



**Notice of Public Comment Period
Bertie County Application for Funding
TGOW Phase I – Waterfront Access**

**N.C. Division of Coastal Management,
Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Funds
2020-21 Cycle**

Published on July 27, 2020

Notice is hereby given that the Bertie County Government – Tall Glass of Water (TGOW) Executive Planning Committee is offering citizens the opportunity to make comments on the proposed grant application for the 2020-21 North Carolina Division of Coastal Management Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access for Phase I improvements at TGOW 243 Bal Gra Road Merry Hill, NC 27957.

Grant funds in the amount of \$147,000 will provide Phase I improvements consisting of: Beach Access via a combination Ramp and Walkway to the beach; Restrooms; Beach Mats (used for wheelchair accessibility); Paved Parking; Septic, Well and Solar Power. All improvements will provide access according to American Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

The comment period begins on Monday, July 27, 2020 and ends on Monday August 3, 2020. Comments must be submitted to: TGOW Project Coordinator Robin Payne robin.paync@bertie.nc.gov
Comments can also be made during the Public Comment Period at the next scheduled Bertie County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Monday August 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

Phase I Project Information is attached.



NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC BEACH AND COASTAL WATERFRONT ACCESS PROGRAM

I 2020-2021 CYCLE

Project Name: Bertie TGOW Project Phase I - Waterfront Access

Provide a brief description of the proposed project:

Bertie County's investment in the TGOW 147-acre property, will be the first public beach access to recreational waters within the surrounding Counties of Gates, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Washington, Tyrrell, and Hertford. Opportunities for the public will include swimming, canoeing & kayaking, hiking, camping, and environmental education field experiences for students and adults.

Referred to locally as "Tall Glass of Water" (TGOW)" until a name and logo have been selected, the site's most stunning feature is its 2,200 linear feet of sand beach and shallow calm waters overlooked by impressive high cliffs on the Albemarle Sound where the Chowan River begins.

The recreational facilities for Phase I of the TGOW project were selected to meet the expressed needs of the community – open access to the water and close-to-home outdoor recreation activities that both young and old can enjoy. A key element of Phase I is an ADA-access ramp and walkway from the parking area to the beach. Connected to the walkway at the upper level will be solar powered restrooms.

Phase I of the TGOW project targets accessibility to the water which are key objectives in the Bertie CAMA Land Use Plan, Bertie Comprehensive Recreational Development Plan and the Region "Q" Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Is this an ongoing project (Phase II of a previously funded project, or improvements to an existing project)?

Please Describe:

This is Phase I.

Government Name: Bertie County

Project Administrator

Name: Juan Vaughan, II

Title: Bertie County Manager

Address: P.O. Box 530

City/State/Zip: Windsor, NC 27983

Telephone: 252-794-5300

E-mail: juan.vaughan@bertie.nc.gov

Type of project: Land Acquisition Site Improvement

Demand for Access: High Medium Low

Site Control:

Ownership

Lease (25 years or more)

Easement (25 years or more)

Joint Use Agreement

Previous DCM Access Grant Recipient: Yes No

If yes, When?

Bertie TGOW Project Phase I - Waterfront Access

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Through the efforts of many dedicated men and women, the dream of a world-class public outdoor recreation park in Bertie County, North Carolina is closer to being a reality. This project is a top priority of the Board of Commissioners in an effort founded in providing a public recreation area with water access for all citizens. In 2016 the County invested local funds along with receiving the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant of \$500,000, to purchase a parcel that will become the destination for the Tall Glass of Water Park. The site is 147-acres located at the confluence of the Chowan River and the Albemarle Sound with an extraordinarily beautiful 2,200 linear feet of shoreline.

In 2018, Bertie County completed a Comprehensive Recreation Plan for the county outlining continued improvement of recreation programming. Simultaneously, Dr. Stanley Riggs NC Land of Water (NC LOW) completed *From Rivers to Sounds in the Bertie Water Crescent, A Water-Based Vision for the Sustainable Eco-tourism and Environmental Education in Bertie County*. NC LOW defines five “water hubs” within the county that will be the base of operations for expanded county-wide adventure tourism opportunities with the Tall Glass of Water (TGOW) as the catalyst site.

The TGOW Master Plan includes 5 Phases. The improvements for Phase I of the TGOW project were selected as top priority in order to meet the expressed needs of the community – “open access to the water and close-to-home outdoor recreation activities that both young and old can enjoy”.



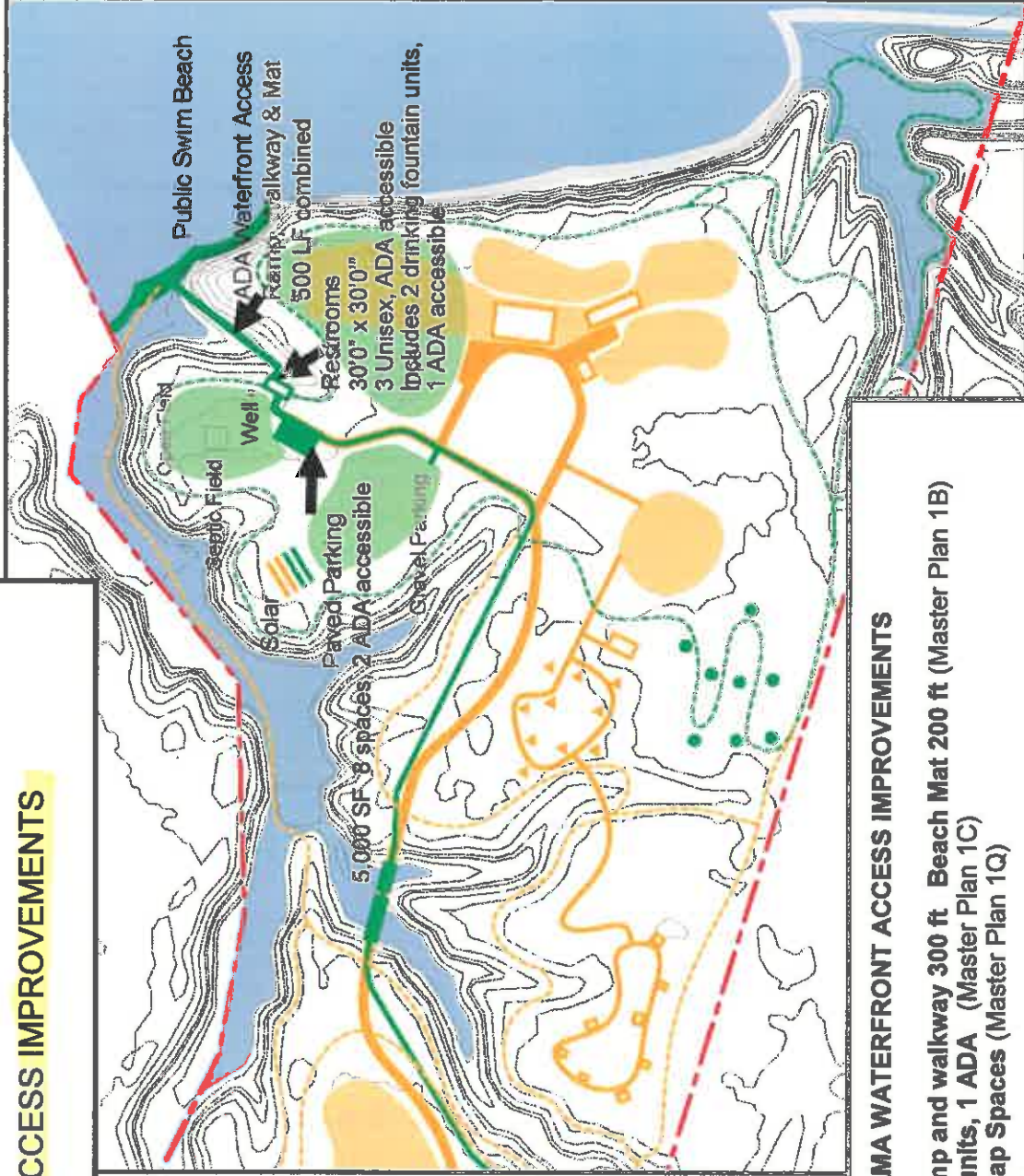
The core element of Phase I is the ramp and walkway from the parking area to the beach constructed to ADA standards. A combination of pressure treated wood, hog slat slabs and composite decking will be used. Beach Mats will be installed from the end of the ramp to the water's edge, approximately 150 LF. Connected to the walkway at the upper level will be 3 unisex and ADA accessible solar powered restrooms. 2 drinking fountains are planned, 1 being ADA accessible. There is no electric available on-site at this time. Solar is the preferred sustainable utility for the needs of the 30'0" x 30'0". Polycarbonate windows will provide additional light. The structure will also be heated during the winter months to protect pipes from freezing.

After the waterfront access portion of Phase I is complete the following improvements will be made: a kayak kiosk to house the Bertie County Parks and Recreation kayaks and life preservers; two of seven miles of hiking trail with meandering loops to explore the cliffs, meadows, forest area and stream beds; primitive camp sites with picnic tables and steel fire rings and several acres of natural meadow restoration.

There is no waterfront/beach access nearby. The closest designated NC WRC boat ramps are at the Chowan River/Edenhouse Bridge, Chowan County side and Roanoke-Cashie River Center in Windsor.

**BERTIE COUNTY
TALL GLASS OF WATER PROJECT (TGOW) - DETAIL**

CAMA WATERFRONT ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS



TGOW PHASE I: Detail of CAMA WATERFRONT ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

- ADA Waterfront Access: Ramp and walkway 300 ft Beach Mat 200 ft (Master Plan 1B)**
- Restrooms: 30'0" x 30'0", 3 units, 1 ADA (Master Plan 1C)**
- Paved Parking with 2 Handicap Spaces (Master Plan 1Q)**
- Solar Power (Master Plan 1R)**
- Well (Master Plan 1S)**
- Septic Field (Master Plan 1T)**

Restrooms

[3] Unisex, ADA accessible individual restrooms are to be located within the Phase-1 pavilion.

Restrooms are to be heated to avoid plumbing freeze.

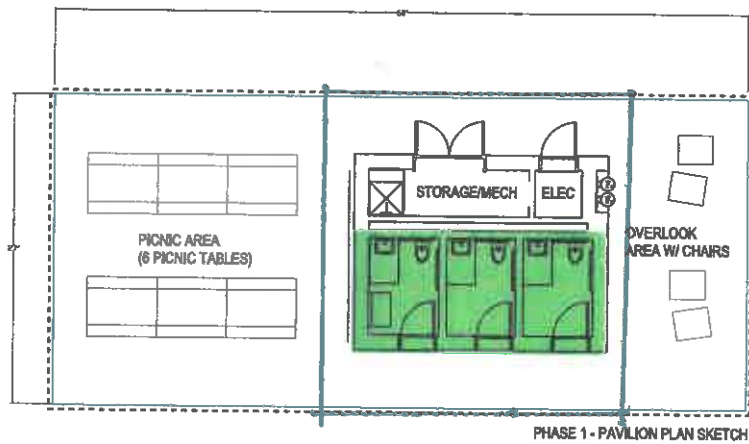
Restrooms are to be lit with natural light through polycarbonate 'windows' or similar.

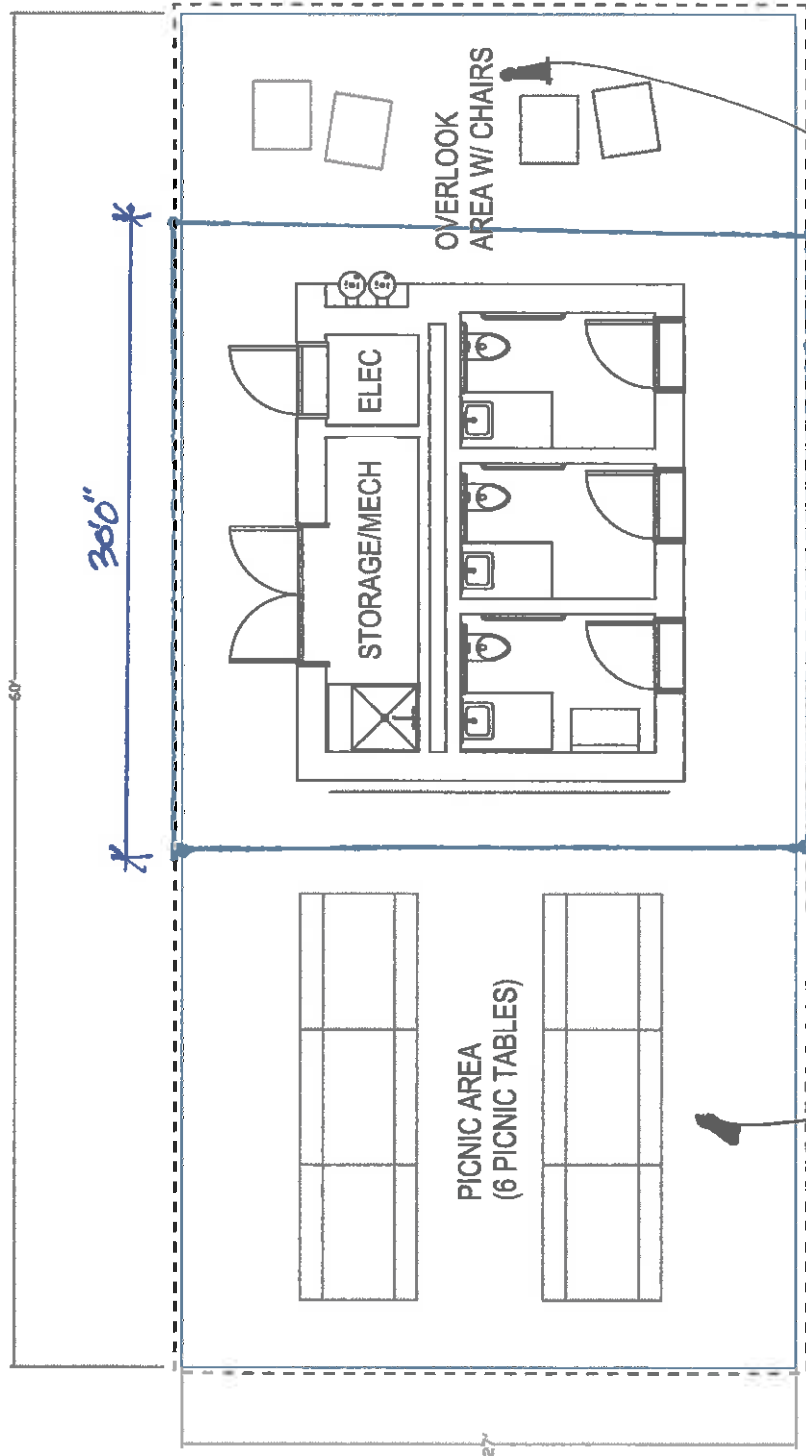
Total of [2] drinking fountains units with [1] ADA accessible unit are to be provided.

Provide electric, timed/scheduled locking hardware at doors.



Restroom Pavilion at Horseshoe Natural Preserve.





PHASE 1 - PAVILION PLAN SKETCH
1/8" = 1'-0"

THIS SECTION

PHASE I WATERFRONT ACCESS FUNDS.

PICNIC AREA & OVERLOOK - PHASE II.

Public Beach Access

A2.1 Accessible Path to Beach

A beach access ramp from the parking lot level is to be constructed to ADA standards using pressure-treated framing and weather resistant decking. Approximately 150 linear feet of ramp will be required. Provide unit cost per LF. Provide cost alternates for decking material - Concrete or Composite.



Existing non-accessible path to beach



ADA accessible ramp - Cape Hatteras



Ramp extending from picnic shelter shown in red

A2.1 Accessible Beach Mats

Approximately 100 linear feet of removable beach access mats to be provided



Infrastructure

A11.1 Vehicular Existing Road Improvement

The access road to the site off of Bal Grad Rd will receive Improvements to allow safe passage of vehicles including emergency and fire access. The approximately 6,500' stretch of road will receive new compacted ABC gravel and adequately crowned and drained to minimize gravel loss over time. The road is to be 12' wide with 4' ungraveled, traversable buffer on either side.



Sketch of existing road extents. NTS

A11.2 Gravel Parking

Near the terminus of the gravel road, a compacted ABC gravel parking area is to be constructed to provide parking for overflow vehicles. The area will be approximately 15,000 SF



Gravel and paved parking areas

A11.3 Paved Parking

At the eastern terminus of the gravel road, a asphalt-paved or concrete paved parking area and connecting path is to be constructed adjacent to the picnic shelter building, providing 8 parking spaces total, 2 of which shall be ADA accessible. The paved area will be approximately 5,000 SF. Provide cost alternate for a gravel lot with ADA accessible pads.



A11.4 Utilities - Power

Power is to be provided on-site through an array of ground-mounted photovoltaic panels. The power load will consist of picnic shelter & bathroom lighting, and any utilities needs including but not limited to restroom heating, septic pump, well pump, and drinking fountains. All additional necessary elements required for normal operation are to be provided, including storage battery and generator.

Power will be provided by an onsite solar panels OR extension of Roanoke Electric Cooperative distribution system



