City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: June 23, 2026

Staff Resources: Amy Deyton, PE, Public Works Director; Nicole Peterson, PE, PMP, Stormwater Capital Program Manager; Derek Wainscott, PE, Stormwater Division Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Blueprint Project for grant funding in the amount of up to $1,000,000 for a Burton Street Neighborhood Stormwater Improvements Project; to accept said grant if awarded, and execute all necessary grant agreements and documents upon award.

Background:

- The Burton Street Neighborhood experiences recurring localized flooding on public streets, private property, and public infrastructure due to limited and aging stormwater infrastructure.
- The neighborhood has experienced historic impacts related to the construction and planned expansion of interstate infrastructure, including I-240 and the proposed I-26 Connector project.
- The Burton Street neighborhood has been identified as a climate-vulnerable community and has participated in several planning and mitigation initiatives focused on improving neighborhood resilience and infrastructure.
- The proposed project for grant funding would provide detailed engineering design and construction of stormwater improvements along the north end of Buffalo Street, as well as evaluate and potentially address additional localized drainage concerns throughout the neighborhood. Proposed improvements include stormwater inlets, piping, a stormwater control measure, roadway grading improvements, and related infrastructure upgrades intended to reduce nuisance flooding, provide water quality, improve roadway drainage, and increase long-term flood resilience.
- City staff have conducted site visits, drainage investigations, and community engagement efforts with the Burton Street Community Association to identify priority stormwater concerns and potential mitigation strategies.
- The north end of Buffalo Street was identified as a priority location due to recurring roadway flooding and impacts to adjacent properties.
- If awarded, grant funding would support engineering, design, construction, and associated project management costs. The project would improve stormwater conveyance, reduce localized flooding impacts to residents and infrastructure, improve water quality entering Smith Mill Creek and the French Broad River watershed, and support safer roadway and pedestrian conditions within the neighborhood.
- The North Carolina Flood Resilience Blueprint is a statewide initiative helping communities and the state identify and implement actions that will reduce the cost and disruption from future floods.
- If project funding is awarded, funded work must be complete within 2 years of contract signing.

Vendor Outreach: If awarded, the City will follow all applicable procurement and purchasing policies for engineering and construction services, including solicitation and outreach requirements.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- A Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment
- Connected and Engaged Community

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Infrastructure & Environment

Committee(s):

- A resolution was passed at the November 18, 2025, City Council meeting authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept funds from North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund 2025 Grant Application. The current project was included in this NCEM proposal but was not funded, thus resulting in staff seeking alternative funding sources.

Fiscal Impact:

- Staff are requesting authorization to apply for grant funding of up to $1,000,000. The grant is expected to cover the entire cost of the project.
- No fiscal impact at this time. If awarded, funding will be added through budget amendment or ordinance.
- This grant will be reimbursement-based and require no cost share.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Blueprint Project for grant funding in the amount of up to $1,000,000 for the Burton Street Neighborhood Stormwater Improvements Project; to accept said grant if awarded, and execute all necessary grant agreements and documents upon award.

Attachment(s):

- *Burton Street Neighborhood Plan*
- *Resolution 25-275*
- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Blueprint Project for grant funding in an amount of up to $1 million for the Burton Street Neighborhood Stormwater Improvements Project

Whereas, the grant funding would support the engineering, design, construction, and implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements within the neighborhood; and

Whereas, the proposed project for grant funding prioritizes stormwater improvements along Buffalo Street, including drainage infrastructure, roadway grading improvements, stormwater control measures, and related resiliency upgrades; and

Whereas, the proposed project for grant funding also supports the evaluation and potential mitigation of additional localized drainage concerns throughout the Burton Street Neighborhood; and

Whereas, the proposed improvements would advance community resiliency, reduce localized flooding impacts, improve roadway and pedestrian safety, and improve stormwater conveyance and water quality entering Smith Mill Creek and the French Broad River watershed; and

Whereas, the proposed project builds upon prior neighborhood planning, mitigation, and community engagement efforts associated with historic interstate impacts and long-term neighborhood resiliency goals; and

Whereas, and staff seek authorization to apply for grant funding in an amount of up to $1,000,000 through the Blueprint Project; and

Whereas, any required local match or additional project funding beyond awarded grant funds would be identified through future budget discussions; and

Whereas, any future procurement and contracting associated with the project would be conducted in accordance with applicable City purchasing and outreach policies.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Blueprint Project for grant funding in an amount of up to $1,000,000 for a Burton Street Neighborhood Stormwater Improvements Project; and, if awarded, the City Manager is authorized to accept the grant and to execute all necessary grant agreements and related documents associated with the project.

Read, approved and adopted this 23rd day of June, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk