

Dear BRHC Friends and Members,

I hope this note finds you safe and well after the disastrous storms of last month. While we continue to recover from the impacts of this devastating hurricane, I am reaching out to share some good news with you.

As a supporter of Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, I wanted to update you on the estate and the surrounding area. I'm pleased to share that the historic estate is welcoming visitors again. The National Park Service announced this week that the estate's carriage trails, including the Bass Lake loop and its restrooms, are officially open. The Cone estate is part of a 20-mile section of the Parkway from milepost 285 to 305 that just reopened. That is the stretch from Bamboo Gap almost all the way to Beacon Heights. Please visit the [Parkway's website](#) for additional information on road closures.

Initial reports indicate that Flat Top Manor was not severely impacted by the storm, which is a tremendous relief! However, the manor house and the restroom facilities at the Carriage Barn remain closed for further assessment. As you can see in the attached photo, the historic barn was damaged during the hurricane. Park staff responded quickly to remove materials from the site and shield the roof from further damage. Repairs are currently in the works.

If you visit the estate and surrounding area this fall, please remember to use caution. Trails are open but have not been completely evaluated for damage, so be prepared for debris or washed out sections when hiking. Here are updates that may be helpful as you visit our national park:

Sites that remain closed for ongoing assessment and repair:

- Boone Fork Trail, milepost 296.5
- Price Park Campground, milepost 296.9

Sites that are open:

- Bass Lake, milepost 294.6
- Moses H. Cone Memorial Park Carriage Trails, around milepost 294
- Price Lake Picnic Area, milepost 296.4
- The Viaduct is ready and waiting for you to make that amazing drive!

Hurricane Helene brought catastrophic destruction to other sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Behind the closure gates, the Parkway is unrecognizable — thousands of mangled trees, dozens of rock and mudslides, collapsed pavement. Crews are certain to discover much more damage to hundreds of miles of trails and dozens of structures.

While we remain so grateful for the lack of extensive damage at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, the needs in these other sections will require tremendous support. The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation has created a [Hurricane Recovery Fund](#) in response to this disaster. Please visit [BRPFoundation.org](#) for more information and to learn how you help rebuild the Parkway.

For now, I'm so glad to share the uplifting news with you that this section of the Parkway near Blowing Rock and its trails are now open. The majestic Flat Top Manor made it safely through the storm, and will continue to shine thanks to your support.

This experience has made us all appreciate the events from earlier this fall. The 2024 Denim Ball was an amazing night and I wanted to share [photos](#) from this year's gathering with you. We look forward to future opportunities to gather together! Continued prayers and best wishes for those who remain challenged by the damage from Hurricane Helene.

Thank you and take care,

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