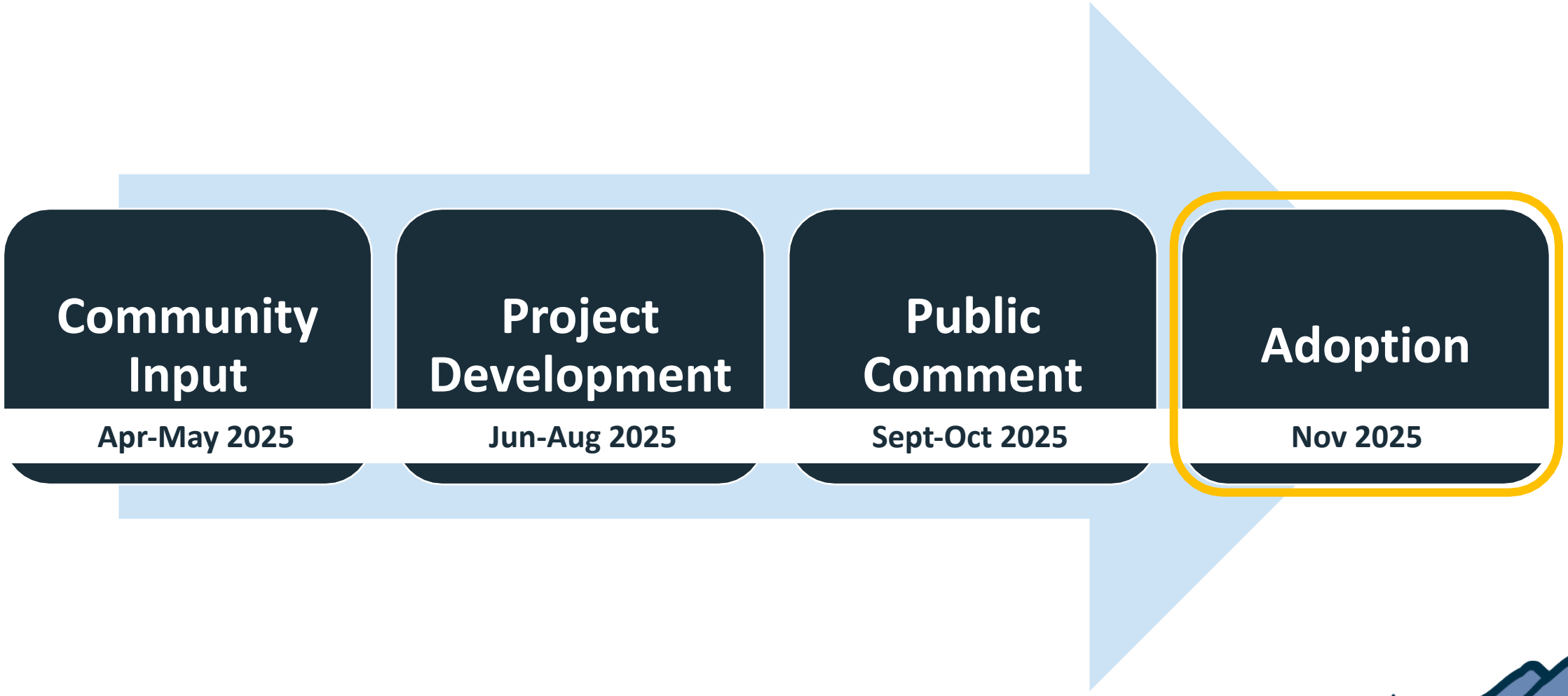
Helene Recovery Plan

Presented by

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& Kevin Madsen, Helene Recovery Officer

November 4, 2025

Helene Recovery Timeline



ENVISION BUNCOMBE

VISUALIZA BUNCOMBE

Planning Recovery, Building Resilience, Creating a Better Buncombe.

Planificando la Recuperación, Fortaleciendo la Resiliencia, Construyendo un Buncombe Mejor.



Community Engagement

Round 1:

Public Input

- April 10 – May 31, 2025
- 28 in-person events
- 2,622 survey results from 13 zip codes

Round 2:

Public Feedback

- September 16 – October 3, 2025
- Online engagement
- 100 survey responses
- 34 comments specific to Buncombe County recovery projects

Public Input: Top 10 Recovery Priorities

1. Investing in infrastructure: water, roads, bridges, telecommunications
2. Disaster preparedness and resiliency investments
3. Wildfire prevention
4. Floodplain management
5. Restoring streambanks
6. Rebuilding parks
7. Preserving flood-prone property from development
8. Landslide stabilization
9. Building more affordable housing
10. Funding to promote food security in food deserts or vulnerable areas in the community

Project Development Process

Community/Commissioner Priorities & Strategic Objectives

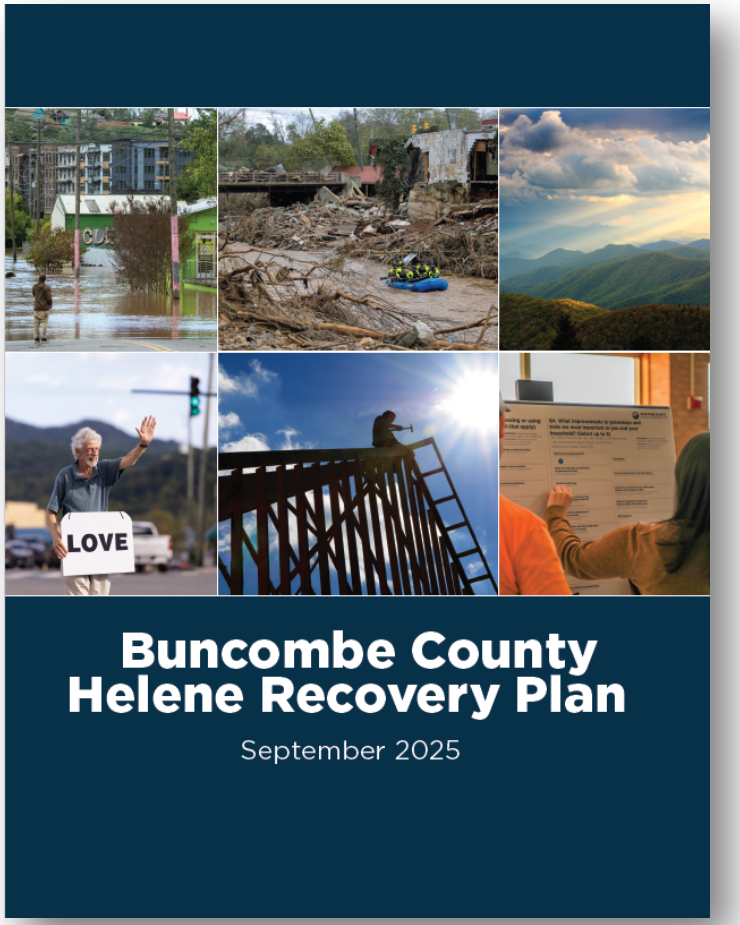
Project ideas from Recovery Support Function (RSF) Teams & County Departments

Interdisciplinary Review Committee

Selection of Projects

Scoping Projects for the Recovery Plan

Helene Recovery Plan



114 projects across 7 local governments:

Buncombe County 31 projects	Town of Woodfin 17 projects	Town of Biltmore Forest 5 projects	
		Town of Montreat 4 projects	
City of Asheville 31 projects	Weaverville 14 projects	Town of Black Mountain 12 projects	

Public Comment: Themes & Suggestions

1. **Critical Infrastructure & Facility Upgrades**
   - Prioritize sewer extension, septic mitigation, and facility repairs.
   - Focus on immediate action to reduce prolonged planning cycles.
   - A desire to maximize use of existing buildings (e.g., for emergency operations) rather than new construction.
2. **Affordable & Accountable Housing**
   - Support for deeply affordable housing (20–30% AMI) and down payment assistance.
   - Increase accessibility and support for renters.
   - Focus on continued support for creative, equitable housing solutions.
3. **Childcare & Early Childhood Development**
   - Support childcare for ages 0–5 as a strategic to promote economic recovery.
   - Identified need for enhanced early learning infrastructure countywide.

Public Comment: Themes & Suggestions

4. **Parks, Natural Spaces & Environmental Resilience**
   - Revitalize parks and green spaces.
   - Emphasize environmental safeguards like landslide mitigation, stream stabilization, and riparian zone protection.
   - Consider restoration of natural ecosystems as an opportunity for developed riverside areas damaged in the storm.
5. **Recreation & Community Facilities**
   - Support for a new recreation center that serves seniors, youth, and community organizations.
   - Develop recreation facilities as a resource for mental health, social connection, and resilience.
   - Requests to include card rooms in recreation facilities to ensure low-cost access.

Comments on Implementation

- “The list of projects needs to indicate prioritization given resources and finances are constrained.”
- “Accomplishing these goals will be very expensive.”
- “It will not be possible to do all these projects all at once, but they are all important.”
- “The top community priority was investing in infrastructure, so seems like it would be first on the list.”
- “Number one should be critical infrastructure and facilities upgrades.”
- “Spend Time and Money Planning Much Needed Repairs NOW!!!”
- “I feel like you are missing working to better coordinate with agencies and the municipalities for more seamless service.”

Next Steps

- Each local government governing board will be asked to consider endorsement of the Helene Recovery Plan & adoption of their projects.
- Buncombe County Board of Commissioners will consider this item on **November 18, 2025**.
- Buncombe County Helene Recovery Office will oversee & coordinate implementation of Buncombe's 31 recovery projects.