

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR

Planning, Design & Engineering for a  
Waterfront Recreation Park located in Merry Hill, NC

Bertie County, NC is seeking Qualification Statements from interested and qualified firms to provide recommendations for the development of a new 147-acre public outdoor recreation park located on the eastern boundary of Bertie County at the confluence of the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound.

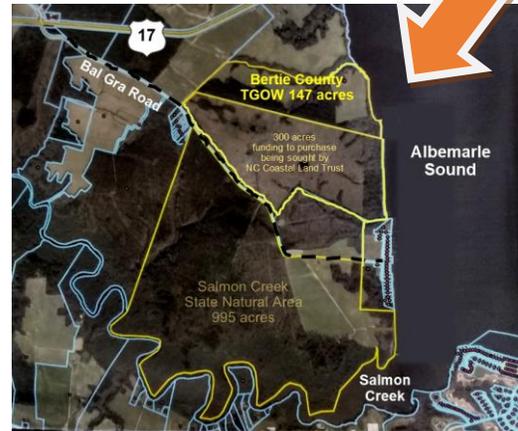


Referred to locally as “tall glass of water” (TGOW), until a name is selected, the project is a top priority of the Board of Commissioners for its ability to provide close-to-home vacation recreational experiences and year-round water access for its citizens. The project will also provide adventure tourism activities, one of four strategic business clusters identified as necessary for economic development. Highlights include an educational venue for exploring Bertie’s natural and wildlife resources as well as historic significance; an outdoor music pavilion for the performing arts; cabins, RV, primitive and group camping opportunities; small and large picnic shelters; hiking trails for fitness and exploration and access to 2,200 linear feet of coastal waters on the “inner banks” of North Carolina for swimming, fishing and paddling.

The project will build on two of Bertie’s most significant assets by offering experiences that are unparalleled in the realm of historical and natural resources. Research has uncovered the immediate area was populated by the Tuscarora Native Americans, later by Roanoke Colonists and then was the home to three of North Carolina’s prominent historical figures: Nathaniell Batts, the first permanent white settler in North Carolina lived in the region of Salmon Creek beginning in 1655, Governor Charles Eden 1673 – 1722 and Governor Thomas Pollock 1654 – 1722, who named his plantation “Balgra” after his Scottish ancestral home.

TGOW is identified as one of five “water hubs” in Bertie and will be the base of operations for expanded county-wide adventure tourism opportunities. East Carolina’s Dr. Stanley Riggs describes, in his report [From Rivers To The Sounds In The Bertie Water Crescent](#), Bertie County’s unique and world-class water system represents a two-pronged future for its citizens: a framework for regional environmental education and as a basis for a sustainable eco-tourism economy. This tract of land offers diverse ecosystem experiences with upland forest areas, open fields, wetlands, and swamps fed by blue line streams. As initially envisioned, the project will seek to capitalize on these natural and wildlife resources.

Bertie County’s investment complements the NC Coastal Land Trust (NCCLT) purchase of 995 acres almost adjacent to TGOW. In 2018 NCCLT conveyed the land to N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, which will manage the site as the new Salmon Creek State Natural Area. A 300-acre tract sits between TGOW and the Salmon Creek property and is being considered for acquisition through the work of NCCLT. If funding is secured a total of 1,432 acres of Sound front wilderness will be preserved.



## BACKGROUND

In 2015 the Bertie County Board of Commissioners took the first significant step for securing the project site as a public recreation area by investing local funds and in 2016 with an NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant of \$500,000 were able to purchase 137 acres, including nearly one-half mile of pristine waterfront. In 2019, an additional 10 acres was secured by the Board to provide greater access to an existing path to the waterfront.

The TGOW project is part of a regional Bertie County “eco-tourism” initiative to responsibly promote their natural and heritage assets thereby bringing greater educational, recreational and economic opportunities to their citizens as well as the traveling public. This initiative supports the efforts of the newly acquired Salmon Creek State Natural Area; the Town of Windsor’s paddling access sites, treehouses and campground on the Cashie River; the historic Sans Souci Ferry and Historic Hope Plantation c. 1803.

Please visit the Bertie County website for additional information  
<http://bertiecounty.nc.gov/projects/2019/tgow/tgow.html>

## PURPOSE

This Request for Qualifications is sought to obtain expert professional, technical and advisory services at the discretion of Bertie County and its Board of Commissioners to assist with project development: engineering, facility design, outdoor recreation planning, construction drawings and preparation as needed for grant applications.

## SCOPE

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners is actively seeking a qualified firm to assist with the development of this project in the following areas in part or entirety:

Campground design to include RV's, cabins, tent, shower houses, and applicable utility services

Public structures such as restrooms, gatehouse for park management, nature/education center, food sales and small market, future Interstate 87 welcome center, parking needs

Special event structures such as music pavilion, special event barn, horse barn (for boarding and dedicated trail ride), parking needs

Woodland trail and picnic shelters

Beach access – must include provisions for the handicap

Road and parking construction to include entry access, within site, possible pond construction and bridge/access over the existing earthen dam between two ponds

Site engineering to include electric, water and wastewater infrastructure requirements for the facilities identified above

## PROJECT TIMELINE

The Board of Commissioners has placed a high priority on this project and will move expeditiously to secure professional services within 90 days.

## QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT FORMAT

- 1) Provide a detailed narrative of the firm's perception and understanding of the project, outlining any unique considerations or experience with similar projects.
- 2) Firm history and statement of qualifications
- 3) Key principal and associate staff; identification of any associate firms involved and pertinent responsibilities; identification of the Project Manager. Provide a project organization chart.
- 4) Recent examples of similar projects, schedules and results.
- 5) Provide experience with grant submission requirements, in particular NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), NC Division of Coastal Management (CAMA), NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) and others.
- 6) Description of the work plan, proposed meetings, schedules, and approach to scope of work and reporting. Include any additional analysis or service that may be pertinent to this type of project.
- 7) Other relevant information that demonstrates the team's qualifications for conducting this scope of work.
- 8) Provide information on the firm's financial stability and insurance coverage.

## REVIEW OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 1) Specialized and relevant experience
- 2) Overall performance based on past projects, evidenced by references
- 3) Project approach and proposed organization to complete objectives
- 4) Proposed schedule
- 5) Demonstrated understanding of the proposed project engagement

## INCURRING COSTS

The County of Bertie is not liable for any costs incurred by the Consultant in the preparation or presentation of a response to this request.

## RIGHT TO AWARD OR REJECT

It is understood that all submittals will become part of the public file on this matter, without obligation to the County of Bertie. Bertie County reserves the right to reject any or all submittals.

## CONTRACT

The successful proposer will be required to execute a general planning, design and engineering base contract with the County of Bertie. In addition, each work element will require a detailed scope of work and task order approved by the County. Fees shall be agreed upon in advance by both parties. Such an agreement shall be an approved work authorization or supplement to the contract and approved by Bertie County.

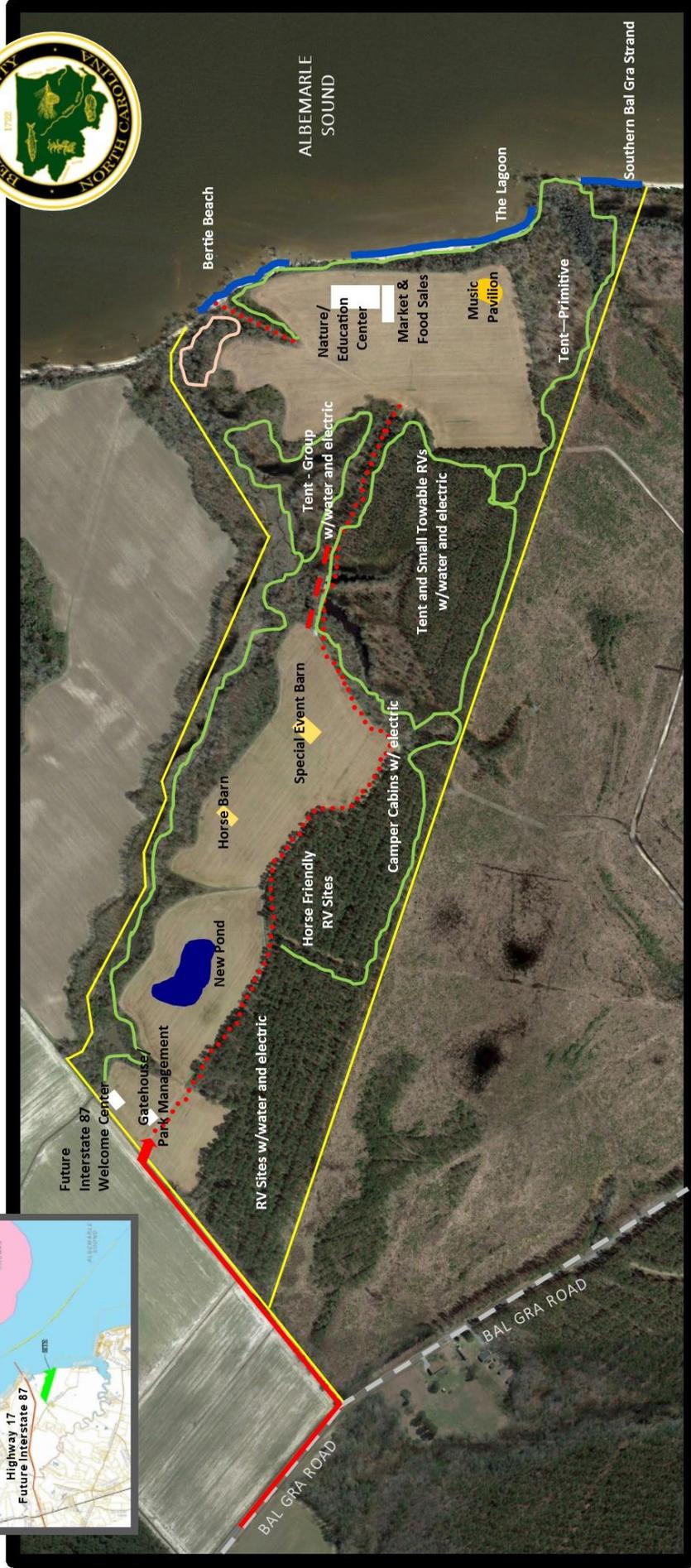
The selected firm will be expected to assist Bertie County in complying with the appropriate MBE/WBE or DBE to help ensure that minority/women owned and disadvantaged business enterprises have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts and subcontracts, and shall not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability or sex on projects funded by state or federal grants or other financing required by Bertie County.

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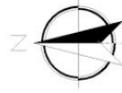
An informational meeting (NOT required) will be held at 1:00PM on Wednesday October 2, 2019 at the project site located at 243 Bal Gra Road Merry Hill, NC. This is an open process and all interested firms are encouraged to participate. The firm or team desiring to propose services will submit twelve (12) copies entitled "Bertie County TGOW Project" on or before close of business on Friday November 15, 2019 by mail or delivery same to:

Juan Vaughan, II  
Interim County Manager  
106 Dundee Street, Second floor  
Windsor, NC 27983

[juan.vaughan@bertie.nc.gov](mailto:juan.vaughan@bertie.nc.gov)  
252-794-6109 office direct



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|-------|---|-------|---|
| ••••• | Existing dirt farm road and path to beach | - - - | Existing earthen dam between two ponds      |
| —     | Walking trails (preliminary layout)       | ■     | Picnic Shelters - To Be Decided             |
| —     | Horseback Riding - To Be Decided          | —     | Beach Access Points                         |
| —     | Ropes Course (preliminary layout)         | ■     | Restrooms and Shower Houses - To Be Decided |



Not To Scale