

Subject: Resolution #808 – Agreement for Consultant Services Contract for On-Call Park planning, public outreach, Grant writing, and land acquisition services with Berk Consulting, Inc.

Proposed Council Action:

Adopt Resolution #808.

Dept. Origin: Planning Department
Prepared by: Jennifer Robertson, City Attorney's Office
For Agenda of: April 15, 2025
Exhibits: Resolution #808 with Attachments

Initial & Date

Concurred by Mayor: _____
Approved by City Planner: _____
Approved as to form by City Atty: 4-4-25/JSR
Approved by Finance Director: _____
Approved by Department Head: _____

INFORMATION / BACKGROUND

The City desired to contract for on-call park planning, public outreach, grant writing, and land acquisition services. The City issued a request for Statement of Qualifications with a deadline of March 21, 2025. Four firms submitted and two were found to be qualified and able to do this work in a timely manner. These are Berk Consulting, Inc. and Conservation Technix, Inc. The proposal is to contract with both firms to allow the City to use either or both as needed. This resolution approves the Berk Consulting agreement.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION

The City will pay the Consultant on an hourly basis at the rates set forth on Exhibit B of the Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION / MOTION

Approve Resolution #808.

MOTION: I move to approve Resolution #808 authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement for on-call consulting services with Berk Consulting, Inc. in substantially the form attached to the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 808

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF RUSTON, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE
MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR ON-CALL
CONSULTING SERVICES WITH BERK CONSULTING,
INC.**

WHEREAS, the City has an on-going need for on-call consulting services, including park planning, public outreach, grant writing, and land acquisition services; and

WHEREAS, the City requested Statements of Qualifications for these services and Berk Consulting, Inc. submitted and was deemed qualified by the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it in the public interest to authorize the Mayor to execute the proposed Agreement for On-Call Consulting Services in substantially the form that is attached to this Resolution as **Exhibit “1”**;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RUSTON,
WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Agreement Authorized. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement for Consultant Services between the City of Ruston and Berk Consulting, Inc. in substantially the form attached to this Resolution as Exhibit “1” provided that Berk Consulting, Inc. has first accepted and executed the Amendment.

RESOLVED this 15th day of April, 2025.

APPROVED:

Bruce Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Mario Ortega, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: _____

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: _____

RESOLUTION NO.: 808

EXHIBIT “1”

ON-CALL CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF RUSTON AND BERK CONSULTING, INC.**

THIS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT is entered into by and between the City of Ruston, Washington, a municipal corporation (“City”) and BERK Consulting, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Washington, located and doing business at 2200 6th Ave, Suite 1000, Seattle, WA, 98121-1896 (hereinafter the “Consultant”).

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the City desires to have on-call park planning, public outreach, grant writing, and land acquisition services performed; and

WHEREAS, the City has selected the Consultant to perform such services pursuant to certain terms and conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City issued a request for Statement of Qualifications and finds that the Consultant is qualified to do the work;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual benefits and conditions set forth below, the Parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT:

1. Scope of Services to be Performed by Consultant.

The Consultant shall perform the work as assigned by the City, which may include the services described in Exhibit “A” of this Agreement which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference as if set forth in full. Additional work may be assigned by the City, however, this Agreement does not obligate the City to assign any specific work or any work to the Consultant and the City reserves the right to assign work to other consultants. In performing the services, the Consultant shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations applicable to the services. The Consultant shall perform the services diligently and completely and in accordance with professional standards of conduct and performance.

2. Compensation and Method of Payment.

The City shall pay the Consultant for services rendered according to the rates set forth in Exhibit “B”. The City shall pay the Consultant for services rendered within ten (10) days after City Council voucher approval. However, if the City objects to all or any portion of an invoice, it shall notify Consultant and reserves the option to only pay that portion of the invoice not in dispute. In that event, the Parties will immediately make every effort to settle the disputed portion.

3. Duration of Agreement. This Agreement shall be in full force and effect for a period commencing on the date the last Party executes this Agreement and ending December 31, 2028 unless sooner terminated under the provisions of this Agreement or extended by mutual

agreement of the Parties. Time is of the essence of this Agreement in each and all of its provisions in which performance is required.

4. Ownership and Use of Documents.

A. *Ownership.* Any records, files, documents, drawings, specifications, data, or information, regardless of form or format, and all other materials produced by the Consultant in connection with the services provided to the City, shall be the property of the City whether the project for which they were created is executed or not.

B. *Records preservation.* Consultant understands that this Agreement is with a government agency and thus all records created or used in the course of Consultant's work for the City are considered "public records" and may be subject to disclosure by the City under the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW ("the Act"). Consultant agrees to safeguard and preserve records in accordance with the Act. The City may be required, upon request, to disclose the Agreement, and the documents and records submitted to the City by Consultant, unless an exemption under the Public Records Act applies. If the City receives a public records request and asks Consultant to search its files for responsive records, Consultant agrees to make a prompt and thorough search through its files for responsive records and to promptly turn over any responsive records to the City's public records officer at no cost to the City.

5. Independent Consultant. The Parties intend that an independent contractor-client relationship will be created by this Agreement. As the Consultant is customarily engaged in an independently established trade which encompasses the specific service provided to the City hereunder, no agent, employee, representative or sub-consultant of the Consultant shall be or shall be deemed to be the employee, agent, representative or sub-consultant of the City. In the performance of the work, the Consultant is an independent contractor with the ability to control and direct the performance and details of the work, the City being interested only in the results obtained under this Agreement. None of the benefits provided by the City to its employees, including, but not limited to, compensation, insurance, and unemployment insurance are available from the City to the employees, agents, representatives, or sub-consultants of the Consultant. The City shall not be responsible for withholding or otherwise deducting federal income tax or social security or contributing to the State Industrial Insurance Program, or otherwise assuming the duties of an employer with respect to the Consultant, or any employee of the Consultant. The Consultant will be solely and entirely responsible for its acts and for the acts of its agents, employees, representatives, and sub-consultants during the performance of this Agreement. The City may, during the term of this Agreement, engage other independent contractors to perform the same or similar work that the Consultant performs hereunder.

6. Indemnification. Consultant shall defend, indemnify, and hold the City, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers harmless from any and all claims, injuries, damages, losses or suits including attorneys' fees, arising out of or resulting from acts of negligence or willful misconduct, errors or omissions of the Consultant in performance of this Agreement, except for injuries and damages caused by the sole negligence of the City.

Should a court of competent jurisdiction determine that this Agreement is subject to RCW 4.24.115, then, in the event of liability for damages arising out of bodily injury to persons or damages to property caused by or resulting from the concurrent negligence of the Consultant and the City, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers, the Consultant's liability, including the duty and cost to defend, hereunder shall be only to the extent of the Consultant's negligence.

It is further specifically and expressly understood that the indemnification provided herein constitutes the Consultant's waiver of immunity under Industrial Insurance, Title 51 RCW, solely for the purposes of this indemnification. This waiver has been mutually negotiated by the Parties.

The provisions of this section shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

7. Insurance. The Consultant shall procure and maintain for the duration of the Agreement, insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damage to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by the Consultant, its agents, representatives, or employees.

A. *Minimum Scope of Insurance.* Consultant shall obtain insurance of the types described below:

- i. Automobile Liability insurance covering all ~~owned~~, non-owned, hired and leased vehicles. Coverage shall be written on Insurance Services Office (ISO) form CA 00 01 or a substitute form providing equivalent liability coverage. If necessary, the policy shall be endorsed to provide contractual liability coverage.
- ii. Workers' Compensation coverage as required by the Industrial Insurance laws of the State of Washington.
- iii. Professional Liability insurance appropriate to the Consultant's profession.

B. *Minimum Amounts of Insurance.* Consultant shall maintain the following insurance limits:

- i. Automobile Liability insurance with a minimum combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage of \$1,000,000 per accident.
- ii. Commercial General Liability insurance shall be written with limits no less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence, \$2,000,000 general aggregate.
- iii. Professional Liability insurance shall be written with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per claim and \$1,000,000 policy aggregate limit.

C. *Other Insurance Provision.* The Consultant's Automobile Liability and

Commercial General Liability insurance policies are to contain, or be endorsed to contain, that they shall be primary insurance as respect the City. Any Insurance, self-insurance, or insurance pool coverage maintained by the City shall be excess of the Consultant's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

D. *Acceptability of Insurers.* Insurance is to be placed with insurers with a current A.M. Best rating of not less than A-VII.

E. *Verification of Coverage.* The Consultant shall furnish the City with original certificates and a copy of the amendatory endorsements, including but not necessarily limited to the additional insured endorsement, evidencing the insurance requirements of the Consultant before commencement of the work.

F. *Notice of Cancellation.* The Consultant shall provide the City with written notice of any policy cancellation, within two business days of their receipt of such notice.

G. *Failure to Maintain Insurance.* Failure on the part of the Consultant to maintain the insurance as required shall constitute a material breach of contract, upon which the City may, after giving five business days' notice to the Consultant to correct the breach, immediately terminate the contract or, at its discretion, procure or renew such insurance and pay any and all premiums in connection therewith, with any sums so expended to be repaid to the City on demand, or at the sole discretion of the City, offset against funds due the Consultant from the City.

H. *No Limitation.* Consultant's maintenance of insurance as required by the agreement shall not be construed to limit the liability of the Consultant to the coverage provided by such insurance, or otherwise limit the City's recourse to any remedy available at law or in equity.

8. Record Keeping and Reporting.

A. The Consultant shall maintain accounts and records, including personnel, property, financial, and programmatic records, which sufficiently and properly reflect all direct and indirect costs of any nature expended and services performed pursuant to this Agreement. The Consultant shall also maintain such other records as may be deemed necessary by the City to ensure proper accounting of all funds contributed by the City to the performance of this Agreement.

B. The foregoing records shall be maintained for a period of seven (7) years after termination of this Agreement unless permission to destroy them is granted by the Office of the Archivist in accordance with Chapter 40.14 RCW and by the City.

9. City's Right of Inspection and Audit.

A. Even though the Consultant is an independent contractor with the authority to control and direct the performance and details of the work authorized under this Agreement, the work must meet the approval of the City and shall be subject to the City's general right of inspection to secure the satisfactory completion thereof. The Consultant agrees to comply with all federal, state, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations that are now effective or become applicable within the terms of this Agreement to the Consultant's business, equipment, and personnel engaged in operations covered by this Agreement or accruing out of the performance of such operations.

B. The records and documents with respect to all matters covered by this Agreement shall be subject at all times to inspection, review or audit by the City during the performance of this Agreement. All work products, data, studies, worksheets, models, reports, and other materials in support of the performance of the service, work products, or outcomes fulfilling the contractual obligations are the products of the City.

10. Consultant to Maintain Records to Support Independent Contractor Status. On the effective date of this Agreement (or shortly thereafter), the Consultant shall comply with all federal and state laws applicable to independent contractors including, but not limited to the maintenance of a separate set of books and records that reflect all items of income and expenses of the Consultant's business, pursuant to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Section 51.08.195, as required to show that the services performed by the Consultant under this Agreement shall not give rise to an employer-employee relationship between the Parties which is subject to RCW Title 51, Industrial Insurance.

11. Work Performed at the Consultant's Risk. The Consultant shall take all precautions necessary and shall be responsible for the safety of its employees, agents, and sub-consultants in the performance of the work hereunder and shall utilize all protection necessary for that purpose. All work shall be done at the Consultant's own risk, and the Consultant shall be responsible for any loss of or damage to materials, tools, or other articles used or held by the Consultant for use in connection with the work.

12. Termination.

A. The City reserves the right to terminate or suspend this Agreement at any time, with or without cause, upon seven (7) days' prior written notice. In the event of termination or suspension, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, worksheets, models, reports, or other materials prepared by the Consultant pursuant to this Agreement shall promptly be submitted to the City.

B. In the event this Agreement is terminated or suspended, the Consultant shall be entitled to payment for all services performed and reimbursable expenses incurred to the

date of termination.

C. This Agreement may be canceled immediately if the Consultant's insurance coverage is canceled for any reason, or if the Consultant is unable to perform the services called for by this Agreement.

D. The Consultant reserves the right to terminate this Agreement with not less than fourteen (14) days written notice, or in the event that outstanding invoices are not paid within sixty (60) days.

E. This provision shall not prevent the City from seeking any legal remedies it may otherwise have for the violation or nonperformance of any provisions of this Agreement.

13. Force Majeure. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, any prevention, delay or stoppage due to strikes, lockouts, labor disputes, acts of God, acts of war, terrorist acts, inability to obtain services, labor, or materials or reasonable substitutes therefor, governmental actions, governmental laws, regulations or restrictions, civil commotions, Casualty, actual or threatened public health emergency (including, without limitation, epidemic, pandemic, famine, disease, plague, quarantine, and other significant public health risk), governmental edicts, actions, declarations or quarantines by a governmental entity or health organization, breaches in cybersecurity, and other causes beyond the reasonable control of the Party obligated to perform, regardless of whether such other causes are (i) foreseeable or unforeseeable or (ii) related to the specifically enumerated events in this paragraph (collectively, a "**Force Majeure**"), shall excuse the performance of such Party for a period equal to any such prevention, delay or stoppage. To the extent this Agreement specifies a time period for performance of an obligation of either Party, that time period shall be extended by the period of any delay in such Party's performance caused by a Force Majeure. Provided however, that the current COVID-19 pandemic shall not be considered a Force Majeure unless constraints on a Party's performance that result from the pandemic become substantially more onerous after the effective date of this Agreement. In order to claim Force Majeure, the Party claiming must provide notice to the other Party within fourteen (14) days of the event which constitutes Force Majeure, or such claim shall be waived for any period in which notice was due.

14. Discrimination Prohibited. The Consultant shall not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, or any person seeking the services of the Consultant under this Agreement, on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, marital status, presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or other circumstance prohibited by federal, State or local law or ordinance, except for a bona fide occupational qualification.

15. Assignment and Subcontract. The Consultant shall not assign or subcontract any portion of the services contemplated by this Agreement without the prior written consent of the City. Any assignment made without the prior approval of the City is void.

16. Conflict of Interest. The Consultant represents to the City that it has no conflict of

interest in performing any of the services set forth in Exhibit “A.” In the event that the Consultant is asked to perform services for a project with which it may have a conflict, Consultant will immediately disclose such conflict to the City.

17. Confidentiality. All information regarding the City obtained by the Consultant in performance of this Agreement shall be considered confidential. Breach of confidentiality by the Consultant shall be grounds for immediate termination.

18. Non-Appropriation of Funds. If sufficient funds are not appropriated or allocated for payment under this Agreement for any future fiscal period, the City will so notify the Consultant and shall not be obligated to make payments for services or amounts incurred after the end of the current fiscal period. This Agreement will terminate upon the completion of all remaining services for which funds are allocated. No penalty or expense shall accrue to the City in the event that the terms of the provision are effectuated.

19. Employment of State Retirees. The City is a “DRS-covered employer” which is an organization that employs one or more members of any retirement system administered by the Washington State Department of Retirement Systems (DRS). Pursuant to RCW 41.50.139(1) and WAC 415-02-325(1), the City is required to elicit on a written form if any of the Consultant’s employees providing services to the City retired using the 2008 Early Retirement Factors (ERFs), or if the Consultant is owned by an individual who retired using the 2008 ERFs, and whether the nature of the service and compensation would result in a retirement benefit being suspended. Failure to make this determination exposes the City to significant liability for pension overpayments. As a result, before commencing work under this Agreement, Consultant shall determine whether any of its employees providing services to the City or any of the Consultant’s owners retired using the 2008 ERFs, and shall immediately notify the City and shall promptly complete the form provided by the City after this notification is made. This notification to DRS could impact the payment of retirement benefits to employees and owners of Consultant. Consultant shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City from any and all claims, damages, or other liability, including attorneys’ fees and costs, relating to a claim by DRS of a pension overpayment caused by or resulting from Consultant’s failure to comply with the terms of this provision. This provision shall survive termination of this Agreement.

20. Entire Agreement. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties, and no other agreements, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of this Agreement shall be deemed to exist or bind either of the Parties. If there is a conflict between the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the attached exhibit, then the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall prevail over the exhibit. Either Party may request changes to the Agreement. Changes which are mutually agreed upon shall be incorporated by written amendments to this Agreement.

21. Notices. All notices or other communications required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be (a) personally delivered, in which case the notice or communication shall be deemed given on the date of receipt at the office of the addressee; (b) sent by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, in which case the notice or

communication shall be deemed given three (3) business days after the date of deposit in the United States mail; or (c) sent by overnight delivery using a nationally recognized overnight courier service, in which case the notice or communication shall be deemed given one business day after the date of deposit with such courier. In addition, all notices shall also be emailed, however, email does not substitute for an official notice. Notices shall be sent to the following addresses:

Notices to the City of Ruston shall be sent to the following address:

City Clerk
City of Ruston
5219 N. Shirley St
Ruston WA 98407
townclerk@rustonwa.org

Notices to the Consultant shall be sent to the following address:

Lisa Grueter, AICP
BERK Consulting, Inc.
2200 Sixth Avenue #1000
Seattle WA 98121
lisa@berkconsulting.com

22. Applicable Law; Venue; Attorneys' Fees. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington. In the event any suit, arbitration or other proceeding is instituted to enforce any term of this Agreement, the Parties specifically understand and agree that venue shall be exclusively in Pierce County, Washington. The prevailing party in any such action shall be entitled to its attorneys' fees and costs of suit, which shall be fixed by the judge hearing the case and such fee shall be included in the judgment.

23. Compliance with Laws. The Consultant agrees to comply with all federal, state, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations that are now effective or in the future become applicable to Consultant's business, equipment, and personnel engaged in operations covered by this Agreement or accruing out of the performance of those operations.

24. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original, and all of which will together constitute this one Agreement.

25. Severability. Any provision or part of this Agreement held to be void or unenforceable under any law or regulation shall be deemed stricken and all remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and binding upon the City and the Consultant, who agree that the Agreement shall be reformed to replace such stricken provision or part with a valid and enforceable provision that comes as close as reasonably possible to expressing the intent of the stricken provision.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City and the Consultant have executed this Agreement as of the dates listed below.

CITY OF RUSTON

CONSULTANT

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

ATTEST

Mario Ortega, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Jennifer S. Robertson, City Attorney

EXHIBIT A

Scope of Work:

Park Planning:

- Development of long-range parks and open space plans for small cities that meet the requirements of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).
- Assessing parks and recreation needs and priorities.
- Experience in urban planning, recreation programming, and trail development.
- Preparing conceptual designs and feasibility studies for park projects.
- Assisting in the preparation of capital improvement plans related to parks and recreation facilities.

Public Outreach:

- Designing and implementing meaningful public outreach efforts, including surveys, town hall meetings, focus groups, and online engagement strategies.
- Engaging with residents, stakeholders, and underrepresented groups to gather input and build community consensus.
- Summarizing and presenting findings to the City Council, Mayor, and other stakeholders.

Grant Writing:

- Identifying and securing grant funding opportunities from federal, state, and private sources. Experience with Washington State RCO grants and Traffic Improvement Board (TIB) grants desired.
- Preparing comprehensive grant applications, including budgets, narratives, and supporting documentation.
- Providing post-award support, such as reporting and compliance assistance.

Land Acquisition:

- Evaluating and identifying opportunities for land acquisition to expand park and open space resources.
- Assisting with negotiations, appraisals, and environmental reviews.
- Preparing necessary documentation to facilitate land acquisitions.

EXHIBIT B
Rates of Service

See attached rate sheet. Note: Rates may only be updated once per year starting in 2026 and may not increase more than 4% per year, or CPI-U, whichever is lower.

BERK Consulting, Inc.
STANDARD BILLING RATES - 2025

Allegra Calder	Principal	\$260.00
Lisa Grueter	Principal	\$260.00
Brian Murphy	Principal	\$260.00
Kevin Ramsey	Associate Principal II	\$215.00
Ferdouse Oneza	Associate Principal II	\$215.00
Dawn Couch	Associate Principal I	\$210.00
Kevin Gifford	Associate Principal I	\$210.00
Casey Bradfield	Senior Associate III	\$195.00
Madalina Calen	Senior Associate III	\$195.00
Jessica Hartmann	Senior Associate III	\$195.00
Ben Han	Senior Associate III	\$195.00
Katherine Goetz	Senior Associate II	\$190.00
Ann Mueller	Senior Associate II	\$190.00
Taskina Tareen	Senior Associate II	\$190.00
Julia Tesch	Senior Associate II	\$190.00
Stefanie Hindmarch	Senior Associate I	\$180.00
Josh Linden	Senior Associate I	\$180.00
Michele Eakins-TeSelle	Senior Associate I	\$180.00
Veronica Ruiz	Senior Associate I	\$180.00
Madison Immel	Senior Associate I	\$180.00
Ana Costa	Associate III	\$160.00
Kamal Raslan	Associate III	\$160.00
Isa Hirata	Associate III	\$160.00
Michelle Ellsworth	Associate III	\$160.00
Patricia Taylor	Associate II	\$150.00
Oliver Hirn	Associate II	\$150.00
Ariel Hsieh	Associate II	\$150.00
Casey Price	Associate I	\$135.00
Stella Streufert	Associate I	\$135.00

Direct non-salary costs:

Mileage	\$0.70	per mile
Prints - B/W	\$0.20	per page
Prints - Color	\$0.50	per page
Prints - Large Format (34"x44")	Direct charges	
Printing - Small Format (22"x44")	Direct charges	
Parking	Direct charges	
Postage	Direct charges	
Courier services	Direct charges	
External printing	Direct charges	
Misc. items pertaining to the project	Direct charges	