

Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF 2025-2026

Non-Recurring Funding SL 2025-26, House Bill 1012

Environmental Sustainability: To assist the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) in being good stewards of the environment, please print your application documentation double-sided on 30% post-consumer recycled paper.

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Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF Grant Cycle Schedule

October 1, 2025	Announcement The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) announces the availability of Helene Recovery Fund matching grants to local governments.
January 30, 2026	Application Deadline Applications are due, either via paper submission or online in SharePoint by 5pm . Paper submissions should be postmarked by January 30 to be eligible for consideration.
March 27, 2026	Selecting Grant Recipients The Parks and Recreation Authority meets to select grant recipients at Lake James State Park. A streaming option will be made available as well.
May 1, 2026, to April 30, 2029	Anticipated Project Period for Helene Recovery Fund projects.

Helene Recovery Fund Requirements and Resources

Overview

The Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 (SL 2025-26, House Bill 1012) was ratified on June 27, 2025, allocating \$4,158,875 to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for eligible uses in the affected area for local governments. Per statute, the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority shall not impose the maximum grant size set forth in NCAC Subchapter 13K .0100 with respect to funds provided by this subdivision. The Helene Recovery Fund has been allocated to the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), so the grant program will be administered through the PARTF administrative code. This application includes references to PARTF throughout as well.

Applications are due, either via paper submission or online in SharePoint by 5pm. Paper submissions should be postmarked by January 30 to be eligible for consideration.

Program Summary

Eligible Applicants: North Carolina counties and incorporated municipalities are eligible for Helene Recovery through PARTF grants. Two or more local governments may apply jointly with one serving as the primary sponsor.

Public authorities, as defined by GS 159-7, are also eligible if they are authorized by N.C. general statutes to acquire land and develop recreation facilities for public use.

Per SL 2025-26, House Bill 1012, eligible counties are listed below and include counties designated before, on, or after the effective date of this act under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) 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.

A map of the eligible counties is also available online: https://gis.fema.gov/maps/disaster/dec_4827.png

Eligible Projects: Eligible applicants can apply to acquire land for parks and build recreational facilities for use by the public in the affected area.

Maximum Request: 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.

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.

Site Control: For development projects, the applicant must have legal control of the park property where PARTF facilities will be located at the time of application.

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 PARTF grant are to be used for public recreation for at least 25 years. Facilities still under a PARTF 25-year restriction are not eligible for assistance through the Helene Recovery Fund grant.

Incomplete and Ineligible Applications will not be considered for funding. Only information received or postmarked by January 30, 2026 will be accepted. Mailed applications must include a tracking number.

The **Application Checklist** (page 9) contains the list of documents needed for a complete application.

Evaluation of Applications: The PARTF staff evaluates each application. The evaluation includes the Helene Recovery Fund scoring system included in this application, an on-site inspection by RRS, and a review of the applicant's previous grant history.

Selecting Recipients: The Parks and Recreation Authority, a board appointed by the Governor and the General Assembly, selects grant recipients for funds allocated to PARTF. The factors that the Authority members consider include the following:

- the applicant's description and impact narrative for the project
- the application's ranking based on the scoring system
- the geographic distribution of grants across the eligible Hurricane Helene affected area
- the distribution of grants to local governments with small, medium, and large populations
- the applicant's administration of previous grants
- the amount of grant funds that the applicant is requesting
- the amount of grant funds available

Additional Information is available on the [N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation website](#).

Assistance for Completing the Application

Read the entire application and understand how each application is evaluated. Start early to assemble all items on the checklist for submitting a complete application.

The Division of Parks and Recreation provide technical assistance to local governments through the Recreation Resources Service (RRS) at N.C. State University. Contact your [regional consultants](#) to discuss your application or project.

To Help Plan Facilities for Public Recreation

Making Facilities Accessible: All facilities funded by PARTF must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). Applicants are encouraged to include the costs of access routes to the accessible facilities in the grant application. For design guidelines, go to:

[ADA Standard - index](#)
[About ADA Standards](#)
[Guidelines for Recreation Facilities](#)

Playground Safety Guidelines: PARTF encourages all applicants to adhere to the guidelines established by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) Handbook for [Public Playground Safety](#) (publication #325).

Place Utility Lines Underground: All utility lines funded with a grant from PARTF must be placed underground.

DOT, FERC & FEMA Permitting for Facilities

For any project requiring a DOT, FERC, or FEMA permit, PARTF strongly recommends that the local government obtain the approved permit before applying. Examples include bridges and dams.

To Help Complete Environmental Review

If assistance is needed in creating maps from online resources, contact these agencies as early as possible.

Wetlands: The Regulatory Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can assist in identifying [wetlands](#).

Floodplains: <https://fris.nc.gov/fris/Home.aspx?ST=NC> has the most recent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain data. The permitting process before construction of facilities will determine the applicable storm water requirements for the project.

Cultural Resources: North Carolina's [State Historic Preservation Office](#) can assist in identifying historical and archaeological resources.

Sites Funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Reference these [lists of North Carolina's LWCF projects](#) to determine if your proposed project site has previously received LWCF funding.

If this is an LWCF site, list the LWCF grant number on the Basic Facts and Assurances grant template (page 29)

Proposed projects at LWCF-funded sites must comply with guidelines set forth by the National Park Service in the [LWCF Manual](#).

Projects on School Property

Eligible Facilities: Only recreational facilities not generally provided at schools are eligible.

Joint-Use Agreement: A local government and a school system must include an executed joint-use agreement with their application. The agreement describes how the school site will be used for public recreation. PARTF must approve the agreement before the application can be considered. Contact your RRS regional consultant to receive a sample agreement.

Submitting Your Application

There are two ways to submit your Helene Recovery application:

- 1) Contact your RRS consultant to request a SharePoint folder to place your digital files in by 5pm on January 30, 2026
- 2) Submit one complete paper copy of the application as well as a flash drive containing the digital files in PDF format. Use the "Checklist to Submit a Complete Application." (page 28)

For paper submissions, only application packets postmarked or received by January 30, 2026, will be accepted.

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

If You Receive a Grant

When to Start: To receive PARTF grant funds, a grantee must sign a contract before beginning a PARTF project.

Two exceptions:

- Some planning costs can be incurred before applying.
- DPR can approve a waiver allowing an applicant to acquire land before a grant is approved.

Signing the Contract: A grantee signs a contract that describes the project and the conditions for receiving a PARTF grant. This is a legally binding agreement between the local government and the State of North Carolina.

Project Costs submitted in the application will be part of the contract and serve as the budget for the project (page 32).

Reimbursements: PARTF grants are paid as reimbursements of documented expenses. Grantees may submit invoices for reimbursement on a quarterly basis. The PARTF program will reimburse grantees for up to 50 percent of their expenditures for the project.

Audits and Inspections: PARTF staff will conduct periodic site inspections of each PARTF project to inspect the progress as well as the financial records. All PARTF grantees must maintain accounting records for the project that are supported by documentation such as invoices and contracts.

Completing a PARTF Project: A local government has three years to complete a PARTF project, as specified in the contract.

Checklist to Submit a Complete Application

All items listed are required documents. Complete and submit all items, including the checklist, using the application templates provided in Appendix III of this packet. Keep a copy of the application for your files.

- Electronic Submission - Applications are submitted through an electronic folder in Microsoft SharePoint. Applicants should contact their Recreation Resources Service regional consultant to request access to the SharePoint folder. Applicants are encouraged to request access early in the process to allow for technical support, as needed. Use the file names shown in the table below.
- Paper Submission – Must include Hard Copy and Digital Copy on flash drive
 - Hard Copy: Paper clip the pages and copies of each item on the checklist together. **Do not use staples.**
 - Digital copy: Submit a flash drive with individual files for the documents on the checklist. Use PDF format. Label the flash drive with the local government name. Use the file names shown in the table below.

<i>Required for All Applications – See Appendix III for Application Templates</i> Use the (file name) shown for each item.
1. Checklist for Submitting a Complete Application (Checklist)
2. Applicant’s Basic Facts and Assurances (Basic facts)
3. Project Description (Description)
4. Project Justification (Justification)
5. Site Plan (Site plan)
6. Site Vicinity Map (Site vicinity)
7. Project Costs (Project costs)
8. Source of Matching Funds (Matching funds)
9. Attorney’s Certification of Site Control (Site control)
10. Environmental Review (ENV review)
11. Prioritization (Prioritization) <i>OPTIONAL</i>
12. Resiliency Planning (Resiliency) <i>OPTIONAL</i>
13. Applicant Self-Scoring System (Self Scoring)

Project Description

Use the Project Description template to submit a short project description. This description will be published and/or used publicly.

You will describe your project in 3-5 sentences. Be concise and discerning, including recreation facilities being added, renovated or replaced, acres acquired, and whether the facility renovation is due to damage sustained during Hurricane Helene.

Project Justification

Use the Impact Narrative template to submit a project narrative. This narrative will be used in application evaluation and will be provided to the Authority to consider in their selection.

This narrative may not exceed one page, font size 10 points or larger.

This narrative 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.

Site Plan

Submit 1 copy on a one-page color-coded site plan. Use the examples on the following pages as a guide. Include the items and color coding listed below. Use either 8½"x11" or 11"x17" paper using landscape orientation if possible. Do not use card stock or similar paper. Include 1 copy of a floor plan if your project includes a community center or similar large building to be used for recreation.

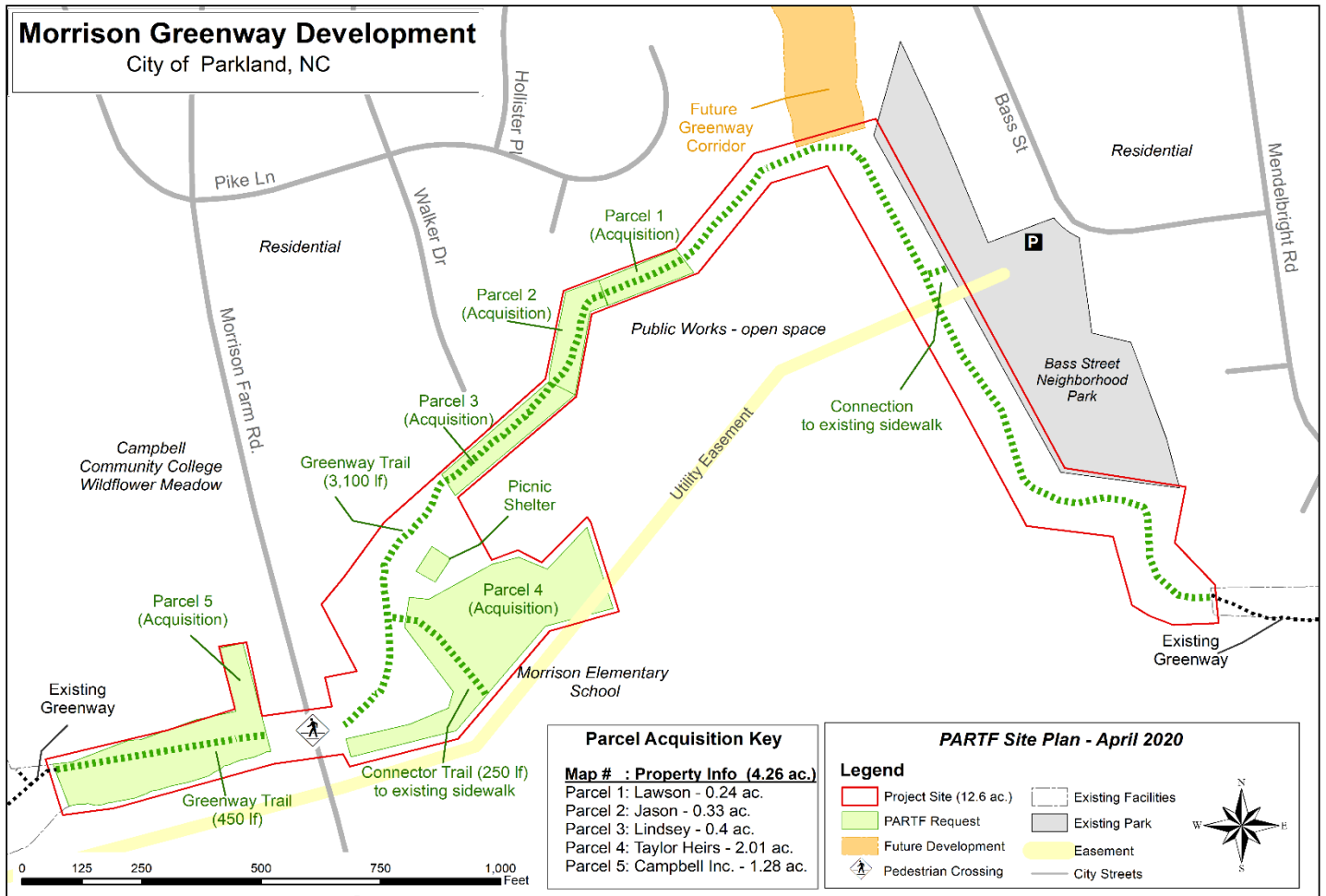
Include the following items and color-codes on the site plan for both non-linear and linear parks:

- Title: Name of project and applicant
- Acreage
- Elements of the proposed PARTF project: light green. Include land to be acquired, recreational and support facilities.
- Known streams, lakes, and wetlands
- Park boundaries: red for existing boundaries/ green for new land to be acquired
- Existing facilities: white
- Future facilities: orange
- Utility easements (power, sewer, and water lines): yellow
- Entrance and access roads to the site
- Names of adjacent roads
- Uses of adjacent property
- Legend showing color coding
- North arrow
- Date the map was prepared
- Scale

Example site plan of a non linear park



Example site plan of a linear park

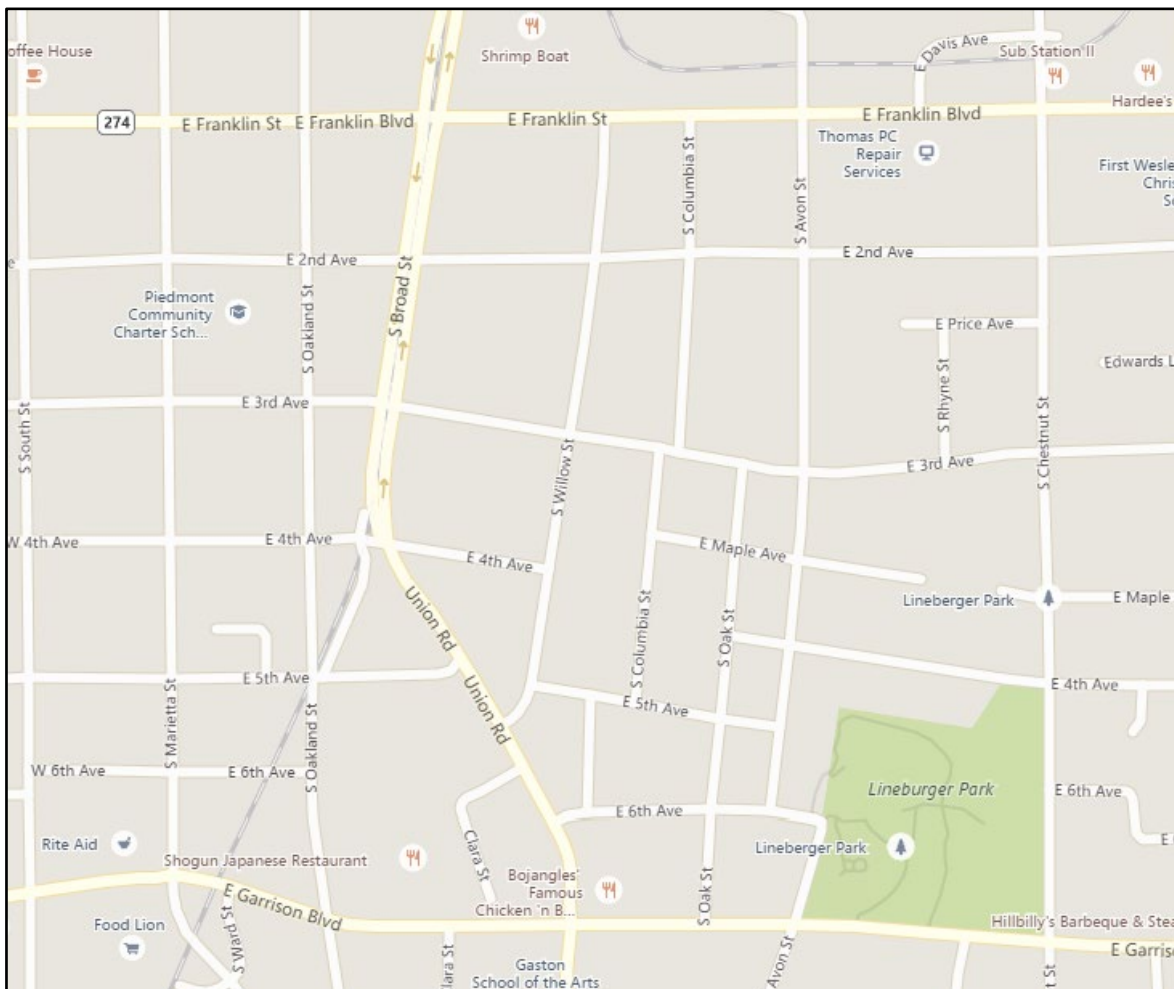


Site Vicinity Map

Please provide 1 copy of an 8½" x 11" map showing the location of the proposed project. Include the following items on the map:

- Title of the project
- The name of the road a visitor uses to get to the park entrance
- The closest major highway/road
- Legible street names
- North arrow
- Physical address (such as a street address)
- Latitude/longitude coordinates of the central point in the site

Sample: Site Vicinity Map
Lineberger Park
632 Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC
Latitude / Longitude: 35°15'16.8"N / 81°10'19.7"W



Project Costs

- **Project costs submitted in the application will become the grant's budget.** List all proposed project elements and the estimated cost of each element. All elements included in the project costs must be shown on the site plan, except for items such as grading, utilities, and planning. Round project costs to the dollar.
- **Accurate Cost Figures are Important:** If the actual costs are more than those listed in the application, the local government will need to cover the increased costs.

Costs to Build or Renovate Facilities

- **How to be More Accurate:** Get cost figures from contractors, landscape architects, or planners who develop parks and recreational facilities.
- **Consider the impact of inflation.** Construction may be delayed as permitting and planning are completed. Construction costs can increase in the interim
- **Be Specific:** Include specific units (sizes, numbers, lengths, etc.) for each element in the project costs. Include dimensions or square footage of all indoor or sheltered facilities. Also, include utilities and other infrastructure.
- **Contingency:** A contingency of five percent of the total cost to build or renovate a project (up to \$50,000, whichever is less) may be included.
- **ADA Accessible Routes:** Be sure to include accessible routes and ADA signs in your project costs.
- **Ineligible Items:** Sports equipment (balls, bats etc.), tools, maintenance equipment, office equipment and indoor furniture are not eligible. All items must be permanently secured. Exception: items that are typically portable, such as soccer goals, picnic tables and bleachers, must remain at the project site.

Planning and Incidental Costs

- **Planning Costs:** For projects to build or renovate facilities, the following costs are eligible: architectural and engineering fees, site plans, design and construction drawings, construction management, and preparing project costs. Park master plans and system-wide plans are not eligible for reimbursement.
 - These costs are eligible if they are incurred after January 30, 2024 (two years before the application deadline) and before the end date for the PARTF contract. Include these costs in the Project Costs for the project and keep copies of the invoices to submit for reimbursement.
- **Limit on Planning and Incidental Land Acquisition Costs:** The sum of planning costs, incidental land acquisition costs, and the cost of preparing an application cannot exceed 20 percent of the total cost of the project or \$200,000, whichever is less.

Sample - Project Costs

Applicant: Town of Parkland

Project Name: Green Park Redevelopment

Project Elements (Include specific units - sizes, numbers, lengths, etc. - for each item.)	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost
Building and/or Renovating Costs			
Picnic Shelter (2 grills, 4 tables, and 2 trash receptacles) and Rest Room Renovation - 20 x 30 feet	Lump Sum	\$147,000	\$147,000
Playground (play structure and accessible surfacing)	Lump Sum	\$80,200	\$80,200
Walking Trail - 6 feet wide, trail with 1 bench	1,500 linear ft.	\$32 / linear foot	\$48,000
Ballfield with irrigation, dugouts, fencing, and benches	Lump Sum	\$239,000	\$239,000
Accessible Routes (paved, 6 feet wide)	400 linear ft.	\$45 / linear foot	\$18,000
Parking Lot - paved for 45 cars	Lump Sum	\$72,800	\$72,800
Site Preparation (clearing, grading, and erosion control)	4 acres	\$23,750	\$95,000
Utilities	Lump Sum	\$40,000	\$40,000
Cost to Build or Renovate			\$740,000
Contingency for the Cost of Building / Renovating			
Contingency (not to exceed 5% or \$50,000 of the cost to build, whichever is less)	5%		\$37,000
Land Value – (Indicate Purchase or Donation)			
Land Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donation	5 acres	\$14,600	\$73,000
Planning and Incidental Land Acquisition Costs			
Construction management, site planning, preliminary design, survey and appraisals, or the cost of preparing the application (not to exceed 20% or \$200,000 of the cost of the project, whichever is less)	8%	\$74,000	\$74,000
Total Project Cost			\$924,000
Total PARTF Grant Request			\$400,000
Total Local Match			\$524,000

Sources of the Applicant's Matching Funds

Use the format below to describe the sources of the applicant's matching funds. Indicate if these funds are currently available or are the funds yet to be approved. If funds are yet to be approved, list the date for approval. Matching funds must be available during the three-year grant period.

Sample

Sources of the Applicants Matching Funds

Applicant: Town of Parkland

Project Name: Green Park Redevelopment

Type of Matching Funds	Amount of Funds	Funding Source	Availability
Cash	\$ 16,000	Private Donation	In Hand
	\$ 402,570	Town's Budget or Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)	Town's Approved CIP
Fee Simple Land Donation	\$ 56,400	Value of Donated Property	Pending PARTF Grant Approval
State Grant*	\$ 100,000	NC Land and Water Fund	Pending DNCR Approval by September 2023
Total Matching Funds	\$574,970		

*PARTF allows other state and federal funding to be used as local match. PARTF cannot be used as a match for the Helene Recovery Fund.

Attorney's Certification of Site Control

The applicant's attorney should review the Site Plan for the project (as described on page 9). 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 project must be located on a single contiguous site.

Please contact your regional consultant about linear parks and greenways.

Important: The application can be declared ineligible without this certification.

Environmental Review

All applicants who are proposing any development (roads, buildings, ball fields, etc.) with a PARTF grant must provide the following information to help determine the proposed project's impact on the environment. Project design should minimize adverse impacts on the environmentally sensitive features of the site. Each item must be accurately and adequately addressed to allow the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to determine if the proposed project will comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Some projects will require an additional evaluation called an "environmental assessment" if they are selected for funding. For any project that meets *all three* of the following criteria, an environmental document must be prepared:

An expenditure of \$10 million in funds provided by the state of North Carolina for a single project or action or related group of projects or action

Or

land-disturbing activity of equal to or greater than 10 acres of public lands resulting in substantial, permanent changes in the natural cover or topography of those lands (or waters)

An action by a state agency, and

Has a potential detrimental environmental effect upon natural resources, public health and safety, natural beauty, or historical or cultural elements, of the state's common inheritance.

The PARTF program will notify the applicant if an environmental assessment is required. If needed, the grantee must complete the environmental assessment before signing the PARTF contract and beginning the project.

Resiliency Planning

Resilience is more than reducing the impact of hazards. The North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan (NC Resilience Plan, 2020) defines resilience as “the capacity of a community or business to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from a disruption.” It encompasses the characteristics that enable a community to survive and thrive when disasters happen. Resilience helps us build the future that we want – it helps us bounce forward after a disaster, not just bounce back. The NC Resilience Plan also tells us that “a resilient North Carolina is a state where our communities, economies, and ecosystems are better able to rebound, positively adapt to, and thrive amid changing conditions and challenges, including disasters and climate change; to maintain quality of life, healthy growth, and durable systems; and to conserve resources for present and future generations.” (Source: [NC Resilient Communities Planning Guide](#))

How is this project incorporating resiliency planning?

Damage assessment and Recovery

- What specific damage did your parks and trails sustain during Hurricane Helene?
- Have you completed a formal damage assessment? If so, please attach documentation (photos, engineering reports, etc.).
- What immediate recovery actions were taken to stabilize or secure the site?

Resiliency Planning and Design

- How has your community incorporated resilience into the design of the proposed project?
 - Examples: elevated structures, permeable surfaces, native vegetation, flood-tolerant materials.
- Does your project include nature-based solutions (e.g., bioswales, rain gardens, living shorelines) to mitigate future storm impacts?
- Have you updated your master plan or hazard mitigation plan to reflect lessons learned from Hurricane Helene?

Community and Interagency Coordination

- What role did your parks play in community response or recovery during/after the hurricane?
 - Shelter, distribution site, cooling center, etc.
- Have you coordinated with local emergency management or public health agencies in your recovery or planning efforts?

Long-Term Maintenance and Monitoring

- What strategies are in place to maintain and monitor the resilience features of your project?
- How will you ensure that future maintenance budgets account for climate-related wear and tear?

Supporting documentation

- Show resilient design features on the site plans.
- Hazard mitigation plans or climate adaptation strategies.
- Letters of support from emergency management or public health partners.

Resiliency Planning Resources:

[Overview of the Steps | U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#)

[NC Resilient Communities Planning Guide](#)

[NC Resilience Exchange Actions Database](#)

[RISE Regional Resilience Portfolios](#)

[NC DOA Uniform Floodplain Management Policy For State Construction](#)

[FEMA National Resilience Guidance](#)

[DOI Nature-Based Solutions Roadmap](#)

[The Power of Parks to Address Climate Change: A Special Report](#)

Case Studies

- [Town of Black Mountain addresses streambank erosion with restoration efforts](#)
- [Hoke Community Forest institutes a prescribed burn program](#)
- [New Bern project grows natural stormwater resilience while improving native ecosystems](#)
- [Incorporating climate change into a new forest management plan](#)

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.

HUD Report: <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/2025-04-17hud-action-plancdbg-drapproved/download?attachment>

State Demographer County Population Estimates:

https://demography.osbm.nc.gov/explore/assets/historical-certified-estimates-2010_2024/

Scoring System for Helene Recovery Fund Grants

A. Project Justification (up to 10 possible points)

This narrative should address why the project is needed and how the community will be impacted. If seeking prioritization, please include how the replacement of damaged or affected parks and trails will support long-term community resilience, environmental recovery, and equitable access to outdoor recreation following Hurricane Helene.

B. Resiliency Planning (up to 20 possible points)

1. Resiliency Planning (4 possible points)
2. Damage & Damage Assessment and Recovery (4 possible points)
3. Resiliency Planning and Design (4 possible points)
4. Community and Interagency Coordination (4 possible points)
5. Long-Term Maintenance and Monitoring (4 possible points)

C. Acquisition (up to 15 possible points)

Identify and provide justification for the acquisition type and impact to protect the unique natural resources. Select one of the following three options and explain why land acquisition will create a positive impact on the community. (Possible 10 points)

- The site is a significant, unique, and threatened natural resource that will be used for other development purposes if not acquired. The recommendation is to conserve/ protect the resource while providing low-impact passive recreation, education, and conservation opportunities. (10 points)
- The site is an excellent natural resource that will be protected in addition to providing active and passive outdoor recreational opportunities and supports education and conservation efforts. (7 points)
- The site is an average natural resource that will be used to provide predominantly active outdoor recreation opportunities and support the education and conservation efforts. (5 points)

Justification for selection:

Number of acres of land acquired - parcel acres or linear acquisition for greenway/ trails (Possible 5 points)

- 5 acres or less (3 points)
- Medium acquisition, 6-25 acres (4 points)
- Large acquisition, 26 or more acres (5 points)

Documentation Required: Site plan should include acreage and any highlighted resources.

D. Public Recreational Facilities (up to 45 possible points)

1. New, like, or renovated facilities to be provided: (30 points)

A maximum of 30 total points will be awarded for the sum of 1a, 1b and 1c.

a. The project will provide (check one):

- 3 or more types of new recreational facilities (20 points)
- 2 types of new recreational facilities (15 points)
- 1 type of new recreational facility (10 points)

List the new types of recreational facilities:

b. The project will add recreational facilities at the park that are like the facilities that exist at the park. The project will add (check one):

- 3 or more types of recreational facilities (12 points)
- 2 types of recreational facilities (8 points)
- 1 type of recreational facility (4 points)

List the types of recreational facilities:

c. The project will provide major renovation of (check one):

- 3 or more types of recreational facilities (8 points)
- 2 types of recreational facilities (6 points)
- 1 type of recreational facility (4 points)

List the recreational facilities to be renovated and why each renovation is needed:

2. The project will provide a trail or greenway (1/4 mile or longer) that links to existing recreation area(s), school(s), downtown businesses, and/or communities located outside of the park. (5 points)

Yes No

Site plan must show trail linkage to receive points. Identify by name and location the existing trail and areas to be linked by the proposed trail:

E. Commitment to Operation & Maintenance (15 possible points)

1. The applicant has a full-time parks and recreation department that will manage the project site to provide programming and to ensure adequate operation and maintenance. (15 points)
2. The applicant has a full-time staff, such as a public works, who will manage the project site to ensure adequate operation and maintenance. (8 points)
3. The applicant will manage the project site with part-time staff or by contractual agreement to ensure adequate operation and maintenance. (4 points)
4. An organized volunteer group, such as a civic group or youth sports association will operate and maintain the site. (2 points)

Provide the name of the organization that will operate and maintain the site:

If the applicant is not going to operate the site with full-time staff, (see items #3 & #4), describe how and when the site will be open to the public.

F. Availability of Other Funds for the Project (up to 5 possible points)

- Limited Funds (5 points)
- Average Funds (3 points)
- Significant Funds (1 point)

G. Additional Points (10 possible points +/-)

- Project is applicant's only park (Possible +3 points)
- The applicant provides maximum access to outdoor recreation opportunities (Possible +3 points)
- Project provides public access to public waters (such as river, ocean, sound, or lake). (Possible +2 points)
- Project provides a trail connection that links daily destinations i.e. bus stop, retail, existing recreation area(s), school(s), businesses, and/or communities located outside of the project site. (Possible +2 points)
- Poor application documentation (unclear maps or incomplete site plan, instructions not followed, missing documentation, unrealistic budget, inconsistencies, etc.) (Possible -4 points)

H. Prioritization (10 possible points)

County designated by HUD as most impacted and distressed:

County Population per 2023 State Demographer Report:

- Applicant attests 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 (page 40).

Definitions

1. **Recreational Facility:** The following list provides examples of projects that will qualify as recreational facilities or areas.

A. **Examples of Recreational Facilities and Areas:**

- Adult and youth sports facilities including tennis courts, soccer fields, ballfields, running tracks, volleyball courts and basketball courts.
- Fishing and boating facilities including man-made lakes or ponds, docks, launching ramps, piers, overlooks/observation facilities, boardwalks, and marinas.
- Swimming facilities including swimming pools, spray-grounds, wave-making pools, wading pools, and swim beaches.
- Trails within a park with a minimum continuous length of 1/4 mile including nature trails, hiking trails, bicycling trails, and equestrian trails.
- Greenways - linear open spaces connecting parks or other public areas that are 1/4 mile or longer and usually contain a multi-purpose trail.
- Camping facilities including cabins, group camps, and tent and trailer campgrounds.
- Picnic facilities including picnic shelters with tables and grills, or picnic areas with groups of tables, grills, and trash receptacles.
- Indoor recreational facilities including recreation centers, fitness centers, multi-purpose rooms, arts and crafts centers, nature centers, weight rooms, aquatic centers, handball courts, gymnasiums, and community centers. One building may include more than one recreational facility. For example, a new recreation center could contain a gymnasium, a weight room, and a multi-purpose room.
- Playgrounds / Tot Lots: one or more areas with multiple play structures for children that are sometimes differentiated by the age of the child.
- Amphitheaters
- Court and lawn games: One or more areas with equipment for informal games such as horseshoes, bocce, corn hole, and volleyball.

B. **Support facilities** are **not** recreational facilities: Support facilities include parking lots, roads, lighting, bleachers, restrooms, concession buildings, fencing, landscaping, site preparation, bridges, utilities, sidewalks, stairways, drinking fountains, and maintenance buildings. Recreational programs, such as sports activities, classes, or lessons, are not facilities.

2. **Renovation:** The extensive reconstruction of a facility to restore or improve its usefulness to its original purpose. A renovation project will not be awarded points under the scoring system if the facility's deterioration is due to inadequate maintenance during its reasonable lifetime. Renovating a recreational or non-recreational facility for a new recreation use would apply to new and/or like recreational facilities.

Appendix I: Eligible Counties List

On October 15, 2024, FEMA added twelve counties to the list of North Carolina counties adversely affected by Hurricane Helene. As of October 18, 2024, the following counties in North Carolina are Disaster Counties:

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

Those projects seeking 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.

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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Appendix II: Recreation Resources Service (RRS)

RRS provides grant administration as part of its duties for the NC Division of Parks and Recreation. Your RRS Consultant is the first point of contact for questions or assistance related to the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), non-recurring grants administered by the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund, and the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). For Grant assistance, contact the regional consultant assigned to your County.

West	Central North	Central South	Northeast	Southeast
Blake Covington bwcoving@ncsu.edu (919) 513-5885	Trey Fouché jfouche2@ncsu.edu (919) 513-3644	Terri Stowers tlstower@ncsu.edu (919) 513-4083	Scott Payne rrspayne@ncsu.edu (919) 513-3937	Brittany Shipp bwshipp@ncsu.edu (919) 513-5951

go.ncsu.edu/rrs



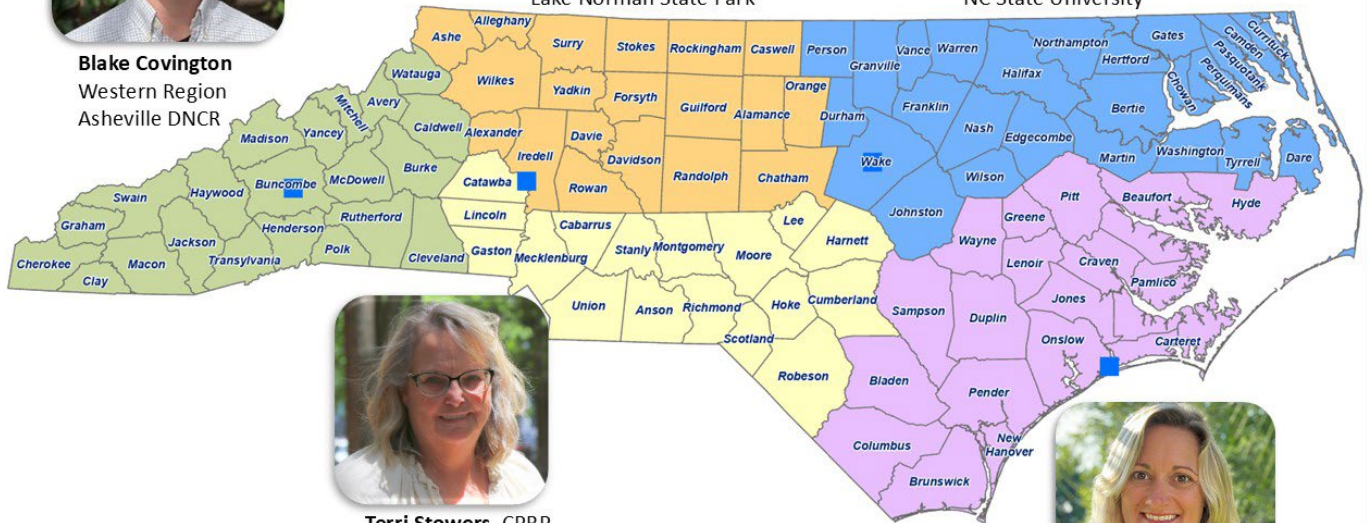
Blake Covington
Western Region
Asheville DNCR



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



Brittany Shipp, CPRP
Southeast Region
Hammocks Beach State Park

Meet The Team

RECREATION RESOURCES SERVICE

Appendix III: Grant Application Templates

Applicants should use the following templates when submitting their applications to ensure their application is eligible for consideration.

Checklist to Submit a Complete Application

All items listed are required documents. Complete and submit the checklist with your application. Keep a copy of the application for your files.

- Paper Submission – Must include Hard Copy and Digital Copy on flash drive
 - Hard Copy: Paper clip the pages and copies of each item on the checklist together. **Do not use staples.**
 - Digital copy: Submit a flash drive with individual files for the documents on the checklist. Use PDF format. Label the flash drive with the local government name. Use the file names shown in the table below.
- Electronic Submission - Applications are submitted through an electronic folder in Microsoft SharePoint. Applicants should contact their Recreation Resources Service regional consultant to request access to the SharePoint folder. Applicants are encouraged to request access early in the process to allow for technical support, as needed. Use the file names shown in the table below.

Applicant: City of Hendersonville **Project Name:** Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

<i>Required for All Applications</i> Use the (file name) shown for each item.	Included ✓
Checklist for Submitting a Complete Application (Checklist)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Applicant’s Basic Facts and Assurances (Basic facts)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Project Description (Description)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Project Justification (Justification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site Plan (Site plan)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site Vicinity Map (Site vicinity)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Project Costs (Project costs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source of Matching Funds (Matching funds)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attorney’s Certification of Site Control (Site control)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Review (ENV review)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prioritization (Prioritization) <i>OPTIONAL</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Resiliency Planning (Resiliency) <i>OPTIONAL</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Applicant Self-Scoring System (Self Scoring)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Helene Recovery Fund 2025-2026 Basic Facts & Assurances

Local Government Name: City of Hendersonville	County: Henderson
Federal Employer I.D. Number: 56- 6001242	
Local Government Contact Person for the Grant: Name: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Blake Fulgham Title: Management Analyst- Strategy & Performance Organization: City of Hendersonville Mailing Address: 305 Williams Street City/State/Zip: Hendersonville/ NC/ 28792 Telephone: (828) 341-7080 E-mail: bfulgham@hvlnc.gov (must be an employee of the sponsoring local government)	Local Government Manager: Name: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. John Connet Title: City Manager Mailing Address: 160 6th Ave. E City/State/Zip: Hendersonville/ NC/ 28792 Telephone: (828) 697-3000 E-mail: jconnet@hvlnc.gov
Chief Elected Official: Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Barbara G. Volk Title: City Mayor Mailing Address: 160 6th Ave. E City/State/Zip: Hendersonville/ NC/ 28792	
Site Control (check all that apply): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Owned by local government <input type="checkbox"/> Leased by applicant for 25 years or more <input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> Owned by school board	Costs rounded to nearest dollar: <i>(Should match project budget)</i> Grant funds requested: \$ _____ .00 Local government's matching funds: \$ _____ .00 Total cost of project \$ _____ .00
Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment	
Is this an LWCF-funded park on these lists of NC projects ? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, list the grant number(s):	
Certification and Approval by Local Governing Board I hereby certify the information contained in the attached application is true and correct and the required dollar-for-dollar matching funds will be available during the project period. This application has been approved by the local governing board.	
Chief Elected Official	
(Print or Type Name and Title)	(Signature)
If two local governments are applying together, this form must be completed and signed by each local government. One applicant must be identified by adding "primary sponsor" in the "Local Government Name" section.	
This form must be complete in its entirety for your application to be considered	

Project Description

Applicant: City of Hendersonville

Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

Describe your project in 3-5 sentences. Be concise and discerning, including recreation facilities being added, renovated or replaced, acres acquired, and whether the facility renovation is due to damage sustained during Hurricane Helene.

The City of Hendersonville is proposing a project that consists of the replacement and relocation of the restroom facility for Sullivan Park due to the current restroom being inundated by the flood waters of Hurricane Helene. The restrooms experienced multiple feet of floodwater breaching the facility, which also damaged the facilities security system and locking mechanisms. The project will also include a replacement of the playground structure at Sullivan Park that was damaged due to Hurricane Helene. The playground floor surface which experienced high levels of erosion and wash out will also be removed and replaced with a playground safe rubber surfacing to provide greater resiliency for the future. The existing inundated restroom facility will be converted into a covered shelter area with benches and tables as well as the building itself will be converted into storage.

Project Justification

Applicant: City of Hendersonville

Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

Explain 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.

This project is necessary for our community for many reasons. To date, we have received no insurance proceeds or FEMA assistance for Sullivan Park, though we do plan on conducting a formal damage assessment and receiving FEMA Public Assistance funds in the near future. Although the existing playground has been restored and repaired for the community to be able to safely utilize the structure, the wooden structure has taken on structural damage and deterioration. Wooden playground structures deteriorate quicker than many other structural materials that are more commonly found in more recently developed playground structures such as HDPE plastic, steel, or aluminum. Wooden structures experience splintering, structural rot, and UV degradation in ways that other materials do not. These factors were exacerbated by Hurricane Helene and the park being inundated by multiple feet of floodwater for multiple days as any deficient structural point of the playground described prior would have been worsened by the invasion of additional water to deteriorate the material.

Another reason that this project is necessary is that high volumes of the playground floor surfacing for the playground was washed away and out of the playground boundaries. The mulch surface that currently exists on the park can be moved and removed very easily, and the flooding due to Hurricane Helene resulted in high levels of mulch being washed out into the park grass, into the streambank located south of the park, as well as into a nearby street just north of the park. The project calls for a new, permanent surface to be installed for the entire playground facility to provide additional resiliency for the park surface while still providing a high quality and safe surface for park visitors.

Project Costs

Applicant: City of Hendersonville

Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

Date Prepared _____

Project Elements (Include specific units - sizes, numbers, lengths, etc. - for each item.)	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost
Building and/or Renovating Costs			
Cost to Build or Renovate			
Contingency for the Cost of Building / Renovating			
Contingency (not to exceed 5% of the cost to build or renovate or \$50,000 - whichever is less)			
Land Value – (Indicate Purchase or Donation)			
Land Acquisition - <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase <input type="checkbox"/> Donation			
Planning and Incidental Land Acquisition Costs			
Construction management, site planning, preliminary design, survey and appraisals, or the cost of preparing the application (not to exceed 20% of the cost of the project or \$200,000 - whichever is less)			
Total Project Cost			
Total Grant Request			
Total Local Match			

Sources of the Applicant's Matching Funds

Applicant: City of Hendersonville Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

Type of Matching Funds	Amount of Funds	Funding Source	Availability
Public Assistance	\$361,762	FEMA	Pending FEMA Public Assistance
Total Matching Funds	\$361,762		

Attorney's Certification of Site Control

Applicant: City of Hendersonville Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

Instructions: Review the Site Plan for the project. 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 project must be located on a single contiguous site. Please contact your regional consultant about linear parks and greenways.

Important: The application can be declared ineligible without this certification.

1. TYPE OF SITE CONTROL: Indicate the type(s) of control the applicant has for the project site.	
TYPE OF CONTROL	Check all that apply
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Simple Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Entire Site. <input type="checkbox"/> Portion of site
<input type="checkbox"/> Lease (25 years or longer)	<input type="checkbox"/> Entire Site. <input type="checkbox"/> Portion of site
<input type="checkbox"/> Easement	<input type="checkbox"/> Entire Site. <input type="checkbox"/> Portion of site
2. LIMITATIONS, CONDITIONS OR ENCUMBRANCES:	
<input type="checkbox"/> No limitations, conditions, or encumbrances <input type="checkbox"/> Limitations, conditions, or encumbrances Attach additional pages describing any conditions or limitations in current or proposed leases, easements or use agreements. Include restrictions on the local government's use of the site or the rights to be reserved by the landowner that may impact the local government's ability to complete the project in a timely manner and/ or provide for public recreational use for at least 25 years. Attach additional pages if needed.	
3. ATTORNEY'S CERTIFICATION	
I have reviewed the site of the proposed project identified on this page and certify that the information provided above is accurate to the best of my knowledge. The proposed project will be on one contiguous site.	
NAME (Printed/Typed) _____	
TITLE _____	
SIGNATURE _____	Date _____

Environmental Review

Applicant: City of Hendersonville Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

- 1. Site Description:** Describe in detail the existing or proposed park property including the park acreage (for land and water), topography, streams, lakes, and any significant natural resources that are on or adjacent to the site. Attach a separate page if needed.

Sullivan Park currently resides on the Northeast part of Hendersonville, less than 0.5 miles away from the North end of our Downtown District. The park is roughly 3.3 acres of land which includes two covered basketball courts, two playground structures surrounded by mulch flooring, a restroom facility, as well as a pedestrian bridge on the South side of the park. The park also consists of a small streambank that runs along the southern portion of the Park and runs from the west side all the way to the east boundary of the park which helps mitigate flooding and rain accumulation for the park. To the east of the park resides the Oklawaha Greenway, passing about 500 feet to the northeast of Sullivan Park and is connected to the park via the greenway walking trail.

- 2. Past/Current Property Use:** What are the past and/or current uses of the property? Examples: Urban/developed, forest, agricultural, industrial site, landfill, water, or wetland. Attach a separate page if needed. **Important:** If the property has been contaminated (examples: brownfield sites), all cleanup actions must be completed before a PARTF contract is executed and the project can begin. Use this space to describe any cleanup actions that are in progress or proposed. The PARTF program recommends that local governments wait until cleanup is completed before applying.

The current use of the property is as a public park. This means that Sullivan Park is currently used for active recreation such as playing on the playground, utilizing the park's open space for various sports, games, and activities, as well as an area to exercise in the grass or along the boundaries of the park along the sidewalk. The park also provides opportunities for nature watching, provides a direct connection to the Oklawaha greenway as a walking, running, cycling trail, as well as providing opportunities for additional activities for visitors such as reading or picnics at the park.

During the Hurricane Helene aftermath and recovery efforts, Atkinson Elementary School utilized Sullivan Park frequently due to the damage that they had received at their school facility. Atkinson Elementary partnered with the Hendersonville Boys and Girls Club to utilize their facility for educational purposes and thus utilized the neighboring Sullivan Park each day for their recess and outdoor activities for recreation. The Boys and Girls Club resides 1 block away from Sullivan Park, which is less than a 400-foot walk to the park for students. This partnership between Atkinson Elementary, the Boys and Girls Club, and Hendersonville helped provide recreational opportunities for students directly impacted by Hurricane Helene, where otherwise recreation opportunities would not have been readily available.

- 3. Streams on Site:** Attach a copy of a map of the park property from this website: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7073e9122ab74588b8c48ded34c3df55?views=Stream-Details>
- 4. DWR Riparian Buffer:** Attach a copy of a map of the park property from this website: <https://arcg.is/0Ojj8D>
- 5. Floodplains:** Attach a copy of a map of the park property from this website: <https://fris.nc.gov/fris/Home.aspx?ST=NC>.
- 6. Archaeological or historical sites:** Attach a copy of a map of the park property from this site: [NC HPOWEB 2.0](#)v. Additional review will be required if ground disturbance occurs within study list or historic district (per HPOWEB), if federal funds will also be used, or if a 404 permit is needed.

Resiliency Planning

Applicant: City of Hendersonville Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

How is this project incorporating resiliency planning?

One of the resilient features that will be incorporated into this project will be the increased elevation of the bathroom facility being relocated from the southern to the northern part of the park, which will add about 18 inches of elevation to the building. This will make the building less likely to flood in future events and, if impacted, reduce the inundation of floodwater into the structure due to being raised higher out of the flood zone and further away from the stream bank. We also plan on installing a playground made from more resilient construction material than the current design. The current playground is constructed from wood, which can deteriorate at a more rapid pace from natural weather conditions compared to counterpart materials such as aluminum, steel, or high-density polyethylene. These materials are more resilient to water as well as have a longer life expectancy regarding both general maintenance and replacement of parts. A third resiliency feature that we are incorporating into this project is the replacement of mulch as the playgrounds fall protection surfacing and to instead install PIP rubber surfacing around the playground boundaries. The ground mulch that we currently use has a resiliency risk regarding washout and erosion, as the material is small and light enough to be impacted by moderate to severe weather conditions. During Hurricane Helene, the mulch area of the park experienced extreme washout as the mulch was washed out of the playground boundaries and spread throughout the park. The team was forced to remove all contaminated mulch and replace the park with all new mulch around the playground. Lower levels of washout can occur during regular rain events as well as the park can experience natural mulch loss overtime as mulch is displaced outside of the playground boundaries through usage of the playground and the park itself. Over time, mulch can be drug or kicked outside of the boundaries and then must be replaced. The PIP rubber solution does not erode or wash out due to weather events and requires less annual maintenance than ground mulch does.

Damage assessment and Recovery

- What specific damage did your parks and trails sustain during Hurricane Helene?

Hendersonville parks and greenways experienced drastic levels of flooding and erosion during what was later referred to as a 1000-year storm event by scientists. Parks and trails were inundated with floodwater and debris, both construction and green debris, for multiple days and in some cases weeks due to the damage that the Hurricane Helene floodwaters created.

- Have you completed a formal damage assessment? If so, please briefly describe here and attach documentation (photos, engineering reports, etc.)

We have not yet performed a formal damage assessment with FEMA after the hurricane incident; however, we have conducted a formal damage assessment for additional parks & recreation properties such as at Patton Park and the Whitmire Recreation Center. Both facilities received very similar damage induced by the floodwaters, damaging electrical components, causing high levels of erosion and sediment infiltration, as well as contaminating all surfaces that received floodwaters. We do plan on conducting a formal damage assessment with FEMA and receiving FEMA Public Assistance funds in the future. AT this time, we have identified and provided FEMA with detailed information about the damages that Sullivan Park sustained during Hurricane Helene, and we are currently awaiting further feedback and mitigation by FEMA Public Assistance.

- What immediate recovery actions were taken to stabilize or secure the site?

The immediate actions that we took were to clean, repair, and stabilize the site from any immediate risks to safety caused by Hurricane Helene. This included the removal of all remaining playground mulch up to 12 inches deep for the full 11,800 sq/ft playground facility. Once all mulch was removed, the Public Works Property Maintenance Division worked with the Stormwater team to test and ensure that the drainage system was still working properly. Once that was completed, the team cleaned and disinfected all of the playground equipment surfaces with outdoor Clorox to clean any contamination off the playground structures. Once this was completed, the playground structure was then power washed. Then, the team added 12 feet of new playground wood mulch back into the playground vicinity to replace the contaminated mulch. Once complete, the team moved on to restoring the basketball facility by pressure washing the 10,000 sq/ft court space. Two basketball courts reside under a large, shaded structure where they accumulated sediment and various material that was washed onto the basketball courts. The team also repaired a section of the park's boardwalk structure that was damaged by the flooding, ensuring that it was safe to access by the public before reopening.

Resiliency Planning

Applicant: City of Hendersonville Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

Resiliency Planning and Design

- How has your community incorporated resilience into the design of the proposed project?
Examples: elevated structures, permeable surfaces, native vegetation, flood-tolerant materials.

The project design focuses on incorporating resiliency at multiple levels for the infrastructure of Sullivan Park. The first resiliency feature to be incorporated is the elevation of the restroom facility by relocating a new building to the north side of the park. This new location will add roughly 18' of elevation to the structure which should reduce the risk and possible impact of flooding to the restroom facility. We are also planning on replacing the current wooden playground structures at the park to be replaced by playground structures that are made of steel, aluminum, or high-density polyethylene material. These materials require less general maintenance and are more water resilient than wooden structures and have a longer expected life cycle than their wooden counterparts. Wooden playground structures require staining and sealing every few years to reduce risks of infiltration of water and other substances into the wooden structure. This could lead to splintering or rotting or fungus developing within the wood, compromising the structural integrity. Though metal structures require touch-up painting every few years, they are not at risk for splintering or rotting the same as wood is and are frequently designed as set and forget structures. The modern powder coated metal structures are also more resistant to UV rays than wood structures, as UV rays overtime can cause wood to warp or even crack after long-term exposure to UV rays. Structural integrity improvements are also possible as the metal in steel or aluminum playground structures has an increased ability to handle the rhythmic stress and strain of high volumes of people running, jumping, and swinging on the playground concurrently, while wooden structures may develop hairline fractures or breaks at high-stress points, which overtime can compromise the structural integrity of the playground.

A final resiliency improvement that we plan on incorporating into our project is the replacement of the current wood mulch surfacing to be replaced by a PIP rubber surfacing material. This PIP rubber surfacing material is much more resilient than the current wood mulch as the material is a single surface bonded together throughout the playground vicinity, so the structure will stay in place permanently. The current mulch is at risk for wash out and to be washed away by weather events, which can lead to bald spots or mulch displacement in areas that can create increased risk for injury for park visitors. The additional maintenance to replace and evenly distribute mulch throughout the vicinity is eliminated by the PIP rubber surface. The current wood mulch also absorbs and retains water much more than the PIP rubber surfacing, which can not only harden the mulch surface to the hardness of dirt, but also can retain water longer and lead to rot or molding in warmer months and freezing in colder months. This water passes through the rubber surface much easier than wood and drains through the underground drainage infrastructure much more easily.

- Does your project include nature-based solutions (e.g., bioswales, rain gardens, living shorelines) to mitigate future storm impacts?

The project itself does not incorporate specific nature based solutions to mitigate future storm impacts, but does have existing nature-based adaptations that do add resiliency to the park. There is currently a streambank that runs the length of about 750-800 feet along the southern portion of Sullivan Park that continues part the eastern boundary of the park that may serve as passive flood storage during certain weather events. This streambank provides resiliency to the park by collecting and storing excess water from rainfall and/or flooding events, reducing the amount of floodwater that would otherwise reside and collect throughout the park and along the sidewalks along the park. Detouring the rain and floodwater towards the creek can reduce the overall floodwater inundation and infiltration into the playground mulch as well as throughout the surrounding greenspaces that could lead to erosion, washout, as well as soil rot.

- Have you updated your master plan or hazard mitigation plan to reflect lessons learned from Hurricane Helene?

Currently, we have not formally updated a hazard mitigation plan, however the team has worked to provide communication and guidance for our community prior to, during, and after the hurricane. This includes our website providing resources to the Henderson County Emergency Management website to receive resources about various weather natural disaster and storm activities, as well as Statewide resources such as the NC Traffic and Road Conditions webmap, the ReadyNC website, and the NC Department of Public Safety Emergency Management website for resources about how to prepare and stay safe during emergencies. We also include federal emergency management resources such as resources to FEMA and the National Weather Service so that community members can receive federal updates and guidelines to prepare and maintain safety during emergencies. These resources support our community in preparing for emergencies, as well as provide updates and alerts to communicate updates to emergency situations, updating the community about potential risks and locations of impacted areas, as well as guidance about how to reduce risk and increase our resiliency by controllable measures for the general public. We also include direct contact information for public services departments such as our Water & Sewer Department, Public Works Department, North Carolina Department of Transportation, and Duke Energy to improve communication between the public and our public service and utility organizations to improve response times in emergency situations.

Resiliency Planning

Applicant: City of Hendersonville Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

Community and Interagency Coordination

- What role did your parks play in community response or recovery during/after the hurricane?
Examples: shelter, distribution site, cooling center, etc.

Our city parks served multiple roles both during and after Hurricane Helene impacted our region. One of the first roles that our parks and green spaces served was as a source of flood mitigation and flood water retention that helped reduce the overall flooding that impacted businesses, residential homes, and other infrastructure throughout the city. The grass surfaces allowed for increased water absorption underground, which reduced the amount of water that could overflow into streets creating the “river effect”. This resiliency was expanded by the current bioswales, streambanks, and man-made marshes at municipal parks within the city, that helped absorb and manage some of the flood waters. Without these nature-based resiliency features, the absorbed water would have remained on the surface for much longer and increased the overall flood levels of the city which could’ve resulted in much greater damage and flood related contamination throughout the region. City parks and greenspaces were also pivotal in our communities mental and emotional health, providing our community members an opportunity to receive a sense of “normalcy” after the devastation of Hurricane Helene had ended. The damage and destruction of the hurricane was immense, and there was immediately a need for emotional outlets and resources to move forward. Our city parks, when restored to safe and accessible conditions, provided our community with safe outdoor spaces to visit, engage with their community socially, play games or activities, as well as gain a sense of community and pride in their community, which can be beneficial and often necessary when recovering from a storm as severe as Hurricane Helene. Our city parks became a physical, mental, and emotional resource and outlet that supported community members in their journey towards perseverance and recovery directly after the storm event and continue to serve as a pivotal health and wellness resource for our entire community moving forward.

- Have you coordinated with local emergency management or public health agencies in your recovery or planning efforts?

We partnered with our Henderson County emergency response team in our cleanup and response efforts for multiple weeks leading up to and following Hurricane Helene. We continued to meet with our county emergency response leadership team to identify opportunities through hazard mitigation and funding opportunities to identify ways that we can become more flood resilient as well as improve our emergency response activities moving forward.

Resiliency Planning

Applicant: City of Hendersonville Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

Long-Term Maintenance and Monitoring

- What strategies are in place to maintain and monitor the resilience features of your project?

There are multiple strategies that the City of Hendersonville intends to maintain and/or incorporate to ensure the resilience of this project for the future. The first activity would be to ensure we continue to conduct routine maintenance and inspections of the park facilities multiple times per year and conduct the necessary preventative maintenance immediately as problems arise to prevent larger problems from accumulating. This will be conducted by our Property Maintenance crew and crew leadership, led by the Property Maintenance Superintendent. This will include maintenance checks on all features of the restroom facility (to include utilities), as well as structural integrity inspections of both the playground structure and PIP rubber surfacing to ensure timely repair of any damage or deterioration that could lead to further damage. To aid in this goal, we plan to work closely with the playground developers that are selected to create a routine maintenance schedule that provides guidance on the life cycle of different material, parts, or applications that are to be incorporated in the playground, surfacing, and restroom facilities. This will help us develop an overall maintenance schedule for the park components.

We also plan on utilizing and monitoring flood zone data overtime through the Flood Risk Information Systems (FRIS) website to recognize how nearby flood zones may evolve overtime, and how this evolution may impact park structures.

- How will you ensure that future maintenance budgets account for climate-related wear and tear?

The City of Hendersonville will meet internally with Public Works, Budget, and administrative staff to identify estimated maintenance costs for both the Sullivan Park new playground and playground surface as well as for the new restroom facility. This will include expected lifespan of the facilities as well as components to the project, such as the security and locking mechanisms for the restroom and the floor surface of the playground being evaluated separate from playground components. Once we identify the estimated maintenance activities to occur over a 5-year timespan, we will calculate a yearly estimated maintenance budget that can financially support the climate-related maintenance schedule based on asset life cycle as well as our local environmental trends. The city also plans for its General Fund to be able to provide funding to mitigate any additional climate-related maintenance issues to maintain safe accessibility of the park and its amenities to the public.

Supporting documentation

- Show resilient design features on the site plans.
- Hazard mitigation plans or climate adaptation strategies.
- Letters of support from emergency management or public health partners.

Helene Recovery Fund for PARTF 2025-2026 Prioritization Attestation

Applicant: City of Hendersonville Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

To qualify for the Western NC Prioritization, applicants must be from counties that were designated, in whole or in part, by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as the most impacted and distressed counties from Hurricane Helene

Applicant County: Henderson County

To qualify for the Western NC Prioritization, applicants must have a population of 300,000 or fewer based upon the 2023 Certified County Population Estimates from the State Demographer.

County Population per the State Demographer 2023 Report: 121,023

Applicant attests 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.

<p>Certification and Approval by Local Governing Board</p> <p>I hereby certify the information contained in the attached application is true and correct</p>	
Print Name / Title	Signature

NOTICE:

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.

Scoring System for Helene Recovery Fund Grants

Applicant: City of Hendersonville Project Name: Sullivan Park Playground & Restroom Redevelopment

Project Justification (up to 10 possible points)

This narrative should address why the project is needed and how the community will be impacted. If seeking prioritization, please include how the replacement of damaged or affected parks and trails will support long-term community resilience, environmental recovery, and equitable access to outdoor recreation following Hurricane Helene.

Applicant Self Score for Justification: 10

Resiliency Planning (up to 20 possible points)

1. Resiliency Planning (4 possible points)

Applicant Self Score: 4

2. Damage & Damage Assessment and Recovery (4 possible points)

Applicant Self Score: 3

3. Resiliency Planning and Design (4 possible points)

Applicant Self Score: 4

4. Community and Interagency Coordination (4 possible points)

Applicant Self Score: 4

5. Long-Term Maintenance and Monitoring (4 possible points)

Applicant Self Score: 4

I believe we have earned a strong score of 19 as we have adequately and thoroughly described the long-term considerations when developing this project plan, in terms of resiliency maintenance. The project will make multiple resiliency improvements for the restroom facility, for the playground infrastructure, and for the playground surfacing that will support the effective maintenance over the projects life-cycle. We have worked hard to effectively communicate with both the public as well as Henderson County leadership to identify areas of opportunity to enhance public safety and resiliency of infrastructure within the City of Hendersonville. Although we have not completed a formal damage assessment for Sullivan Park, we have completed them for other parks such as Patton Park and the Whitmire Center, and have identified and addressed and restored many park features since the impacts of Hurricane Helene.

Applicant Self Score for Resiliency Planning Total: 19

Acquisition (up to 15 possible points)

Identify and provide justification for the acquisition type and impact to protect the unique natural resources. Select one of the following three options and explain why land acquisition will create a positive impact on the community. (Possible 10 points)

- The site is a significant, unique, and threatened natural resource that will be used for other development purposes if not acquired. The recommendation is to conserve/ protect the resource while providing low-impact passive recreation, education, and conservation opportunities. (10 points)

- The site is an excellent natural resource that will be protected in addition to providing active and passive outdoor recreational opportunities and supports education and conservation efforts. (7 points)

- The site is an average natural resource that will be used to provide predominantly active outdoor recreation opportunities and support the education and conservation efforts. (5 points)

Justification for selection:

Number of acres of land acquired - parcel acres or linear acquisition for greenway/ trails (Possible 5 points)

- 5 acres or less (3 points)
- Medium acquisition, 6-25 acres (4 points)
- Large acquisition, 26 or more acres (5 points)

Applicant Self Score for Acquisition: _____

Public Recreational Facilities (up to 45 possible points)

3. New, like, or renovated facilities to be provided: (30 points)

A maximum of 30 total points will be awarded for the sum of 1a, 1b and 1c.

d. The project will provide (check one):

- 3 or more types of new recreational facilities (20 points)
- 2 types of new recreational facilities (15 points)
- 1 type of new recreational facility (10 points)

List the new types of recreational facilities:

The new playground structures qualify as our one new type of recreational facility developed by this project. The new and elevated restroom building for the park is a support facility for the park.

e. The project will add recreational facilities at the park that are like the facilities that exist at the park. The project will add (check one):

- 3 or more types of recreational facilities (12 points)
- 2 types of recreational facilities (8 points)
- 1 type of recreational facility (4 points)

List the types of recreational facilities:

The new playground structures are recreational facilities like the facilities currently existing at the park.

f. The project will provide major renovation of (check one):

- 3 or more types of recreational facilities (8 points)
- 2 types of recreational facilities (6 points)
- 1 type of recreational facility (4 points)

List the recreational facilities to be renovated and why each renovation is needed:

The playground and space itself qualifies as the one recreational facility that will undergo major renovation through this project.

4. The project will provide a trail or greenway (1/4 mile or longer) that links to existing recreation area(s), school(s), downtown businesses, and/or communities located outside of the park. (5 points)

- Yes No

Site plan must show trail linkage to receive points. Identify by name and location the existing trail and areas to be linked by the proposed trail:

Applicant Self Score for Facilities: 18

Commitment to Operation & Maintenance (15 possible points)

- 1. The applicant has a full-time parks and recreation department that will manage the project site to provide programming and to ensure adequate operation and maintenance. (15 points)
- 2. The applicant has a full-time staff, such as a public works, who will manage the project site to ensure adequate operation and maintenance. (8 points)
- 3. The applicant will manage the project site with part-time staff or by contractual agreement to ensure adequate operation and maintenance. (4 points)
- 4. An organized volunteer group, such as a civic group or youth sports association will operate and maintain the site. (2 points)

Provide the name of the organization that will operate and maintain the site:

City of Hendersonville

If the applicant is not going to operate the site with full-time staff, (see items #3 & #4), describe how and when the site will be open to the public.

Applicant Self Score for Operation & Maintenance: 15

Availability of Other Funds for the Project (up to 5 possible points)

- Limited Funds (5 points)
- Average Funds (3 points)
- Significant Funds (1 point)

Applicant Self Score for Availability of Funds: 5

Additional Points (10 possible points +/-)

- Project is applicant's only park (Possible + 3 points)
- The applicant provides maximum access to outdoor recreation opportunities (Possible +3 points)
- Project provides public access to public waters (such as river, ocean, sound, or lake). (Possible +2 points)
- Project provides a trail connection that links daily destinations i.e. bus stop, retail, existing recreation area(s), school(s), businesses, and/or communities located outside of the project site. (Possible +2 points)
- Poor application documentation (unclear maps or incomplete site plan, instructions not followed, missing documentation, unrealistic budget, inconsistencies, etc.) (Possible -4 points)

Applicant Self Score for Additional Points: 5

Prioritization (10 possible points)

County designated by HUD as most impacted and distressed: Yes

County Population per 2023 State Demographer Report: 121023

Applicant attests 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.

Applicant Self Score for Prioritization: 9

Applicant Total Score:

81

Additional Comments: