Helene Infrastructure Recovery Board Annual Report

City Council Work Session Policy, Finance, and Infrastructure

November 10, 2026

Charlie Huguenard, Vice Chair

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Infrastructure Recovery Board (IRB) Scope

- Provides input to City Council on **policy recommendations** to
  - **promote the strategic rebuild of damaged infrastructure** with a focus on long-term resilience
  - **improve water system resilience, flood management, and stormwater infrastructure** to reduce future risks
  - **recovery plans for the city's parks, greenway and recreation infrastructure**, prioritizing identified large projects while also providing input on long-term resilience measures and park enhancements
- Supports City Council by **leveraging potential partnerships and funding programs that promote resilient and sustainable infrastructure investments** through each member's respective networks

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Key Board Agenda Topics

Recovery Projects

- Azalea Parks and Infrastructure Recovery Project
- French Broad Riverfront Parks Recovery Project
- Water Infrastructure Project

Funding

- Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Funding Allocation

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Board Input 1

Azalea Parks and Infrastructure Recovery Project & French Broad Riverfront Parks Recovery Project

- Recommended top 3 design themes.
- Key factors guiding the integration of multi-theme amenities into one unified park design.
- Key community benefits and strategic outcomes defining project return on investment.

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Board Input 2

CDBG-DR Funding Allocation

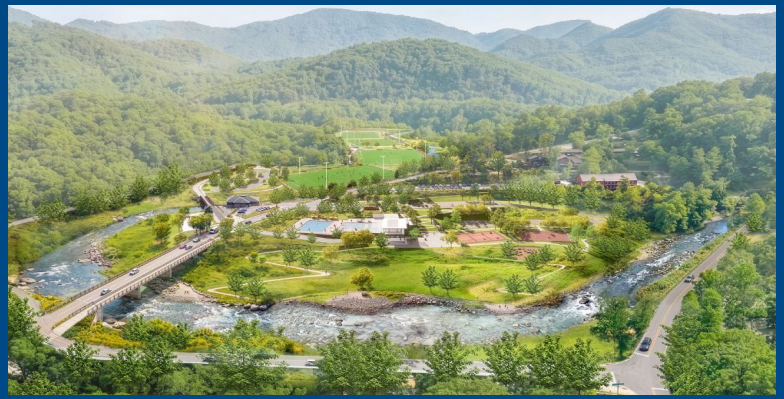
- Provided pros and cons of reserving remaining CDBG-DR Infrastructure funding for Water projects
- Recommendation to reallocate $10 million from the Infrastructure Program to the Single Family Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Program / *5-5 IRB Vote*

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Council Action 1

Azalea Parks and Infrastructure Recovery Project

- **March 24 City Council Meeting - Concepts Introduced:** Heard IRB feedback and considered factors missing from engagement / *Discussion Only*



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Council Action 2

French Broad Riverfront Parks Recovery Project

- **March 24 City Council Meeting - Concepts Introduced:** Heard IRB feedback and considered factors missing from engagement / *Discussion Only*
- **June 23 PFI Committee Meeting:** Heard IRB feedback / *Discussion Only*

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Council Action 3

CDBG-DR Funding Allocation

- **February 24 PFI Committee Review:** Evaluated the application process and reviewed IRB pros and cons on reserving CDBG-DR funds / *Discussion Only*
- **June 23 City Council Meeting:** Approved 6–1 to reallocate $19.2M to Single-Family Home Repair (totaling $22.2M), setting Multi-Family Housing to $18.8M and Infrastructure to $115M.

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IRB Feedback

- Provide a complete list of infrastructure projects that need to be completed in order for us to call recovery "done" and the realistic timeline for completion of each project.
- What are the future funding options and how likely are they?
- What are the actual budgets for design and build of each of the parks and water projects?

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Questions?


City Building/County Courthouse
YMI Cultural Center
Eagle/Market Street Shop & Dine