chat. Questions from the chat will be reviewed aloud.

You may unmute and ask your question directly now.

Please make sure your question would benefit everyone. If you have a project specific question, please contact your RRS consultant after the webinar to review the specific details.



Contact Information

For eligible applicants or agencies interested in applying for this funding, your RRS consultant is your first point of contact. You can find your consultant here:
<https://rrs.cnr.ncsu.edu/offices-staff/>.

For other inquiries, please contact Lillian Heaton at
lillian.heaton@nparks.gov.

