



Update on Hurricane Helene Public Health Response

Presented October 8, 2025

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**Public Health
Preparedness team
served in
Emergency
Operations Center
throughout
activation.**



**Public Health nurses
provided 24/7
medical care at
emergency shelter
at Tuckaseegee
Recreational Center.**



**Environmental Health
is distributing
information and
beginning well testing
along Catawba River
this week.**

***Call 980-314-1680 for
questions about wells or
septic tanks.***



Support to Western North Carolina



Public Health is providing vaccines and medical supplies as requested to WNC local health departments.

To date, TDAP vaccines and oxygen concentrator sent (to refill oxygen tanks) to Buncombe County. On standby to provide additional medications and supplies.



Many Public Health nurses and environmental health specialists are on statewide deployment list.

First cohort of nurses expected to deploy *this week*. EHSs are not expected to deploy until water and power are restored.



Public Health strike team(s) are readying for deployment when state coordination begins.

Expect to deploy non-clinical personnel to help restart local public health operations and support ongoing incident management activities.





BOCC PUBLIC POLICY WORKSHOP

HELENA UPDATE

LUESA COORDINATED RESPONSE

Code Enforcement, Storm Water
Solid Waste and GIS



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
North Carolina

Code Enforcement

Pre-storm Coordination and Preparation

- Code Enforcement began initial response on Wednesday, September 25th, in collaboration with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the County Fire Marshals Office (FMO) to disconnect power (de-energize) on Friday, September 27th, to high risk structures within the Riverside Dr. and Mountain Lake area based on updates from Duke Energy.
- Staff leads and teams were identified to respond once the storm passed.
- Coordinated with County Storm Water Services and GIS to model potential flooding on Riverside Dr. and the Mt. Island Lake area, to determine the potential number of structures that would be affected based on storm predictions.



Code Enforcement



Post – Storm Coordination and Response

On Sep 30th, the Code Enforcement team along with the County Storm Water team initiated efforts to:

- Provide residents (if still in the area) have the necessary contact information for assistance regarding shelter, supplies etc.
- Work with partners in the EOC to define the boundaries of the affected areas, establishing what's in the flood zone, and preparing the scale of damage assessment scope.
- Conducted preliminary walk through of possible properties for initial assessment of damage.



Code Enforcement



Post-Storm Continuing Efforts

From October 1st to October 4th, the Code Enforcement team completed their first high-level review of the scale of damage.

- Estimated 84 properties were impacted and will need to contact the department to the need permits before they could be occupied based on the observed damage.
- 18 residence structures had power restored, with minor damage either in the occupied or unoccupied spaces.
- Information flyers were provided to each resident to help guide steps in the permitting process.
- CE customer service teams have been briefed on the situation to best guide those residence for the services needed.
- Over 500 hours of response provided in the first week.





Storm Water



Mountain Island Lake (MIL)

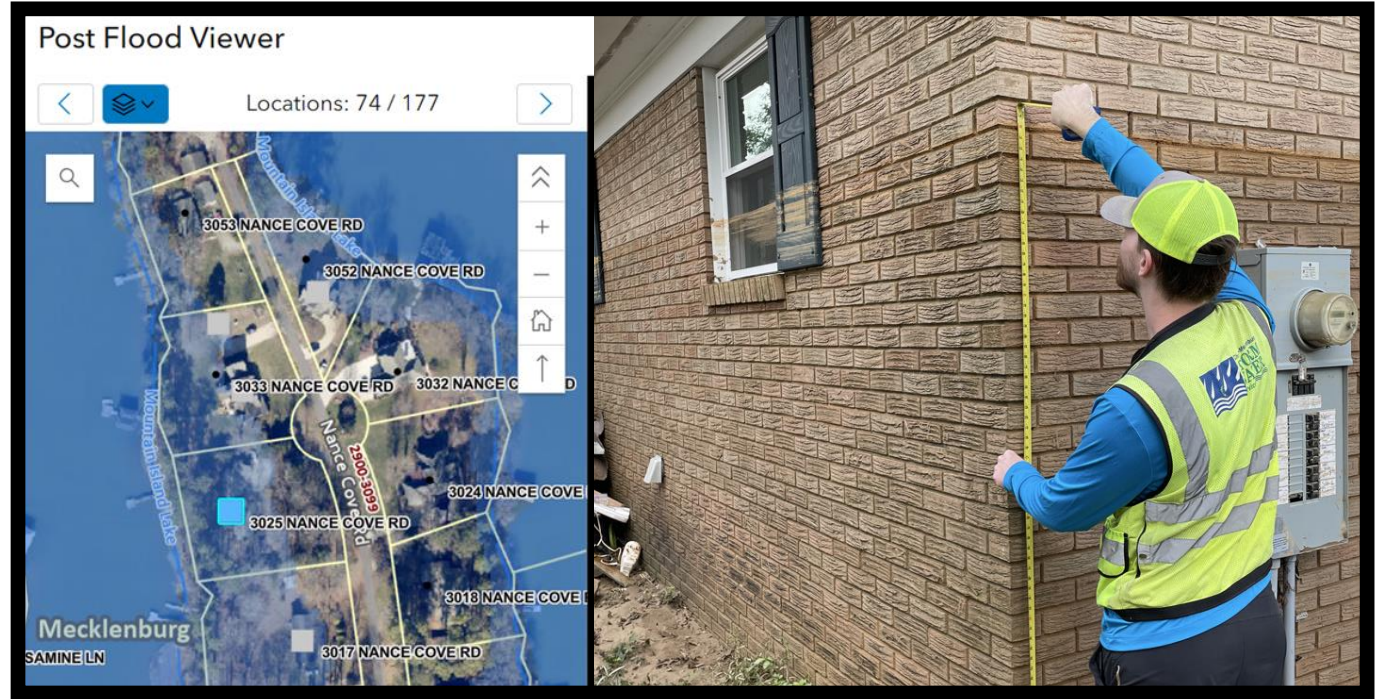
- 7.9 ft of water above spillway at peak
- 4 ft of water on homes in lower MIL
- 14 ft of water on downstream homes.



Storm Water



Riverside Drive Response and Command Center



- Monitored flood levels during the flood using our network of level sensors
- Provided 24-hr flood level mapping support to staff at Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Performed 200 post-damage building inspections
- Staffed the Command Center on Riverside Drive to address resident's questions about recovery and collect data to assess funding needs



Storm Water



- Storm Water’s drone was used to observe and identify flooding
- Preliminary Estimates indicate over 100 building structures potentially impacted by living space flooding



Solid Waste



Coordination with other agencies

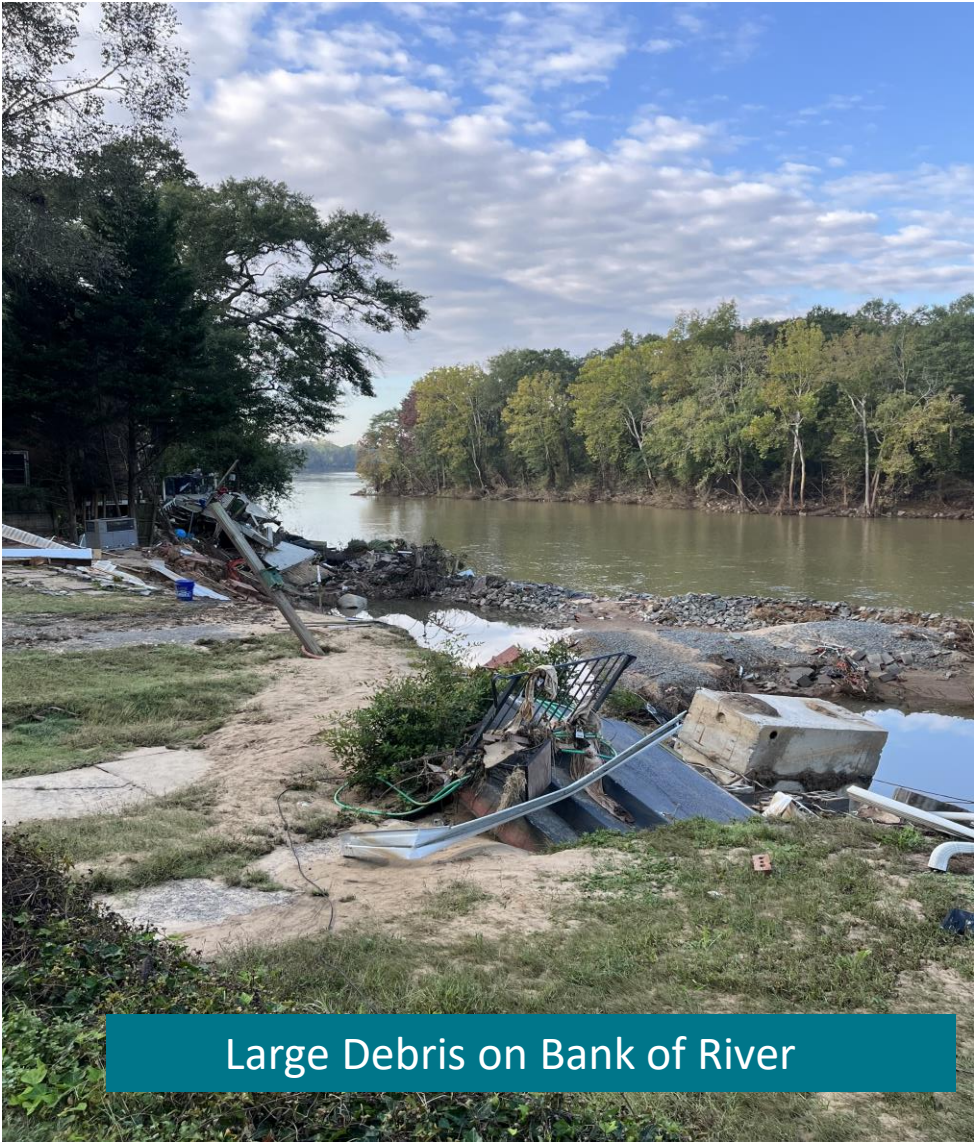
- Deploying Dumpsters & Removing Debris
- Working 7 days/week. Staff working long hours
- Establishing a Temp Disposal & Sorting Area
- Using heavy Equipment to remove large debris
- Coordinating Right of Entry/Permission to remove large items from shoreline and properties
- Coordinating heavy equipment and staff with multiple Park & Recreation Teams.



Solid Waste



Solid Waste Equipment at the flood area



Large Debris on Bank of River



GIS

LUESA-GIS Support During Hurricane Helene

During Hurricane Helene, GIS technology investments were instrumental in enhancing situational awareness and improving the efficiency of the overall response.

LUESA-GIS played a crucial role in flood monitoring and response efforts by providing detailed mapping visualizations and applications that guided evacuation plans and relief operations.

Live Charlotte-Mecklenburg FINS Flood Information & Notification System

RAIN GAUGE STAGE & LAKE GAUGE CREEK CAM

Select Creek Camera
Stewart Creek @ Southwest Blvd

Stewart Creek @ Southwest Blvd

2024-10-04 13:25:57 Stewart Creek @ Southwest Blvd

Refreshed: 10/04/2024 01:28:02 PM

+ TO DASHBOARD

Flood Impact

Stewart Creek @ Southwest Blvd

View Snapshot Zoom to

Mecklenburg Flood Response Application Mecklenburg County GIS

Find Address or Location

Layer List

- Flood Evacuation Survey_results
- Master Address Points
- Addresses
- MIL Catawba Buildings
- Catawba MIL 110 Feet Scenario
- MIL Catawba 111 Flood Scenario
- MIL Catawba 115 Flood Scenario
- Current Road Impact
- Current Building Impact
- Now Flood Inundation
- Now Forecast Flood Inundation
- Now Event RI
- Storm Gage Sensors


At the EOC, GIS solutions like **FINS Live** and **Flood Response Application** provided real-time monitoring of flood levels and forecasted flood maps, helping Emergency Management identify potentially affected areas to prioritize evacuation planning and resource allocation.

GIS

During post-flooding response, GIS provided building level damage reports in the RARR Dashboard and configured the Field Maps application to guide field staff in collecting damage assessment data that assisted efforts to request Federal Disaster assistance and support Code Enforcement.

LUESA-GIS Support Post Hurricane Helene

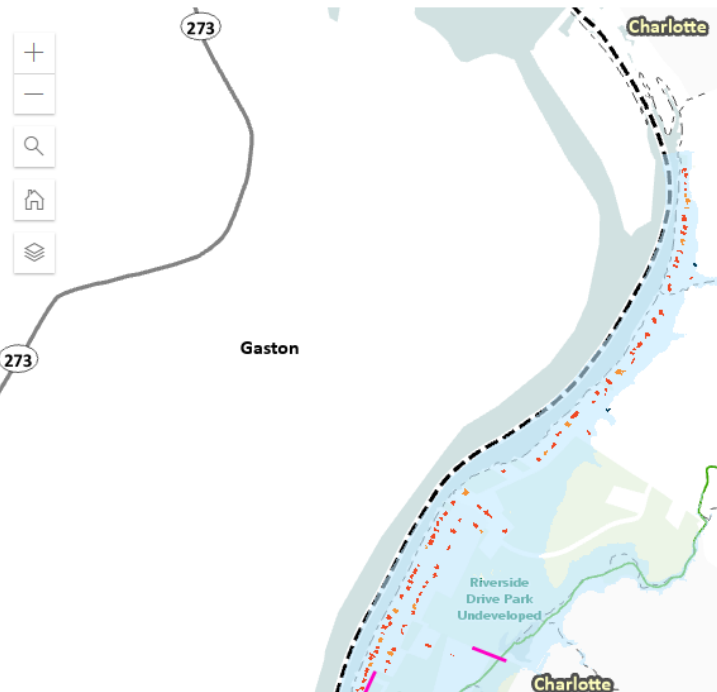
MECKNC.GOV

 **RARR**
RISK ASSESSMENT RISK REDUCTION

Home Flood Risk Dashboard Mitigation Planning Flood Ev

Event: Evtnt2024River

Event: Impacts from flooding from MIL
9/28/2024 12:00:00 AM - 9/28/2024 12:00:00 AM



Event Impact

Buildings Roads

(values shown below are for features currently visible on map)

96 # buildings impacted	\$16.6M total estimated damages	\$15.9M total post-event building value
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Building Damage by Category

RESET

Living Space Flooding	~70
Surrounded by Flood Waters	~15
Floodwaters Touching Building	~5

Post Flood Viewer

Locations: 173 / 177



Building Assessment - 1701 LAKE DR

Water in Crawspace (inches)	
Water in Living Space (inches)	144 in
Water in Basement	

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LUESA HELENA RESPONSE

Thank you!



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
North Carolina

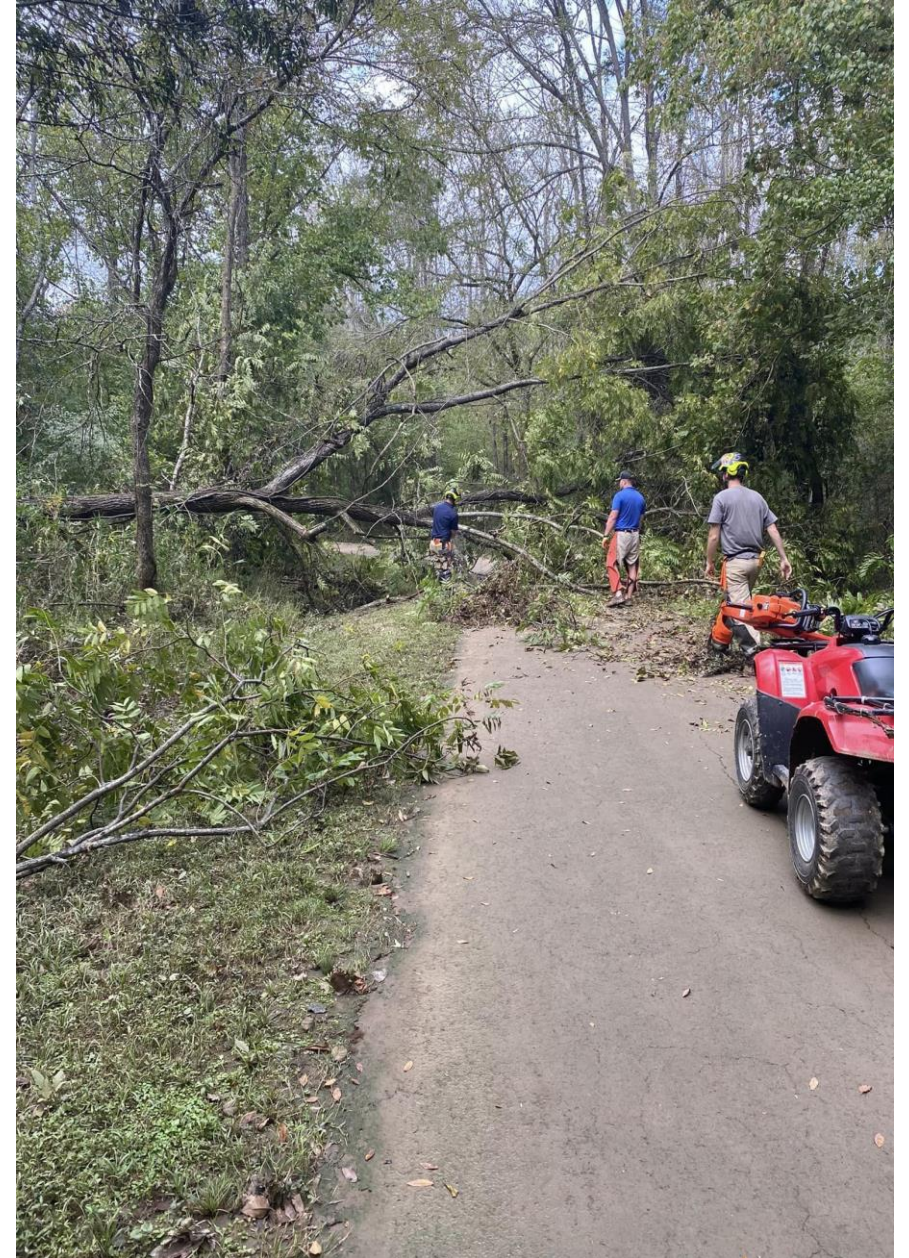


Park and Recreation

Hurricane Helene Update

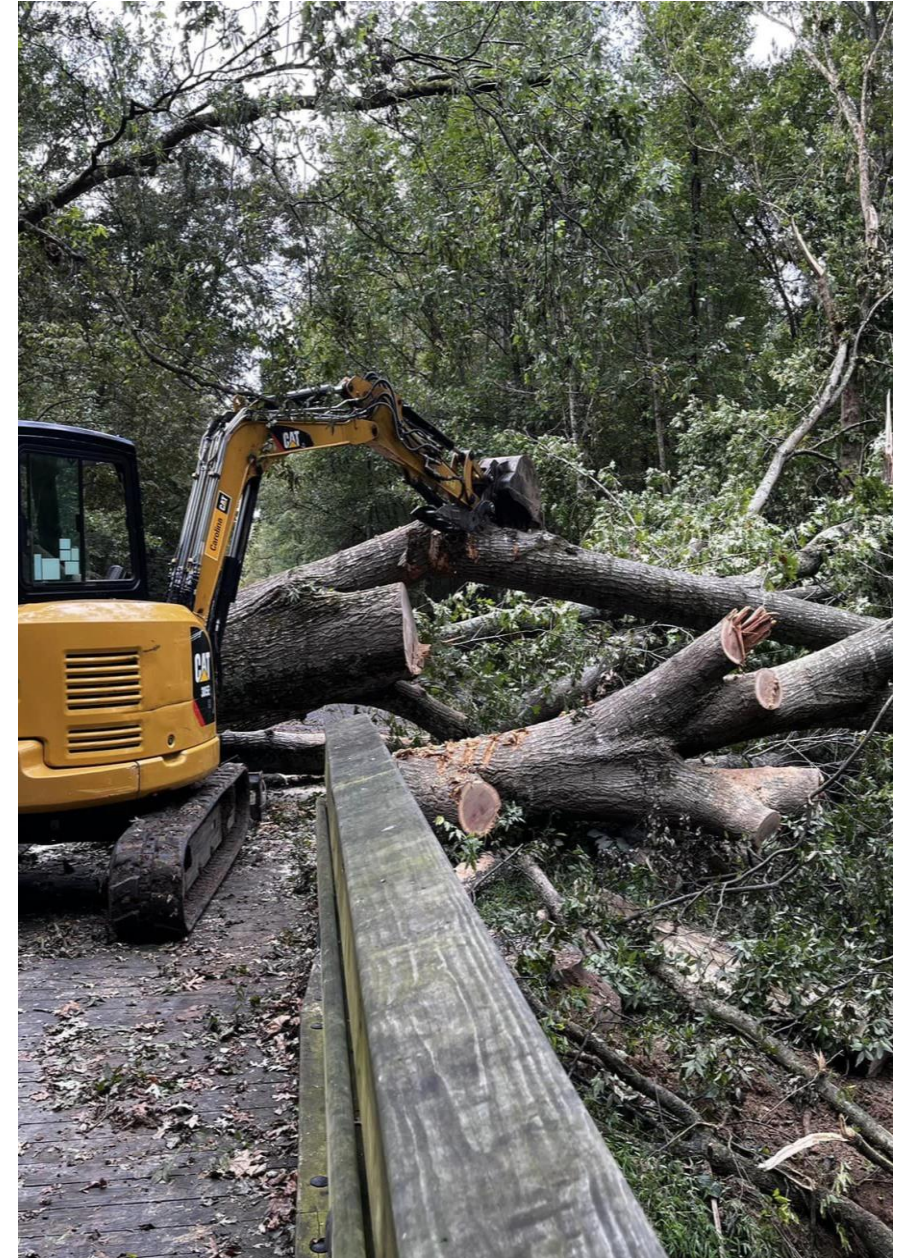
Emergency Assistance

- Tuckaseegee Recreation Center activated as an Emergency Shelter for Mecklenburg County residents, Sept 26 – Oct 2, serving 65+ overnight residents during the entire activation.
- Staff at Tuckaseegee assisted Emergency Response staff with operations of the shelter to include providing youth programming.
- Programs regularly scheduled for Tuckaseegee were transferred to nearby recreation centers, so no loss of services.
- In response to CMS cancelling classes on Monday, September 30, staff quickly established “School Day Out” programs at 9 different recreation centers for working parents – 64 kids attended.



Parks-Greenways-Nature Preserves

- Lakes and Catawba River were at their highest levels since the 1940's.
- Three (3) County operated boat ramps were closed for public use, Sept 27 - Oct 5, consistent with Duke Energy's management of water access areas related to storm - water quality and debris management.
- Tree loss was not as significant as expected, but over 100 trees were removed along roads and trails in parks and nature preserves.
- Power outages due to trees impacted nature preserves and parks at Reedy Creek Park, Freedom Park, Thomas Winget Park and Latta Nature Preserve.
- McDowell Campground was without internet and phone service for several days.
- Ongoing debris removal will continue over the next 30 days at multiple park and recreation facilities, including greenways, recreation centers and nature preserves.



Current Closures

- Clarks Creek Greenway has one (1) damaged pedestrian bridge located near Armitage Road that could take up to 12 months to replace.
- McMullen Creek Greenway is closed for the next week, due to nine (9) sections of damaged boardwalk.
- A tennis court at Hornets Nest Park is offline due to a tree falling on a light pole that damaged fence and court. Eleven (11) tennis courts remain operable.
- Fishing Dock access areas at Latta Nature Preserve.



Post Storm Recovery Assistance

- Park & Rec, LUESA and Emergency management working together to assist residents with debris removal/clean up efforts along Riverside Drive on Tuesday and Wednesday this week and into the near future.

- Providing free stay and firewood at McDowell Campground through the end of October for those from Western NC.

Several Western NC residents currently at the campground, and we are almost full.

- Several Mecklenburg County Recreation and Nature Centers will operate as donation drive sites through Friday, November 1 for basic needed items, to include but not limited to, non-perishable food, bottled water, cleaning supplies, work gloves, first aid kits, flashlights, etc. to be delivered/distributed in coordination with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management.



Questions?



Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation



OUR PATIENTS



OUR PEOPLE



OUR STEWARDSHIP

HELENE UPDATE

John Peterson, Executive Director
Mecklenburg EMS Agency