City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: August 25, 2026

Staff Resources: Bridget Herring, Office of Recovery & Resilience Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for funding from the NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Waste Management Debris Recovery & Disposal Grant Program; to accept said grant funds if awarded; and enter into any agreement documents necessary for such acceptance.

Background:

- The NC Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Waste Management is accepting applications for the Debris Recovery & Disposal (DRD) grant program to help Western North Carolina communities clean up additional debris left by Hurricane Helene (DR-4827).
- Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the American Relief Act of 2025, the DRD program provides up to $18 million in total grants to local governments, councils of government, and non-governmental organizations.
- The program allows for a maximum grant award of up to $3,000,000 per applicant and requires no local matching funds.
- Eligible project activities include the collection and disposal of non-hazardous debris from private or public properties, clearing and managing debris from streambanks, floodplains, farmland, and local parks, and improving the resiliency of solid waste and recycling infrastructure.
- The deadline to apply is September 14, 2026.
- Awarded projects must be completed within three years.
- There are several remaining properties within the City that were not addressed as part of the original debris removal efforts. This application will focus on those unmet needs.

Vendor Outreach: Not Applicable

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- A Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment
- Financially Resilient
- Well-planned and Livable Community

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Infrastructure & Environment

Committee(s): Not Applicable

Fiscal Impact:

- No match is required for this grant to apply.
- The maximum award is capped at $3 million per applicant.
- If awarded, staff will return to Council to amend the budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for funding from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality Division of Waste Management Debris Recovery & Disposal Grant Program; to accept said grant funds if awarded; and enter into any agreement documents necessary for such acceptance.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for funding from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality Division of Waste Management Debris Recovery & Disposal Grant Program; to accept said grant funds if awarded; and enter into any agreement documents necessary for such acceptance

Whereas, the City has authority, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 160A-17.1, to make contracts for and to accept grants-in-aid from the federal and State governments and their agencies for performing any function which the city is authorized by general law to provide or perform; and

Whereas, the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Waste Management is accepting applications for the Debris Recovery & Disposal (DRD) Grant Program, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the American Relief Act of 2025, to assist Western North Carolina communities in recovering from Hurricane Helene (DR-4827); and

Whereas, the DRD Grant Program provides grant funding to local governments to collect and dispose of non-hazardous debris from public or private properties, clear and manage debris from streambanks, floodplains, farmland, and local parks, and improve the resiliency of solid waste and recycling infrastructure; and

Whereas, the DRD Grant Program allows for a maximum grant award of up to $3,000,000 per project with zero local matching fund requirement, supporting project periods of up to three (3) years; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville sustained significant debris impact from Hurricane Helene and seeks funding to manage storm debris recovery and strengthen local solid waste and recycling infrastructure resiliency;

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

1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to submit an application for funding from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality Division of Waste Management Debris Recovery & Disposal Grant Program;
2. The City Manager is authorized to accept said grant funds if awarded; and
3. The City Manager is authorized to enter into any agreement documents necessary for such acceptance.

Read, approved, and adopted this the 25th day of August, 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