

RESOLUTION
Chimney Rock Village Council
Concerning the Reopening
And the
Access to Chimney Rock State Park
From
Chimney Rock Village

Whereas, Chimney Rock Village was extremely devastated by the Tropical Storm, Helene on Friday, September 27, 2024; and

Whereas, even on this date, March 11, 2025, the Village remains officially closed to the public due to the tremendous loss of roads, streets, the US Highway and many utilities, structures and homes; and

Whereas at least one-third of the residential homes and one-third of the business structures were washed away or severely damaged by the flood waters from this tropical storm; and

Whereas, due to this damage and total loss of houses and the downtown business buildings, the Village has been working diligently and constantly to restore the Village business district; and

Whereas, a great effort also focused on clearing, cleaning and providing access, utilities and where possible, water and or sewer to residential communities; and

Whereas these losses displaced dozens of residents and suspended or eliminated the entire short-term rental housing inventory that provided income for many while supporting the community by sharing Chimney Rock Village and the State Park with visitors from all around the region, nation and the world; and

Whereas, as many as 200+/- people lost their employment throughout the Village and the State Park and since this event, the business district has remained closed; and

Whereas Chimney Rock State Park is vital to the life, activities and existence of the livelihood and standard of living for all within Chimney Rock Village; and

Whereas, the Village Council recognizes and applauds the extraordinary efforts of the State of North Carolina, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, the administration and staff of the Chimney Rock State Park and their employees for efforts to restore and reopen this State Park as soon as safe and possible; and

Whereas, the Village has worked to coordinate the opening with the State Park with the restoration of the downtown business district; and

Whereas the Village also wants to balance this need with the impact on its residents, those that may visit the Village when short-term rentals are restored, and those that own, work and reside in the many retail shops, restaurants, other businesses and the Chimney Rock State Park.

Now, Therefore, The Chimney Rock Village Council resolves to ask and suggest:

- That the North Carolina Department of Transportation continues its diligent work to review the most expedient and safest pathway, bridge or street to secure temporary access to Chimney Rock State Park.
- That the State Park continues its diligent work and efforts to reopen the State Park at the soonest possible date; and
 - That these two State Departments (Divisions/Agencies) continue their extraordinary efforts to coordinate their vital work to create, design, engineer and implement the most immediate access to the State Park.
 - As this critical and immediate access is on behalf of the State, Western North Carolina and this region, Hickory Nut Gorge, the Town of Lake Lure and Chimney Rock Village.
- That the North Carolina Department of Transportation considers another option for a direct route from US Hwy. 74A/64/9 at the location of the former NC DoT bridge Southside Drive to the nearest point across the Rocky Broad River to access the State Park entry road for temporary passage enabling the State Park to reopen at its earliest ability.
- That the deliberations and engineering of any changes do not delay, impede or adversely affect the immediate necessity and implementation of or construction of temporary access to the State Park from Chimney Rock Village.

This Resolution and its request are hereby approved and preferred by the Chimney Rock Village Council, this the 11th day of March 2025.

Mayor Peter O’Leary

Stephen G Duncan, Clerk to the Council

Note: The Mayor will call the leadership and contacts working on this project with the NCDOT immediately upon passage of this Resolution.