



Building for the Future: MANNA FoodBank's New Headquarters & Expansion

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The upfitting construction of MANNA FoodBank's new home in Mills River, NC represents a major milestone in our region's disaster recovery from Hurricane Helene, as well as a symbol of our long-term investment in the future of serving our neighbors in Western North Carolina.

Phase 1

2025 through Spring 2026

Restoring core warehouse and cold storage operations

- Early work focused on preparing the site, bringing in utilities, completing concrete and dock work, erecting steel, and building out the new freezer and cooler.
- Most importantly, this phase restored critical cold-chain capacity that helps MANNA safely receive and distribute perishable food at scale.

Phase 2

Early 2026 through Summer 2026

Launching major site and structural work for the broader campus

- The next major phase includes grading, demolition of the existing office building, concrete slab installation, structural steel, and metal framing for the larger warehouse space conversion to office and office reconstruction project.
- This is the phase where the future of the campus starts to come into clear view, as major structural work begins to shape not just the building itself, but the long-term home for MANNA's mission, volunteer engagement, and service to Western North Carolina.

APPROXIMATE TIMELINE:

Phase 3

Summer 2026 through January 2027

Enclosing the building and completing interior build-out

- This phase includes roofing, drying in the building, sheetrock, interior finishes, casework, bathrooms, breakrooms, flooring, storefront elements, and exterior facade work.
- This phase also includes solar panel work that will help reduce operating costs and strengthen the long-term sustainability of the campus, allowing more resources to stay focused on MANNA's mission.

Phase 4

February 2027 through May 2027

Final testing, punch list, and occupancy

- The final phase includes systems testing for plumbing, HVAC, electrical, and fire protection, followed by punch list completion and the path to certificate of occupancy.
- This is also when the final operational details come together to prepare the campus for full use, including technology infrastructure, signage, and other elements that will help staff, volunteers, partners, and visitors navigate and experience the space well.

Doubling our Footprint, Doubling our Impact

“MANNA is building more than a larger facility. We are creating room for volunteers, community connection, and the kind of shared service that has defined our work since 1983—a place woven into the lives of families across the region, where children who once volunteered with MANNA now return as parents, bringing their own kids to help carry the vision of a hunger-free WNC forward.” — *Claire Neal, CEO*

Comparison of MANNA's Former and New Facilities

TOTAL FOOD STORAGE

Approximately 85% increase
in total food storage capacity*

DRY STORAGE

Approximately 51% increase
in dry food storage*

COOLER STORAGE

3X+ the previous cooler
food capacity*

REFRIGERATED STORAGE

Approximately 3X the previous
refrigerated food capacity*

VOLUNTEER CAPACITY PER DAY

Approximately 75% increase
in daily volunteer capacity,
creating more room for
community members,
businesses, faith groups,
civic groups, and school
groups to serve

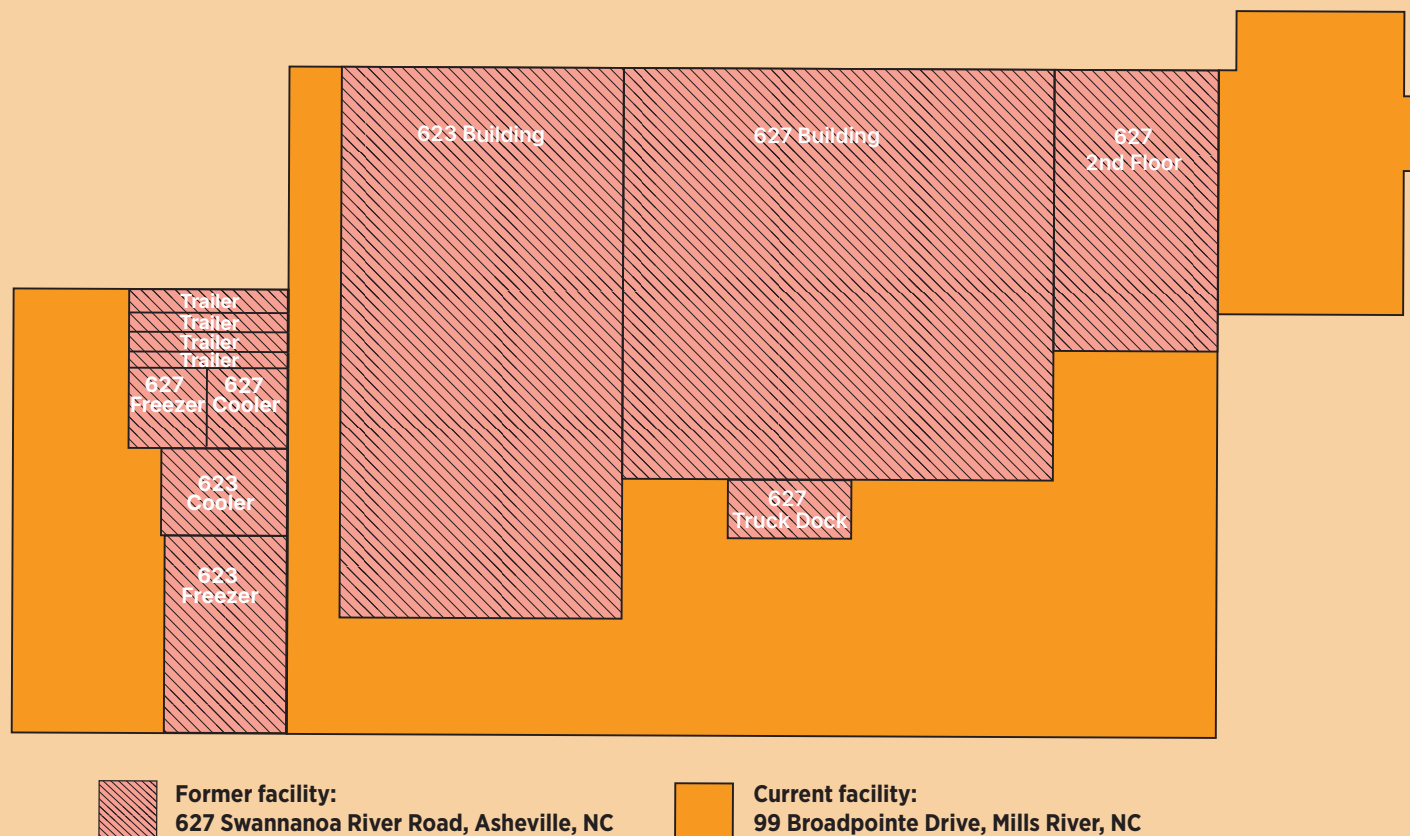
DOCK DOORS

4X+ the previous dock door
capacity, improving the
movement of food in and
out of the facility

Former facility: Approximately 54,000 sq. ft.

New facility: More than 110,000 sq. ft.

This means MANNA has more than double the space to serve Western North Carolina.



*These stats are based on pallet storage capacity.