

Lake Lure Storm Recovery Summary

October 2025



As we marked the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Helene, the Town of Lake Lure reflected on the immense work and unwavering community spirit that has fueled our recovery. The storm brought unprecedented challenges, testing the resilience of our infrastructure, environment, and residents. Over the past year, through tireless efforts by local teams, volunteers, and state partners, we have made significant strides toward rebuilding and restoring what was lost.

This milestone stands not only as a remembrance of the hardship we endured, but as a testament to the strength and unity of Lake Lure. You may [view photos from the Lake Lure and Chimney Rock Commemoration Ceremony here.](#)



HOW MUCH SILT AND DEBRIS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM LAKE LURE?

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and their contractors have provided the following data on silt and debris removal from Lake Lure as of 9/28/25.

- A total of 1,198,091 tons of sand/silt and sediment have been removed from Lake Lure. **That's 87,210 tons additional since our last report of 9/20/25!**
- A total of 100,185 cubic yards of debris has been removed from the waterway. **That's an additional 1,000 cubic yards since the last report.**



MEETING THE MARK

The following is a summary of the high-level meetings from the past two weeks.

- **Town Council Storm Recovery Meeting:** Town Council met with Town leaders to discuss and move forward the ongoing work of the storm recovery. Updates are included throughout this report.
- **EPA After Action Meeting:** Town officials participated in a meeting to review the EPA leadership's recent visit in Lake Lure.
- **EPA marks one-year anniversary of Hurricane Helene with visit to Lake Lure, North Carolina, and commitment to remaining a partner in western North Carolina's recovery**

EPA marks one-year anniversary of Hurricane Helene with visit to Lake Lure, North Carolina, and commitment to remaining a partner in western North Carolina's recovery

Lake Lure, North Carolina (Sept. 17, 2025)
– Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials marked the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Helene with a tour of Lake Lure, a mountain town struck with more than 22 inches of rainfall during the hurricane that caused catastrophic damage.



EPA provided support to state and local agencies for Lake Lure and all impacted areas by helping restore wastewater and drinking water systems and recovering and disposing of hazardous waste. EPA is continuing its support the communities through allocating a total of \$685 million to North Carolina for water infrastructure resiliency, as well as \$61 million through the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) for Hurricane Helene recovery.

“The devastation in Lake Lure and other parts of western North Carolina was overwhelming, yet through collaboration and the hard work of so many, these communities have made incredible progress,” said EPA Regional Administrator Kevin McOmber. “This work is far from over, and EPA will continue to partner with state and local agencies, ensuring these communities will be more resilient and better able to withstand weather events.”

“Having reliable and resilient drinking water and wastewater systems is critical to both the health and economic prosperity of North Carolinians,” said North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Reid Wilson. “The recent funding provided by EPA is instrumental in helping these communities rebuild and recover, and DEQ plans to begin awarding funding to local government water and wastewater systems this week.”

[Read more here.](#)

MEETING THE MARK (Continued)

- **Playground Planning Meeting:** Town officials met with KaBoom representatives to plan for the new playground equipment. This is the first step forward in new construction in the Town of Lake Lure, not counting restoration projects.

[Volunteers are needed to support the effort - sign up here.](#)



- **FEMA Meeting:** Town Officials continue to meet with FEMA Officials to advance the complex public assistance projects.
- **Lake Lure Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee Meeting:** The Lake Lure Steering Committee met to review data that will be used to support the comprehensive planning process. This data will be shared in upcoming public information sessions. Additionally, the committee worked to develop a survey that will be used to gather public input into the comprehensive plan. Public Input Sessions have been scheduled for October 28, 2025 and November 5, 2025.
- **FEMA Debris Site Meeting:** Town Officials met with FEMA representatives to review the ongoing debris removal process and debris removal sites.
- **LaBella/ICF Meeting:** Town officials met with LaBella Engineers and ICF representatives to review and discuss related claims involving the sewer system.
- **Media:** Mayor Pritchett participated in an Spectrum News Panel on the one year anniversary of Hurricane Helene.
- **Lake Lure Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Meeting:** Town officials met to review and discuss the Town's HMGP status through FEMA. HMGP provides funding to governments to develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in ways that reduce or mitigate future disaster losses in their communities.

MEETING THE MARK (Continued)

- **Media:** Mayor Pritchett worked with Garden & Gun Magazine on an upcoming article for their magazine, on the anniversary of Hurricane Helene.
- **Town Council Work Session and Action Meeting:** Town Council held their Work Session and Action Meeting on 9/24/25. Updates are included throughout this report. You may [download a summary of the meeting here](#).
- **Media:** Mayor Pritchett participated in an interview with the Daily Courier on the topic of the new playground equipment planned for Morse Park.
- **ICF Meeting:** Lake Lure Town Officials met with ICF officials to discuss the progress, status, and information required for FEMA reimbursements in the 4th quarter since Hurricane Helene.
- **Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting:** Town Officials participated in a meeting with Rutherford County TDA to discuss tourism.
- **Media:** Town Officials participated in interviews with WLOS in Asheville to discuss the one year anniversary of Hurricane Helene and plans for reopening the lake in 2026.
- **NC Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) Emergency Management Meeting:** Town Officials met with NCDPS/EM representatives to discuss ongoing emergency preparedness.
- **Schnabel Engineering Meeting:** Town officials met with Schnabel Engineers and ICF representatives to discuss FEMA reports.

WHAT IS THE LAKE LEVEL?

The Lake Level is at about **968 Mean Sea Level (MSL)**. (Full pond is 990.5 MSL)

- This is about 22.5 feet below full pond.
- The lake levels remain lower than it has ever been since the lake was built in the mid 1920's.
- The new reservoir drain (completed in April 2025) allowed Town staff to lower the lake beyond the limits of the Tainter gates, which are normally used to control the lake level between 1-12 feet below full pond.
- The lake level will remain drawn down at this stage of the lake restoration but we will raise it to 970 MSL for the next phase of work.
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HOW LONG WILL THE LAKE BE DOWN?

- We are unable to specify the length of the drawdown period as this is dependent upon the sedimentation and debris removal process being overseen by the USACE.
- As you can see from this photo, work in the Washburn Marina area is going strong.
- Throughout the lake drawdown, Town engineers and staff will be scheduling work and inspections on the dam and the sewer system.



CAN WE ACCESS THE LAKE?

The Town of Lake Lure and all businesses are open and welcoming visitors; however, the lake itself remains closed to all unauthorized personnel.

- Lake Lure is currently a Federal Work Site.
- Do not enter the lake or the lakebed for everyone's safety, and to avoid fines.
- Read more about [all there is to do in Lake Lure](#), beyond the lake including places to stay, restaurants to eat at and shops to visit.
- And here's a [Passport to Falling Back in Love with Lake Lure and Chimney Rock](#) for visitors who visit.



WHERE DOES ALL THE SILT/DEBRIS GO?

The sand and the construction and demolition material are taken to the Republic Landfill in Union County, SC, out of an abundance of precaution.

- The vegetative material is taken to the area behind the Lake Lure Fire Department, where it is reduced.
- The mulch is hauled to a landfill in Canton, NC.

WHEN WILL THE LAKE REOPEN?

The lake restoration is a dynamic process so the date for reopening the lake is uncertain.

- We do not have a definitive timeline for completion at this time.
- The USACE originally thought they may complete their work by the end of October; however, this date may go further into the fall season.
- We are grateful for every day they remain working in Lake Lure!
- The Town of Lake Lure remains hopeful that we will be able to reopen the lake in the late spring of 2026.
- You may read: [A Path Forward: Town of Lake Lure Target Dates for Reopening Lake Lure Following Hurricane Helene](#)

LAKE LURE WATER QUALITY

HOW HAS THE WATER IN LAKE LURE BEEN IMPACTED?

Please see the water sample results below through September 2025. We are pleased to report that the latest results are all within acceptable limits.

- The illustration below shows the results and you may [review the updated spreadsheet](#), which illustrates all the water sample data received by the Town of Lake Lure.
- For questions, please contact Communications@townoflakelure.com.

Lake Lure Water Quality Reports

Testing Company	Site Name	Month	Day	Year	Fecal Coliform (CFU/100mL)	E-Coli (CFU/100mL)	NH3-N (mg/L)	NO3-N (mg/L)	PO4 (mg/L)	Turb (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)	Cond (umhos/cm)	Alk (mg/L)	pH (u.u.)	Cu (ug/L)	VOC's
Clean Water Lab	Broad River	11	11	2024	2419.4	48.7		0.44						6.71	0.172	
Clean Water Lab	Debris Field	11	11	2024	2419.6	22.3		0.51						6	0.362	
Clean Water Lab	Lake Center	11	11	2024	246.8	5.2		0.62						6.12	0.6	
Clean Water Lab	Dam	11	11	2024	415.2	3.1		0.63						6.01	0.67	
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	11	18	2024	37	28	0.13	0.1	0.03	20						
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	11	18	2024	10	8	0.07	0.1	0.05	7						
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	11	18	2024	2	10	0	0.6	0.07	140						
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	11	18	2024	8	6	0.03	0.6	0.06	360						
Environmental Quality Institute	Geneva Motel	11	18	2024	13	15	0.07	0.1	0.05	7						
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	11	24	2024	8		0.07	0.1	0.04	3.5	0.8	38.8	18	7.3		
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	11	24	2024	15											
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	11	24	2024	10											
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	11	24	2024	7											
Environmental Quality Institute	Pool Creek at Hwy 64/74/9	11	24	2024			0.03	0.1	0.01	0.4	3.2	21	9	7.1		
Environmental Quality Institute	Green Space Creek at Hwy 64/74	11	24	2024			0.08	0.1	0.01	4.6	2.4	46	20	6.8		
Environmental Quality Institute	Cane Creek 1/4 mile above Tryon Bay	11	24	2024			0.09	0.2	0.01	3.7	3.2	41.1	18	7.2		
Environmental Quality Institute	Buffalo Creek at Lake Lure	11	24	2024	4		0.08	0.9	0.03	85	9.6	27.2	10	7		
Environmental Quality Institute	Fairfield Mountains Creek at Lake Lure	11	24	2024			0.04	0.1	0.01	0.8	0.4	27.4	11	7.1		
Environmental Quality Institute	Buffalo Creek at Bald Mtn Lake	11	24	2024			0.06	0.1	0.03	0.7	0.4	21.6	10	7.1		
PACE Analytical	Broad River	11	25	2024												NEGATIVE
PACE Analytical	Debris Field	11	25	2024												NEGATIVE
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center -1 meter from top	11	25	2024			0.05	1.4	0.04	180						
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center -1 meter from bottom	11	25	2024			0.04	0.9	0.05	290						
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Lure Dam -1 meter from top	11	25	2024			0.01	0.8	0.08	210						
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Lure Dam -1 meter from bottom	11	25	2024			0.06	1.1	0.07	360						
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Lure Village Cove	11	25	2024	14											
Environmental Quality Institute	Tryon Bay	11	25	2024	46						11.2					
Environmental Quality Institute	Rumbling Bald Beach	11	25	2024	8						9.1					
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Lure Marina	11	25	2024	94						14.2					
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	12	2	2024	4	9	0.07	0.1	0.04	5.3	5.3	44.1	12	7.3		
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	12	2	2024	9	19	0	0.1	0.09	150	32	36.9	10	6.8		
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	12	2	2024	4	6	0.11	0.2	0.1	150	25.4	35.6	10	4.9		

Testing Company	Site Name	Month	Day	Year	Fecal Coliform (CFU/100mL)	E-Coli (CFU/100mL)	NH3-N (mg/L)	NO3-N (mg/L)	PO4 (mg/L)	Turb (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)	Cond (umhos/cm)	Alk (mg/L)	pH (u.u.)	Cu (ug/L)	VOC's
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	12	2	2024	4	6	0.07	0.2	0.08	360	16.4	38.1	14	6.8		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	12	8	2024	16		0.1	0.1	0.07	11	19.3	41	14	7.3		
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	12	8	2024	7		0.07	0.2	0.04	320	9.6	37.3	12	6.8		
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	12	8	2024	4		0.05	0.2	0.06	220	13.3	37.8	10	6.8		
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	12	8	2024	5		0.06	0.2	0.07	220	9.2	37.7	14	6.9		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	12	30	2024	28		0.13	0.1	0.05	27.3	28.8	34.4	14	7.2		
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	12	30	2024	280		0.09	0.1	0.02	96.9	54	30.2	13	6.8		
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	12	30	2024	17		0.05	0.2	0.03	80.5	4.8	36.4	16	6.8		
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	12	30	2024	56		0.07	0.2	0.06	91.5	6.4	36.6	15	6.9		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	1	27	2025	12		0.05	0.01	0.03	3.6	5.6	28.6	15	7.3		
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	1	27	2025	3		0.14	0.01	0.03	21	3.3	38.5	18	6.9		
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	1	27	2025	9		0.12	0.01	0.05	33	6	36	16	6.9		
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	1	27	2025	12		0.03	0	0.01	60	5.6	37.7	14	7		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	2	24	2025	8		0.06	0.02	0.04	3.9	2.8	36.6	16	7.1		
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	2	24	2025	7		0.11	0.01	0.02	21	6	35.6	14	6.9		
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	2	24	2025	7		0.12	0.01	0.06	39	6.4	36.4	15	6.9		
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	2	24	2025	14		0.11	0.01	0.06	39	6	36.8	16	7		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	3	24	2025	27		0.09	0.02	0.04	7	12	37.8	18	7.3		
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	3	24	2025	24		0.09	0	0.01	18	5.6	36.7	14	7.1		
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	3	24	2025	3		0.13	0.01	0.03	22	5.2	35.4	15	7.2		
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	3	24	2025	6		0.08	0.01	0.02	23	4	35.36	12	7.1		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	4	28	2025	14		0.08	0.02	0.16	14	34.3	39.3	26	7.4		
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	4	28	2025	11		0.17	0.01	0.01	14	6.5	35.6	18	7.1		
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	4	28	2025	0		0.1	0.01	0.03	6.4	3.2	37.7	15	7.2		
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	4	28	2025	2		0.09	0.01	0.03	6.5	3.3	35.9	13	7.3		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	5	26	2025	11		0.04	0.1	0.01	2.3	2.4	36	15	7.4		
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	5	26	2025	6		0.15	0.1	0.04	9.8	5.5	36.6	15	7.4		
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	5	26	2025	0		0.09	0.1	0.03	4.3	2	25.3	16	7.5		
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	5	26	2025	0		0.09	0.1	0.03	4.8	2.3	36.1	14	7.4		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	6	30	2025	22		0.09	0.01	0.05	9.6	20.3	38.9	18	7.6		
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	6	30	2025	80		0.2	0	0.02	14	8.6	37.1	14	7.5		

Testing Company	Site Name	Month	Day	Year	Fecal Coliform (CFU/100mL)	E-Coli (CFU/100mL)	NH3-N (mg/L)	NO3-N (mg/L)	PO4 (mg/L)	Turb (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)	Cond (umhos/cm)	Alk (mg/L)	pH (u.u.)	Cu (ug/L)	VOC's
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	6	30	2025	6		0.16	0.03	0.03	9.6	5.4	36.4	17	7.6		
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	6	30	2025	25		0.15	0	0.02	7.6	5.1	37.3	17	7.8		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	7	28	2025	210		0.06	0	0.02	6.5	6.5	48.8	20	7.9		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River above Chimney Rock	7	28	2025	5											
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	7	28	2025	0		0.12	0.1	0.02	6.8	2.1	39.2	18	8.7		
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	7	28	2025	0		0.12	0	0	6.3	2.4	39.3	18	8.9		
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	7	28	2025	5		0.09	0.1	0.02	4.6	0	38.6	18	8.7		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	8	13	2025	64											
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	8	20	2025	220											
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River	8	23	2025	36		0.07	0.1	0.04	10	0	36.6	18	7.8		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River above Chimney Rock	8	23	2025	43											
Environmental Quality Institute	Debris Field	8	25	2025	115		0.33	0.1	0.11	100	79.6	36.4	17	7.2		
Environmental Quality Institute	Lake Center	8	25	2025	5		0.11	0.1	0.03	4	0	32.9	14	7		
Environmental Quality Institute	Dam	8	25	2025	37		0.11	0	0.01	4.8	0	34	16	7.2		
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River at Hwy 64	9	3	2025	40											
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River above Chimney Rock	9	3	2025	35											
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River at Hwy 64	9	10	2025	30											
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River above Chimney Rock	9	10	2025	30											
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River at Hwy 64	9	18	2025	91											
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River above Chimney Rock	9	18	2025	44											
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River at Hwy 64	9	24	2025	23											
Environmental Quality Institute	Broad River above Chimney Rock	9	24	2025	6											

BEYOND THE LAKE, HOW WAS THE TOWN IMPACTED BY HURRICANE HELENE?

The impact to the Town of Lake Lure is unimaginable. Before and After photographs are included at the end of this report.



- Unfortunately, Lake Lure's nearly 100-year-old utilities infrastructure (sanitary sewer systems and wastewater treatment plant), our dam, Town Hall, Welcome Center, and municipal buildings, the Washburn Marina and floating boardwalk, the lake itself, and surrounding roadways and vehicular bridges were also significantly damaged by the devastating hurricane and flooding.
- Town officials have been working with FEMA, applying for grants, working with local and state representatives to obtain funding, and utilizing existing capital from the small Town's budget to restore these vital resources. The Town cannot take action to restore or rebuild these buildings until FEMA makes the final determination and funding becomes available to address these facilities.

IN THE NEWS

1. Chimney Rock, Lake Lure hold Helene commemoration: By Morgan Starling The Daily Courier, Oct 2, 2025. One year after Hurricane Helene brought devastation to Rutherford County, Lake Lure and Chimney Rock Village held a commemoration ceremony to not only acknowledge what happened on Sept. 27, 2024, but the progress made since.



The event included a community time capsule, which will be opened in 2050, live music, open businesses and guided hikes. [*Read more here.*](#)

IN THE NEWS (Continued)

2. Nearing its 100th birthday, Lake Lure honors Helene responders, looks to future with hope: Ryley Ober, Asheville Citizen Times

LAKE LURE - Families, friends and first responders spilled out of Roosevelt Hall in Lake Lure Sept. 27. A crowd was packed inside, shoulder to shoulder, just as they'd carried each other through unthinkable tragedy a year ago.

Nearby, Mack trucks carrying silt and mud curved down Memorial Highway in Rutherford County, past Lake Lure Inn and the now-shallow body of water it's named after. The nearly century-old hotel boasted full occupancy for the first weekend since Tropical Storm Helene.

3. One year after Helene, Lake Lure's namesake still can't reopen. Here's when it could...The town of Lake Lure is open and welcoming visitors, but its main draw, the lake itself, is still undergoing restoration. LAKE LURE, N.C. — One year after Helene, the town of Lake Lure is finally nearing a milestone in the effort to reopen the lifeblood of its local economy: the lake itself.



It is the light at the end of the tunnel for a community that has heard the constant sound of dump trucks, hauling storm debris and silt from the lake, day after day, month after month.

As Mayor Carol Pritchett described the persistent work by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other crews, the effort sounds nothing short of monumental.

“They were here early in October and have been here seven days a week, 12 hours a day since,” Pritchett said.

Restoring the town's namesake

Over roughly the last year, the town said crews have hauled more than 1 million cubic yards of debris and material from Lake Lure, bringing it to designated sites in other parts of the state and region. The latest estimates from the town are for the debris removal to wrap by October, after which raising of the water levels can finally begin. [Read more here.](#)

IN THE NEWS (Continued)

4. One year later, towns still wait for Helene relief: Written by Cory Vaillancourt, Wednesday, September 24, 2025.

Nearly a year after Hurricane Helene devastated Western North Carolina, the federal government still hasn't delivered on the money it promised to local governments. With the one-year anniversary looming, towns and counties say most of their needs remain unmet, forcing them back to Washington yet again, to beg for help.

Led by the American Flood Coalition, multiple delegations of Western North Carolina leaders have been meeting with FEMA officials, members of Congress and senators in an ongoing effort to pry loose funds that leaders say are stuck in bureaucratic purgatory.



"This is my third, maybe my fourth trip to D.C. for flooding-related stuff," said Brandon Rogers, vice chair of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners. As it turns out, it was indeed Rogers' fourth trip to the nation's capital — including one after Tropical Storm Fred in 2021.

Rogers was accompanied by a bipartisan delegation that included Lake Lure Mayor Carol Pritchett, Waynesville Town Council member Anthony Sutton and Madison County Commission Chair Matt Wechtel. [Read more here.](#)

5. Helene, one year later | Lake Lure mayor discusses recovery after Helene: [Watch the interview here.](#)

Carol Pritchett shares a status update as the western North Carolina town continues to rebuild after the hurricane. Every day, WCNC Charlotte is streaming the latest news, weather, traffic and more that impacts you on its streaming platform WCNC+. Download WCNC+ on your TV and watch for free today on your preferred streaming platform like Roku, Amazon Fire TV and Apple TV. [Read more here.](#)



IN THE NEWS (Continued)

6. Garden & Gun Magazine: One Year After Helene, North Carolina Residents Reflect on the Storm and Look to the Future: “We’re a region of makers, farmers, dreamers, and doers, and I’ve seen how quickly that spirit can mobilize when we’re tested”

Compiled by Lindsey Liles, September 30, 2025

One year ago, Hurricane Helene poured an estimated forty trillion gallons of rain on Asheville and surrounding Western North Carolina. The devastation was unprecedented. Entire towns washed away, hundreds of people lost their lives, and thousands more lost their homes and businesses. In the direct aftermath of the storm and in the following months, G&G reported numerous stories—of daring rescues, of businesses building back, of the impacts on native wildlife, of chefs feeding their communities.



In honor of the progress that has been made and the long road still ahead, we asked community leaders—from biologists to business owners—to weigh in on what the last year has been like, and what gives them hope for the future. Read their answers below.

Carol Pritchett, mayor of Lake Lure:

When I first viewed the devastation left behind by Hurricane Helene, my heart sank. It was like a part of our town’s soul had been torn away. The beauty of the lake—our infrastructure, roads, homes, businesses, our historic Flowering Bridge, our community overall—was battered beyond recognition.

Even in those first moments of heartbreak, what struck me most was the quiet courage of our residents and staff. Our firefighters and emergency responders risked their lives to save others without hesitation. Neighbors helped neighbors. Volunteers from all over the country came to Lake Lure to lend a hand, cook a meal, clear roads, and restore homes. Our town staff came together and worked countless hours to rise above the flood, the mud, and the devastation to help their community. That’s when I knew we would rebuild together—not just the structures, but the spirit of this town. [Read more here](#)

IN THE NEWS (Continued)

7. The Charlotte Observer: When will Lake Lure be refilled? It was lowered after Hurricane Helene hit NC. By Melissa Oyler.

To say Lake Lure has seen better summer days would be an understatement, a year after Hurricane Helene damaged the lake known for its “Dirty Dancing” fame. But after a massive post-storm cleanup on a partially drained lake bed, the promise of better days is ahead: The Western North Carolina Town of Lake Lure has announced a timeline for the complete restoration and reopening of the lake.



Here's what to expect and when: Oct. 31: Target date to complete the restoration of the lake's basin and shoreline. This is a soft target and could change based on any upcoming weather and other factors, a release from the town stated. May 1, 2026: Target date to have lake fully refilled and reopened to the public. Summer 2026: Reopening of the building at Lake Lure Beach. [Read more here.](#)

8. The 828 Sports Bar and Grill Opening Soon in Lake Lure: The 828 plans to provide a down-to-earth gathering space in Lake Lure. Ross McWaters, 30 Sep 2025 1 min. LAKE LURE, NC – The 828, a new sports bar and grill, is preparing to open soon at 3100 Memorial Hwy, Lake Lure, NC 28746. Owners Chris and Kami Trusz, along with business partners Erick Airhart and Martie Irby, are aiming to bring the new business to Lake Lure by Halloween.

A Sports Bar & Community Gathering Spot

With 15 barstools, three six-person booths, multiple high-top tables, and six picnic tables outside, The 828 will offer both indoor and outdoor dining options. Guests can gather at this family-friendly sports pub to watch games, shoot pool, and enjoy some food and drink.

“We’re essentially going to be a sports bar and grill, nothing fancy,” Trusz said. “We want to give the community a place to come together.”

Once open, The 828 is expected to operate from 11 a.m. until 9 or 10 p.m., depending on demand. Breakfast service will run on weekends. [Read more here.](#)

9. 'A little bit of magic': Emotional reunion as part of Lake Lure Rainbow Bridge recovered. Taylor Thompson, Mon, September 29th 2025 at 2:51 PM, Updated Wed, October 1st 2025 at 7:53 AM

[Watch the video here.](#)

IN THE NEWS (Continued)

10. Lake Lure's Rainbow Bridge Will Return As A Place To Remember Beloved Pets: One year after Hurricane Helene, Lake Lure Flowering Bridge in western North Carolina is rebuilding, including its beloved Rainbow Bridge. [Read more here.](#)



11. From rubble to resurrection: Lake Lure, Chimney Rock: by: Fred Cunningham, Posted: Sep 26, 2025 / 07:00 PM EDT

[Watch the video here.](#)

LAKE LURE, NC (WSPA) – The allure of Lake Lure and Chimney Rock brought tens of thousands of tourists to western North Carolina every year for decades.

While Helene left both places in shambles, in a matter of days, it didn't defeat their spirit.

"All of our municipal buildings were damaged to some extent," Lake Lure Town Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem Dave DiOrio said. "Town Hall's gone, which included the police station. There was no home for our first responders. All the roads were inaccessible. The debris was so high and so deep and so widespread that no one could move around the town."

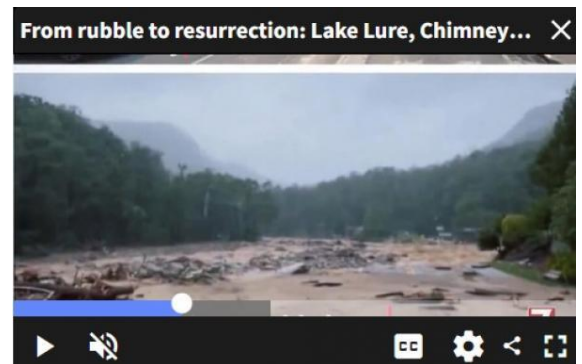
The storm left Lake Lure without power, water, cell service and internet. There wasn't even a landline.

5th Annual Greer Arts and Eats expands footprint downtown

Lake Lure's famous Flowering Bridge had no chance against the power of nature. Flooding washed away part of the bridge and left heavy damage to what was still standing.

It was demolished in August.

"We had no choice," Mayor Carol Pritchett told 7NEWS. "So, it's with a great deal of sadness that we (did) it. But of course, we have to recognize that we have to do what's safe for our community." [Read more here.](#)



12. Our State Magazine: One year after Hurricane Helene, our editor in chief finds awe in the resilient spirit of North Carolinians that arose amidst the devastation. by Elizabeth Hudson. [Listen to the podcast here.](#)

There was a stretch of days when the phones didn't ring and the messages didn't come and the usual rhythm of our work — the ping of a writer checking in from the mountains, a call from a photographer on the road, the steady word from our distribution center in Asheville's River Arts District — simply stopped.

So we waited. And waited.

We refreshed our inboxes again and again. We stared at weather reports and outage charts and road-closure alerts. In Greensboro, at the ramp to Interstate 40, a sign flashed in orange lights a message that seemed beyond belief: "All Roads to Western NC Closed."

In that long, uneasy silence, my mind traveled west. To Brevard and Boone. To Bryson City and Burnsville. To Asheville and Ashe County. To the Flowering Bridge in Lake Lure, where, for years, volunteers bent over beds of succulents and roses and even the little garden just for dogs. To the 500 steps at Chimney Rock State Park, each riser carrying you closer to the long view, to that wide-open gorge below. To the great house at Biltmore, its windows forever gazing toward Mount Pisgah, gently rolling in the distance.

These places have been part of the story of this magazine for decades. They're part of the story of North Carolina. And suddenly, all at once, we could not reach them.

For 25 years, our October issue has celebrated the splendor of autumn in the mountains. We photograph it a year ahead, chasing maples flaring red, oaks blazing gold, ridges glowing orange in the low, autumn light. But last fall, after Hurricane Helene tore through and left so much wreckage behind, we found no easy views to frame.

Roads washed away. Overlooks closed. Towns lay under mud. In some places, the only light came from generators, their glare sharp and white against a dark sky. Families grieved losses too great to measure, too deep for words. It was a season of heartbreak, felt across the state.

And then, in the midst of it, a writer in Fairview sent us a photograph: a rainbow, lifting itself over the mountains.

It wasn't the picture we expected to begin this year's issue with, but it's the image that stayed with us. A fragile band of color, soft and certain, bent across the sky, saying what words could not: that beauty persists. Even now. Even after.

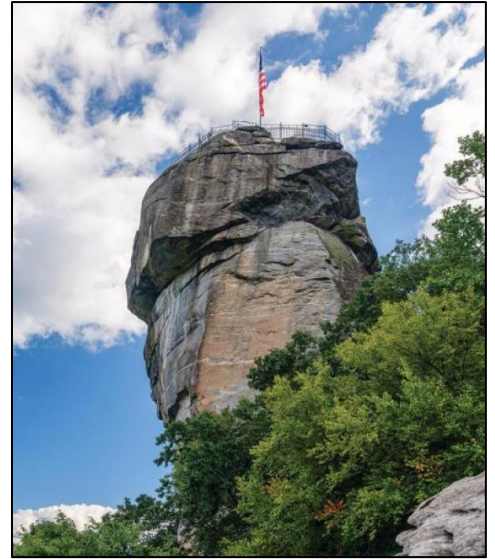
The rainbow didn't erase the sorrow. But it was something. Hope, breaking through the clouds in streaks of red and gold and green.

And for us, it was enough. Enough to remind us why we keep turning west. Why we keep telling these stories. Why we hold tight to the promise that color will return.

13. 22 Mountain Destinations to Welcome Fall: Like a warm hug from an old friend, it's time, once more, for a trip to the mountains. Here are some of our favorite destinations that are welcoming autumn's explorers and leaf peepers with open arms.

by Tamiya Anderson

Fall leaves flutter like confetti along the Blue Ridge Parkway, enveloping the mountains in fiery reds and golds. Drive a portion of the iconic route between Boone and Linville Falls — including the Linn Cove Viaduct — which recently reopened after dedicated crews cleared landslides and debris left by Hurricane Helene last year. Vibrant with leaf-laden views and trails to explore along the way, “America's favorite drive” beckons your rediscovery.



Chimney Rock State Park: The iconic 75-mile views of Lake Lure and the Blue Ridge Mountains from the top of the Rock have changed a bit, it's true — but the beauty of this place hasn't been diminished. Helene greatly damaged the historic bridge to the state park, along with Chimney Rock Village, but thanks to the community's passion and teamwork, the park is welcoming visitors once more. “It's been amazing to see people come together, with the same love for the area they had before the storm,” says Director of Chimney Rock Management Emily Walker.

665 Main Street

(828) 625-9611

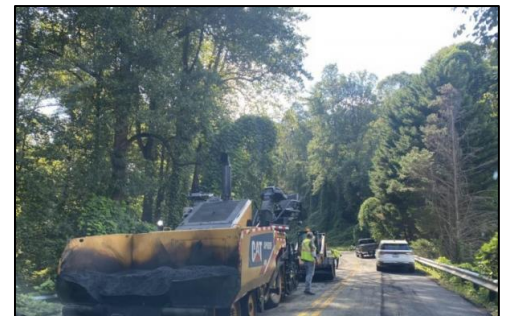
www.chimneyrockpark.com

Reservations are required for park admission.

[Read more here.](#)

KEEP IT IN THE ROAD!

Memorial Highway (64/74) between Lake Lure and Chimney Rock is open. NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has been repaving portions of 64/74 in Lake Lure and the new roadways are greatly appreciated!



Highway 64/74A Beyond Chimney Rock Village: Highway 64/74A heading West beyond Chimney Rock Village remains closed to the public at large. It is open to "locals", which is defined as those who live and work in the area. Please do not use this road if you do not have to, as contractors have to stop their work to allow for passage when cars go by, slowing the recovery process.

KEEP IT IN THE ROAD! (Continued)

NC DOT updates on Highway 64: A temporary road is expected to be open between Chimney Rock and Hendersonville was extended to June 30, 2027 (*YES, 2027*). For more information, visit NC DOT's Drive NC Link: <https://drivenc.gov/?type=incident&id=715074>

The screenshot displays a web interface for a road closure incident. At the top, it says "Rutherford County, North Carolina" and "Road Closed – Incident 715074". Below this, there are sections for "Location", "Timeframe", "Weather Event: Road Closed", and a "Local Map".

Location:

- US-64 (Main Street), Near Chimney Rock Scenic Road
- Near Chimney Rock / Both Directions
- Rutherford County

Timeframe:

Start: Thu, Oct 3, 2024, 7:36 PM

End: Wed, Jun 30, 2027, 5:00 PM

Weather Event: Road Closed

The road is closed from the Henderson / Rutherford County line to Chimney Rock Scenic Road. LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY may use this road.

Expected impact to traffic is High.

Local Map

The map shows a section of Highway 64 (Main Street) in Rutherford County, North Carolina. A yellow warning icon with an exclamation mark is placed on the road, labeled "Weather Event Road Closed". The map also shows the Broad River to the west and Wild Flower Hill to the east. A dashed line indicates the road closure area. The map includes zoom controls and a location pin icon.

Update from Gerton Fire and Rescue: "We would like to impress that these roads are for local traffic only. We have had a surge in tourists over the last few weeks. Please stay out of the gorge if you do not live there and let them work." Gerton Fire Chief.

Directions to Lake Lure from I-26: Lake Lure is just 14 miles from I 26: At the first exit in North Carolina, Exit #67 (Columbus and Highway 108), turn right onto Highway 108 East. Follow 108 East for approximately 6 miles to the intersection of Highway 108 and Highway 9 (a traffic stoplight). Turn left onto Highway 9 North. Go 8 miles and Lake Lure will be in front of you.

Proctor Road: The project is complete. The road is open. The next step is repaving the road but it will be passable during this phase of the work. Thank you to the residence for their patience as this work was completed.

Lago Vista Road Extension: Town officials collaborated with Odom Engineering to solicit and review bids for the extension of Lago Vista Road, aimed at improving access to Chimney Rock State Park. The Town is currently working with state agencies to explore partnership opportunities to support the project.

CELL TOWER UPDATES

For those who have experienced challenges with phone service in Lake Lure - crews were finally able to break ground for the new cell tower!

- The location of the cell tower will be off Boys Camp Road on the old campground property.
- The site and access road grading began 9/2/25.
- Crews have begun construction.
- Tillman Infrastructure is building the tower and will own it.
- They will lease antenna space to cellular service providers and AT&T will be the primary provider.
- Verizon has leased the next highest space and T-Mobile will be the third provider.
- The antenna is expected to be in place this winter.

LAKE LURE DAM

- **Reservoir Drain:** The reservoir drain project at the dam has allowed the Town to lower the lake to 30 feet as planned for the ongoing lake restoration work. The drain is closed at times if work is taking place behind the dam to ensure safety. Otherwise, it is open to allow a flow of water in the river.
- **Field Testing for Replacement Dam:** Schnabel Engineering completed the field testing for the replacement dam. The final report has been submitted to the NC Department of Environmental Quality Dam Safety Office for review and approval. The Town received a FEMA HHPD grant for \$380,000 to support this project.
- **Tainter Gate Repairs:** Schnabel Engineering conducted an inspection of the Tainter gates. Based on their findings, the Town Council approved a work order for the design of necessary repairs, including seal repair. Schnabel Engineering is developing the scope of work, which includes the design of repairs to the dam's concrete ogee (allows for uncontrolled flow over the top of the reservoir) and the installation of new rubber seals along the base of the Tainter gates. This project will be completed when the lake comes back up a bit, in the winter of 2025-26.
- **Grant to Support Design for Replacement Dam:** We hope to begin design work for the replacement dam in the fall of 2025. We are hoping to receive confirmation on a FEMA High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Grant to support the cost of this project. We should receive a confirmation on this funding in the coming weeks.
- **Boom:** Schnabel is designing a boom for the dam area.



WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM

West End Sewer System Project: NCDOT has approved the encroachment agreement for the line along Memorial Highway. NCDEQ has provided the Town with a verbal “go-ahead” while our fast-track permit is under review. As a result, construction of the gravity line is currently underway. At this time, we are still awaiting delivery of the manholes to complete the project, which are expected (but not verified) to be delivered within the next couple of weeks.

Sewer Replacement Project: Town Officials meets regularly with LaBella Engineering to review current task orders and progress on the sewer replacement project. Upcoming phases for the sewer project were just approved by the NC Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) in an Engineering Report/Environmental Information Document (ER/EID). In preparation for upcoming phases of the project, the Town has also begun communicating with several residents to discuss potential easement needs.

The Town continues to work closely with the North Carolina Division of Water Infrastructure (NC DWI) and neighboring communities to pursue a grant that will fund a study on the potential impacts and benefits of a regionalized sewer system.

Additionally, the Town is collaborating with NC DWI to secure supplemental State Revolving Fund (SRF) financing, which is expected to include principal forgiveness.

Sewer System Maintenance: Public Services continues to work to maintain the larger sewer system. Planning and design work will be proceeding in Sunset Cove, Tryon Bay, Snug Harbor, and Grey Logs Cove in anticipation of future funding. The Town has applied for FEMA funding to support restoration of the system. We are awaiting a decision regarding this request and updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

Mainline Sewer Repair: The Town is actively trying to address the mainline issue, it is not fully resolved, but there is enough flow that it is currently operational.

Washburn Tank Cover Replacement: Successfully completed the replacement of 20 water tank system lid, improving system integrity and safety. The Town has been working with LaBella Associates to design and replace the 20,000-gallon tank cover for the Washburn Tank. The Authorization to Construct was issued on December 7, 2023, following the Water Tank Reconditioning Plan approval on November 7, 2023.

- Although the project experienced delays due to Tropical Storm Helene, progress has continued.
- The engineer’s certification was issued, and a request for final approval was submitted to NCDEQ on June 17, 2025.
- Water testing was completed and yielded satisfactory results.
- Final approval from NCDEQ was issued on July 11, 2025, officially marking the project's completion.

Lift Station: The system is operational and online

Waste Water Treatment Plant: The Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is operational, but we have submitted a request to FEMA for a replacement treatment system. We are awaiting a decision regarding this request and hope to relocate the system out of the flood zone.

FEMA Public Assistance (PA) is working with the Town to move the permanent repairs for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) forward as a Version 0 project, which allows the Town to receive funding for architectural and engineering (A&E) services.

- A task order with LaBella was previously approved by Town Council, contingent upon FEMA funding.
- Once this project is officially obligated, LaBella Associates will be able to proceed with the design work.

It is the Town's position—and that of the engineers at LaBella Associates, that the appropriate permanent repair for the WWTP is a full replacement of the facility, rather than piecemeal repairs to the existing plant, which is not feasible.

Utility Locate Responses: Responded to 26 utility locate requests through the 811 system, ensuring safe excavation and infrastructure protection across multiple work zones.

Are we applying for grants to assist with expenses? Yes! LaBella Associates are working with Town officials to prepare an application for the Helene Recovery State Revolving Fund (SRF), which offers the potential for up to \$5 million in principal forgiveness, if awarded. The SRF is a program that provides low-interest loans for water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Deep Water Ramp: The deep water ramp is being designed in the Rumbling Bald area. This will support various major infrastructure projects, but the primary focus is to support the sewer replacement project.

PRIVATE WELLS

If you have a private well and lowering the lake has affected your well, then lake water may have been infiltrating your aquifer.

- The first signs are sedimentation in your water, then air introduction to your system.
- The Town anticipates the lake will continue to be lowered for several more weeks.
- We do not currently have a date for refilling the lake as it is dependent upon the silt/sedimentation/debris removal being overseen by the USACE.
- It is recommended that individuals experiencing these indicators consult a well company.
- Sedimentation can be filtered, but air usually means you need to dig a deeper well to retrieve water from a protected aquifer below the clay or rock layer.

CONTRACTOR INFORMATION

Only approved contractors may access properties from the lake, by boat or barge, but any contractor or property owner may work on lake structures (with permits) if accessing from land. This includes sea wall construction or restoration (again, with required permits). You may email kmartin@townoflakelure.com"> kmartin@townoflakelure.com with any questions.

[Click here for additional information on contractors.](#)

DAMAGED LAKE STRUCTURES

The Community Development Department has created a map showing most of the seriously damaged lake structures, over 100 boathouses. These are properties that the owners agree to the demo of the boathouse. If you have damages, be aware that you will need to contact the Community Development Department about permitting for repairs or replacement. Permits are being issued and work is being done on lake structures now, but all work must be authorized.

- For property owners who signed up for the no-cost demolitions by the Army Corp, they are working on their plan now and we will notify you as we have more specific timing information.
- We have confirmed that, if you are signed up for the condemnation/removal program, they will be contacting you individually for a “right of entry” agreement prior to beginning the work.
- Town officials are working with the USACE to determine their timeline for this process, likely in the winter months.
- Please contact Community Development Staff for more information about the Army Corp program, as well as your permitting, at kmartin@townoflakelure.com or [828-625-9983](tel:828-625-9983), x 135.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT/APPLICATIONS

The following chart illustrates the financial support the Town of Lake Lure is currently seeking, in addition to Federal and State Funding requests that have been made on behalf of the Town through our political representatives (disaster management planning experts) and Hager Strategic Solutions (lobbyist). They are assisting the Town with post-disaster federal funding applications and requests to expedite our recovery process.

There are now 34 projects that have been submitted to FEMA for consideration of funding and the Town is awaiting their review and feedback.

8/13/25 update: Nine FEMA-funded projects have been obligated. The Town has received \$2,325,171.92 for seven of these, and two additional reimbursements totaling \$38,212.80 are pending. Delays persist for projects over \$100,000, and staff have begun contacting elected officials to address these concerns.

8/20/25 update: One additional project was obligated (totaling 10 obligated) and the total amount pending reimbursement is \$783,697.92.

Several other projects are currently under review by FEMA. While the process continues to move slowly, we are seeing progress, and these projects are inching closer to obligation.

- Diving Operations at the Dam (\$700K range)
- Flowering Bridge Demo: Version 0 - will have to argue costs.
- Community Center/Welcome Center: Came back at \$160,000, which is far too low.
- Marina Docks
- Lake buoys and booms.

9/10/25 update: Newly received funding:

- \$13,255.75 – Category A: Dumpster rentals
- \$28,531.78 – Category B: Temporary Relocation Costs – Town Hall Facility
- \$9,681.02 – Category F: Municipal Water Supply Damage – 100% Complete Work

9/18/25 update: \$2.8 million obligated for Flowering Bridge Demo: Version 0 - As noted above, Town officials will have to argue costs. The \$2.8 million currently obligated represents a preliminary estimate, intended to provide the Town with initial funds to cover demolition costs already incurred and to support efforts to develop accurate replacement cost estimates. The Town is actively pursuing discussions with FEMA to negotiate a fixed cost offer based on the true cost of replacement. It is the Town's intention that these valuable funds be directed toward priority recovery projects that will strengthen and restore our critical infrastructure. [Read here for additional details.](#)

FUNDING SUMMARY

Organization	Funding Request	Status
State of NC-DEQ-Water (Loan with potential forgiveness)	\$3,000,000	Application under review
FEMA-Revenue Replacement (Loan with potential forgiveness)	Up to \$5,000,000	Financial data under review; additional data being provided
FEMA reimbursements	Up to \$7,500,000	5/2/25 Update: 5 projects now obligated for a total of \$3,224,564.61. -\$862,186.69 Received 4/25 for a Category A (Debris Removal) 5/18/25 Update: \$754,185.81 (anticipated 5/25) for a Category B (Emergency Protective Measures) (payment received) 5/23/25 Update: Received a check for \$65,390.00 for Category A Town Wide Vegetative Debris Removal from ROW and Public Property. A new project was obligated for \$118,323.67 for Category B Temporary Hydroelectric Plant Emergency Repairs. (payment received) 6/23/25 Update: Received a check for the Boys Camp Road Bridge Damage: \$503,580 (Category C); 8/4/25 Update: Received \$8,250 for Temporary Town Hall Facility (Category B); Received \$13,255.75 for Lake Lure Dumpster Rentals (Category A); 9/10/25 update: Newly received funding: \$13,255.75 – Category A: Dumpster rentals; \$28,531.78 – Category B: Temporary Relocation Costs – Town Hall Facility; \$9,681.02 – Category F: Municipal Water Supply Damage – 100% Complete Work
DEQ-ARPA Reimbursement (non-storm related)	Up to \$3,000,00	Submission under review
Private Donations	Up to \$90,000	Deposited; being held for future disbursement under discretion of Town Council
Other Revenues and Payments from Insurance proceeds and claims	Up to \$5,000,000	50% has been approved for release 1/7/25 Update: 50% received. 1/31/25 Update: \$1.3 million insurance payment for damage to Town Hall.
NC Treasurer Cash Flow Loan	\$3,423,122.89	3/21/25 Update: Received 6/23/25: The Town was offered an additional \$2.8 million in cash flow funds from the State Treasurer. A recommendation regarding this offer will be made to Town Council for consideration. 6/25/25: Town Council approved the loan. 7/29/25: Received a \$2.8 million dollar loan disbursement this week from the NC Treasurer

MONETARY DONATIONS

Our community, along with many of our neighbors, has been devastated by the catastrophic flooding caused by Hurricane Helene. The Town of Lake Lure, NC is deeply grateful for the support our community has received. We have had numerous requests to establish a mechanism for financial donations. Please click on the following link to donate to the Town of Lake Lure Storm Recovery Fund.

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/WXB6HYE8Y5PJ>

Additional options for monetary donations include the following:

- Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach: <https://hickorynutgorgeoutreach.org/one-time-donation/>
- Hurricane Helene – Força Foundation: <https://forcafoundation.com/hurricane-helene/>
- RHI Legacy Foundation will match any donation up to \$50,000 at www.rhilegacyfoundation.com
- Restore Lake Lure Fundraising Campaign: <https://www.restorelakelure.com/> The Restore Lake Lure campaign seeks to bridge the gap between governmental support and personal sacrifice."
- The Foundation For Lake Lure/Chimney Rock Area Businesses: <https://foundation4lakelurechimneyrock.com/home>
- United Way of Rutherford County at www.unitedwayofrutherford.org

STORM RECOVERY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Swift evacuation by first responders saving countless lives 9/27/24.
- Countless rescues first responders during and following Hurricane Helene.
- Coordination with the Rutherford County Emergency Management during and throughout the storm.
- Dam assessment and stabilization immediately following the storm event 9/27/24-9/29/24.
- Communication with the Rutherford County EOC and FEMA for recovery immediately following the storm.
- Coordination with volunteer groups to provide hot meals, shower services, restrooms, and handwashing stations in strategic locations by 10/1/24. Christian Aid Ministries served 8,080 hot meals and assisted 43 homeowners with clean-up of their homes and property. There were 164 volunteers and they spent 2,457 hours assisting our community!
- Creation of donation stations to disseminate supplies throughout town by 10/1/24.
- Cleared Highways and Town roads within days of the storm.
- Restoration of water service throughout Town with water quality testing allowing Boil Advisory lifted 10/14/24 and 10/16/24 respectively.

STORM RECOVERY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Continued)

- Rapid repair of power services throughout Town by Duke Power and REMC.
- Establishment of temporary communications systems through Starlink (10 systems) and Cell on Wheels with AT&T and Verizon 10/16/24.
- Replacement of fiber to re-establish internet and cell service to the area 10/18/24.
- Repair to the left abutment of the Dam by 10/27/24 with 2,494.64 tons of material securing the area.
- Army Corps of Engineers contract signed with AshBritt to oversee lake debris and silt/sedimentation removal during a 160 day period of performance beginning 10/28/24. Debris removal began 11/4/24.
- Emergency repairs to the sewer system completed, allowing "no flush order" to be lifted for most on 10/28/24.
- Reopening of the Dam Bridge on Buffalo Shoals Road on 10/31/24.
- Dittmer Watts Nature Trails and a portion of the Green Space reopened on 11/19/24.
- Pressure Reducing Valve Construction in Lake Lure Town Center successfully completed 11/22/24.
- The Boys Camp Road Temporary Bridge was completed 11/26/24.
- As of 1/23/24, Over 32,782 CY of debris were removed from the right of way, 27,669 tons of sediment and silt have been removed from Town and the Parks, 24,558 cubic yards (CY) of debris have been removed from the Lake.

1/10/25: Burnt Ridge Landslide repair completed.

1/7/25: 50% of insurance payments received.

1/22/25: Contracted with lobbyist Hager Strategic Solutions (lobbyist).

1/22/25: Proclamation to open Chimney Rock State Park as soon as possible to bring in tourism to the area and strengthen the economy.

1/31/25: Culvert repair on Hummingbird Cove completed.

1/31/25: \$1.3 million insurance payment received for damage to Town Hall.

2/11/25: Waste Water Treatment Plant is now operational. Repaired 3 water leaks throughout the water system

2/14/25: Storm drain box culvert repaired at corner of Memorial Hwy and Charlotte Dr

2/19/25: Youngs Mountain Trail landslide repaired

2/21/25: Green Space drainage repairs completed, grass replanted, and dry creek beds put into place.

2/28/25: The Town of Lake Lure and all those in areas code 28746 are eligible to apply for a free option for debris removal program through the USACE.

STORM RECOVERY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Continued)

3/7/25: Debris removed from Morse Park trails and grass replanted in that area.

3/14/25: FEMA approval of the mission assignment for Lake Surface Debris, silt, and sedimentation removal through FEMA and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

3/18/25: Community Forum held with FEMA, USACE at The Lakeside Terrace with approximately 200 attendees.

3/18/25: United Way presented Fire Chief Dustin Waycaster a check for \$50,000 for a new heart monitor for Firefighters/AMTs.

3/27/25: Reservoir Drain Valve Installation complete.

4/24/25: 371 +/- boats that have been removed from the lake.

4/25/25: Reopened the East entrance to Morse Park.

5/2/25: \$862,186.69 Received 4/25 for a Category A (Debris Removal)

5/11/25: \$754,185.81 Received for a Category B (Emergency Protective Measures)

6/12/25: New seawall completed at the Lake Lure Gazebo

6/13/25: New pavers replaced broken and missing pavers in the Morse Park walkway and in front of the Lake Lure Beach.

6/17/25: The Lake Lure Beach was replenished with fresh sand.

6/23/25: The Town received a check for the Boys Camp Road Bridge Damage: \$503,580 (Category C)

6/25/25: Cash flow loan approved for \$2.8 million.

6/27/25: Downslide repaired on Angler's Way.

7/21/25: Repairs on Boys Camp Road completed.

7/21/25: Debris and silt/sedimentation removal from the Rumbling Bald Beach and Marina are complete.

7/28/25: Town Hall relocated to temporary office space in The Landings. The official opening date for the public is 8/1/25.

7/28/25: The Town received the \$2.8 million loan disbursement this week from the NC Treasurer.

8/7/25: Received \$8,250 from FEMA for Temporary Town Hall Facility (Category B); Received \$13,255.75 from FEMA for Lake Lure Dumpster Rentals (Category A).

8/13/25: Silt/sedimentation removal began in Washburn Marina and coves around the lake, like Tryon Bay.

STORM RECOVERY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Continued)

8/20/25: Asheville Tennis Association presented the Town of Lake Lure with a check for \$19,000 to help rebuild our future tennis/pickleball courts.

8/20/25: The Lake Lure Fire Department received a \$50,000 grant for support in upgrading Lake Lure Station II.

8/20/25: One additional project was obligated (totaling 10 obligated) and the total amount pending reimbursement is \$783,697.92.

8/30/25: West end Sewer System largely restored.

9/10/25: FEMA funding received: \$13,255.75 for Dumpster rentals, \$28,531.78 for Temporary Relocation Costs – Town Hall Facility, \$9,681.02 for Municipal Water Supply Damage

9/19/25: Proctor Road restoration project complete.

9/26/25: The Town received a total of \$380,000 in a FEMA HHPD Grant for the Field Investigation Project that was recently completed.

9/27/25: Lake Lure and Chimney Rock came together to hold a one year Commemoration Ceremony

10/3/25: Manhole delivered for the West End Sewer System.

10/13/25: Manhole installed so the gravity line can be connected to restore services to the remaining West end customers.

10/13/25: Playground equipment delivered and is being installed.

ONGOING

- Emergency repairs to the sewer system.
- Constant removal of silt, sedimentation, and debris from the lake and roadways.
- Removal of condemned boathouses and personal property debris removal.
- Town officials are working to develop a comprehensive plan for future prosperity in the Town of Lake Lure.

WHAT'S OPEN IN THE TOWN OF LAKE LURE!



Lake Lure Welcomes Visitors Back As Recovery Continues: While visitors should be mindful of ongoing recovery efforts, several local businesses and recreation areas have reopened. There are a number of attractions that are open in the area. Lake Lure hotels, lodges, bed & breakfasts, and our amazing restaurants are open for business! Our local businesses greatly appreciate your patronage! Please visit the area and encourage others to visit as well.

[Download the 2025 Travel Guide here.](#)

[Please visit the Local Restaurant Guide](#)

And here are some of the amenities that are currently open to the public.

- **Morse Park Walkway and the Lake Lure Gazebo** (*temporarily closed during silt removal in Marina Cove.*)
- **Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails**
- **Lake Lure Green Space**
- **Pool Creek Picnic Park**
- **Youngs Mountain**
- **Rumbling Bald Golf Courses**
- **Chimney Rock State Park – Rumbling Bald Access**
- **Chimney Rock State Park** – Now open daily by reservation - [Click here to reserve your tickets!](#)

Additionally, horseback riding is available in the area along with zip lining, escape rooms, a candy cabin, and so much more!

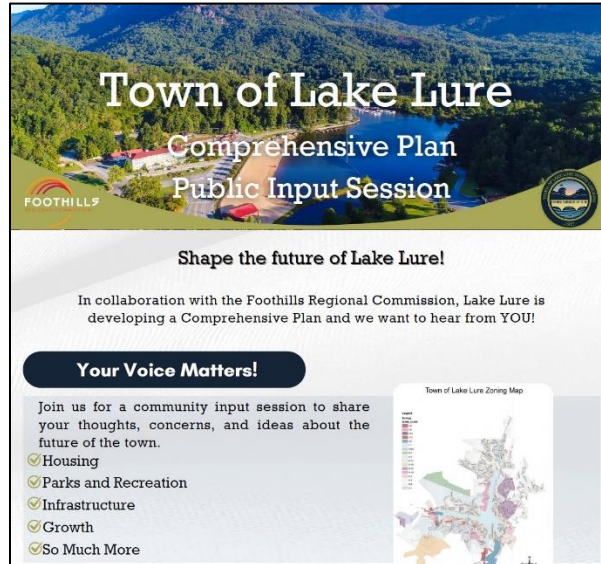
Buffalo Creek Park/Weed Patch Mountain Trail/Upper Boulders Trail: Ongoing work is also taking place at Buffalo Creek Park, Weed Patch Mountain, and the Upper Boulder Trails by the National Guard, Carolina Climbers Coalition, Rutherford Outdoor Coalition, EcoForesters, and AmeriCorps. We cannot thank them enough for their time and support! Update 6/17/25: Progress continues to be made on Upper Boulders Trail, and a small section may be opening soon. The Town will receive a grant of \$50,000 to assist with restoration. Please stay tuned for updates!

Upcoming Events:

- 10-13-15: [KaBOOM Playground Building Project in Morse Park](#)
- 10/18-19/25: [Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach Fall Arts and Crafts Festival](#)
- 10/18/25: [Lake Lure Artist's Show and Sale](#)
- 11/11/25: [Veterans Day Program at Rumbling Bald on Lake Lure](#)
- 12/3/25: **Lighting Up Lake Lure**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Town's Comprehensive Planning process is underway. To help guide this important effort, an 11-member steering committee was established. The Public Input Sessions have been scheduled for 10/28/25 at 5:00 (online) and 11/5/25 at 5:00 at The Landings.



QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS

You may review previous Storm Recovery Updates in Town News at www.townoflakelure.com

For questions or suggestions, please email Communications@townoflakelure.com