

Richland Creek and Vance Greenway Restoration Project

**Waynesville Town
Council Meeting
September 22, 2026**



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Agenda

- Project Overview
- Richland Creek Site Assessment Findings
- Restoration Design Components
- Initial Work Area



Project At a Glance

Repair Storm Damage

Stabilize eroding banks and restore damaged portions of Richland Creek after Hurricane Helene

Improve Public Access and Recreation

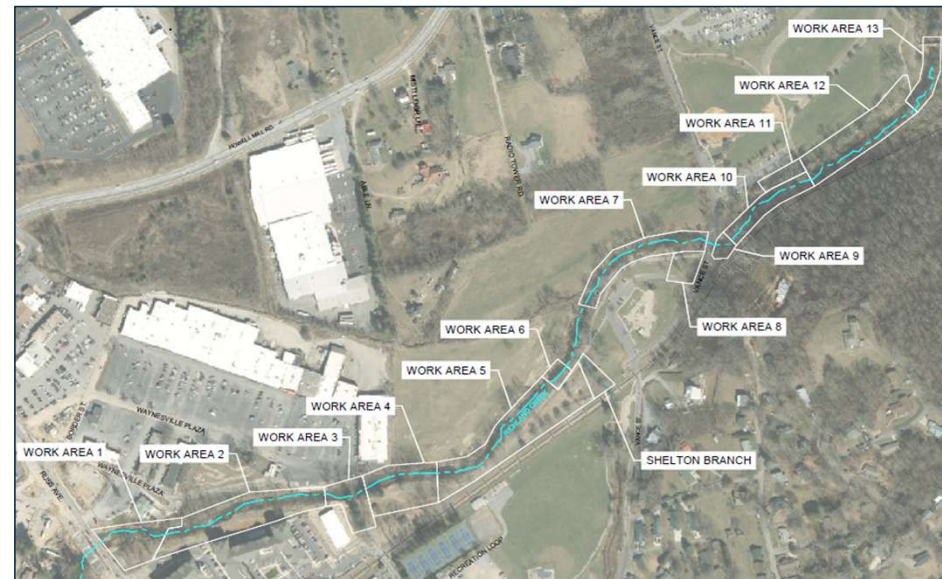
Tie stream restoration to greenways improvements, access, viewsheds, and trail connectivity

Improve Stream Habitat

Create and enhance habitat to support healthy trout and other aquatic species populations

Treat Runoff Before it Reaches the Creek

Capture and filter urban stormwater inputs where practical before they enter Richland Creek



13 Work Areas; Russ Ave Bridge to Pedestrian Bridge

Field Findings

Richland Creek is not uniformly damaged – some reaches held up through Helene, while other areas showed **bank loss**, **sediment accumulation**, and **active adjustment**.

Areas of Richland Creek have **small riparian buffer**, **limited floodplain access**, **direct stormwater inputs**, and **moderate in-stream habitat**.

What That Means

The right solution is targeted:

- Stabilize the problem areas
- Enhance the riparian buffer
- Improve in-stream habitat
- Filter stormwater

Can simultaneously improve recreation, public access, and education opportunities

Small problem areas can create larger corridor issues over time



The Why



More Stable Stream Banks

Reduced erosion and sedimentation;
maintain sediment transport



Larger Riparian Buffer

Increased stream shading; improved
flood resiliency

Cleaner Runoff

Enhanced water quality – benefits for
aquatic life and recreation



Better Trout Habitat

Increased recreation and economic
value

Better Greenway Experience

Improved access; trail reconnection;
enhanced recreational value

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RESTORATION DESIGN



What the Design Is Targeting

1. Bank Stabilization

Repair eroding banks and protect land along Richland Creek

2. Levee Removal

Increase viewsheds, reconnect the floodplain, and lower steep bank heights to increase stability

3. Stormwater Capture

Filter direct runoff from urban sources before it reaches the stream

4. Trout Habitat

Add in-stream habitat features that improve cover, depth, and flow diversity

5. Access and Trail Improvements

Improve views, public access, fishing, and greenway continuity

6. Native Riparian Buffer

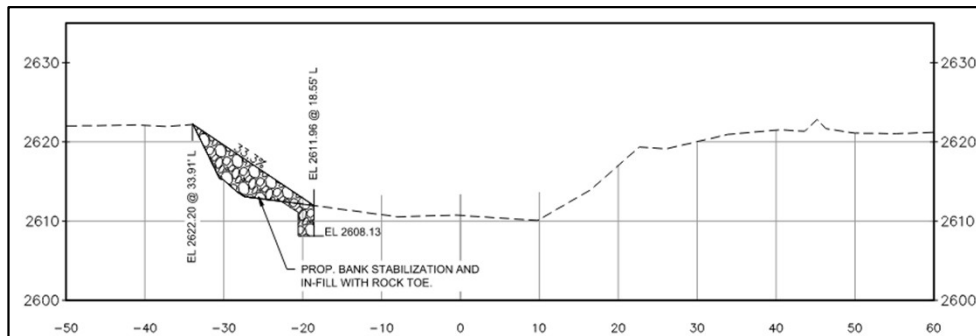
Plant trees and shrubs for shade, infiltration, and long-term stability



1. Bank Stabilization



- Repairs and stabilize eroded banks from storm damage
- Protect infrastructure from further erosion
- Reduce sediment loss into stream
- Soil infill and plantings to increase stability



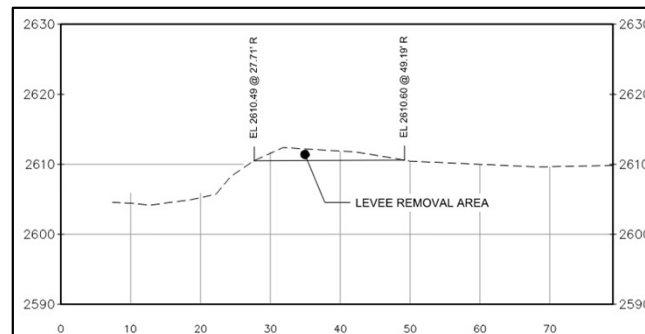
Area of Concern	Predicted Erosion (tons/yr)
Zaxby's Bank	51.5
Storage Unit Bank	12.0
Train Tracks Bank	27.7
Ped Bridge Bank	21.4
TOTAL	112.6



2. Levee Removal



- Increase floodplain connection and stream stability
- Improve sightline to stream for public
- Remove waste embedded in bank
- Plant with native vegetation to increase infiltration



3. Stormwater Capture



- Capture runoff from urban areas prior to entering stream
- Provide water quality treatment
- Slow down runoff before entering stream
- Increase infiltration and ground water recharge



4. Trout Habitat



- Approx. 15 woody habitats and 50 boulder habitats
- Provide habitat for aquatic life
- Improve fishing access
- Protect vulnerable streambanks



5. Access and Trail Improvements



- Reconnect currently disconnected greenway
- Provide designated stream access points
- Protect vegetation in surrounding areas
- Encourage stream interaction and fishing



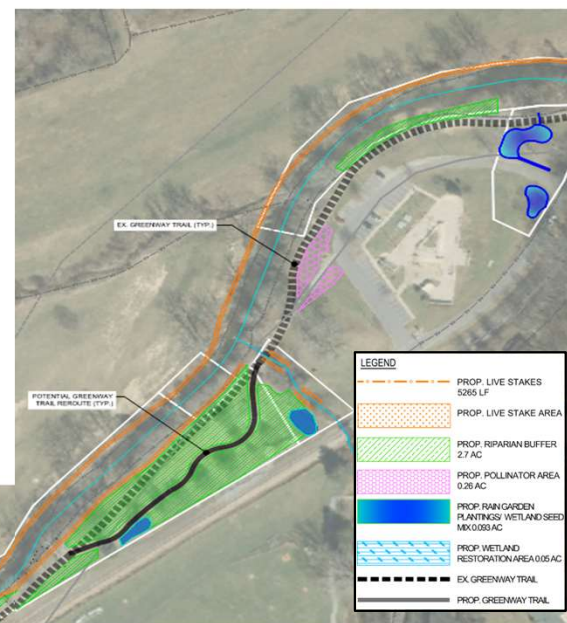
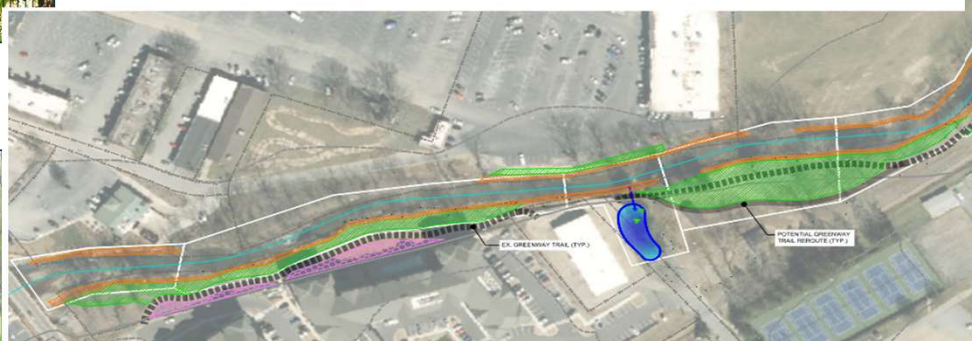
6. Native Riparian Buffer



- Increased infiltration
- Stream shading
- Erosion control and soil stabilization
- Water quality improvements
- Habitat creation
- Trail experience



Conewago Creek Initiative –
Riparian Buffer (PA)



North Carolina Biodiversity Project



Milkweed (*Asclepias* species)

Milkweeds are hosts to Monarch butterflies, and are an essential part of any pollinator garden. Native species include Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*).



Beebalm (*Monarda* species)

Beebalm attracts a variety of pollinators, including bees, wasps, moths, and hummingbirds. Native species include Spotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*), Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), and Scarlet Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*).



Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Purple Coneflower is a popular perennial that blooms from summer into fall. It attracts a range of pollinators, including bees and butterflies, and its seeds provide food for birds.



Joe-pye Weed (*Eutrochium* species)

Joe-pye Weeds are summer-blooming perennials that attract bees, moths, butterflies, and other insects. Hollow Joe-pye Weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*) is a native species well suited to NC pollinator gardens.



Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

Buttonbush attracts bees, moths, hummingbirds, and a variety of other pollinators. This native, deciduous shrub usually grows to a height of 3 to 10 feet.



Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum* species)

Mountain mints attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Native species include Silverleaf (*P. incanum*), Narrow-leaf (*P. tenuifolium*), and Short-toothed (*P. muticum*).



Goldenrod (*Solidago* species)

Goldenrods are popular with many pollinating insects. Native species include Wrinkle-leaf (*Solidago rugosa*) and Bluestem (*Solidago caesia*).



New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)

New York Ironweed is an attractive summer-flowering perennial that makes an excellent addition to your pollinator garden.

Funding and Implementation Path

NCDEQ Hurricane Helene recovery grant

Administered through Haywood Waterways Association; funds must be spent by March 2027.



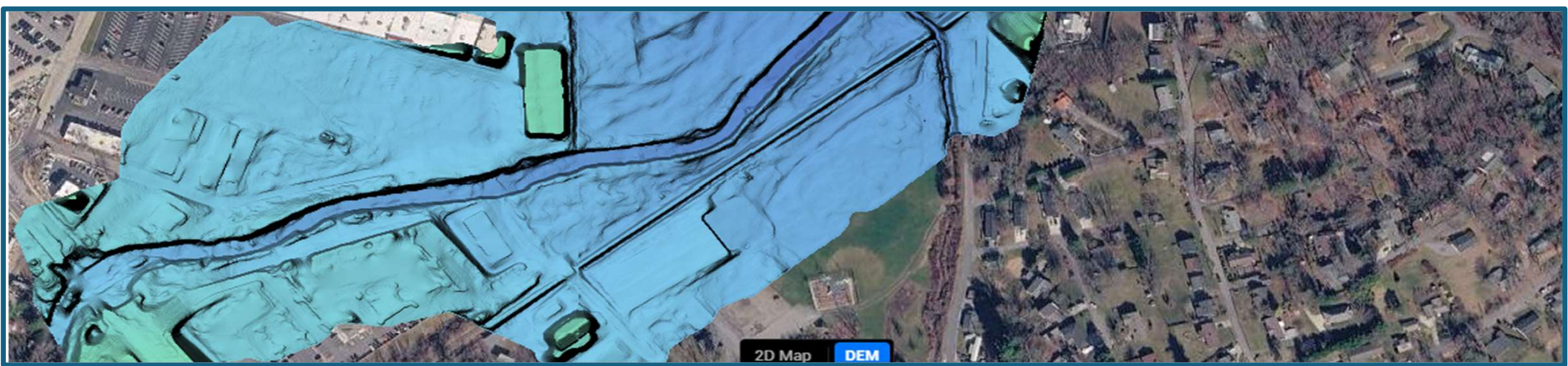
Initial Work Area

- Target construction Fall 2026/Spring 2027

WA 1	WA 2	WA 3
• Bank repair and stabilization • Stream capacity enhancement • Public stream access • Native plantings	• Levee removal • Stream sightline improvement • Native plantings	• Urban runoff capture • Bank repair and stabilization • Greenway improvements • Native plantings



Questions?



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