CITY OF RINGGOLD
STATE OF GEORGIA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 0928

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RINGGOLD, GEORGIA BY AMENDING CHAPTER 50 CAPTIONED "PARKS AND RECREATION" BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE III CAPTIONED "RULES OF CONDUCT FOR PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES"; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the duly elected governing authority of the City of Ringgold, Georgia is authorized under Article IX, Section II, Paragraph III of the Constitution of the State of Georgia to adopt reasonable ordinances to protect and improve the public health, safety, welfare, and aesthetics of the citizens of the City of Ringgold, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the duly elected governing authority of the City of Ringgold, Georgia is the Mayor and Council thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF RINGGOLD, GEORGIA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1.

The Code of Ordinances of the City of Ringgold, Georgia is hereby amended by amending Chapter 50 captioned "Parks and Recreation" by the addition of a new Article III captioned "Rules of Conduct for Parks and Recreational Facilities" which shall read as follows:

Secs. 50-36—50-60. - Reserved.

ARTICLE III. - RULES OF CONDUCT FOR PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Sec. 50-61. - Purpose. The purpose of this article is to promote the safe and enjoyable use of parks, recreational facilities, trails, playgrounds, athletic fields, pickleball courts, tennis courts, parking areas, and other recreational property owned, leased, or operated by the City of Ringgold; to protect city property; and to prevent conduct that interferes with the public's use and enjoyment of such facilities. This article is adopted pursuant to the city's authority to regulate public improvements, protect municipal property, prevent loitering and public disturbances, abate nuisances, and promote the public health, safety, and welfare.

Sec. 50-62. - Applicability. The provisions of this article shall apply to all city parks, recreation centers, athletic facilities, courts, trails, playgrounds, parking lots,

open spaces, and other recreational properties owned, maintained, leased, or operated by the city.

Sec. 50-63. - Compliance with Posted Rules. No person shall violate any rule, regulation, restriction, or operating requirement posted by the city for the use of any park or recreational facility.

Sec. 50-64. - Disturbance of Recreational Activities. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in conduct that substantially interferes with another person's lawful use and enjoyment of a park or recreational facility. Prohibited conduct includes:

1. Threatening, intimidating, or harassing patrons;
2. Using abusive, profane, or vulgar language directed toward another person;
3. Creating a disturbance that disrupts athletic, recreational, or community activities; or
4. Intentionally interfering with the use of recreational facilities by others.

Sec. 50-65. - Excessive Noise. No person shall create, cause, or permit any noise within a park or recreational facility, including any parking area associated therewith, in violation of Chapter 38 (Environment), Noise Control Article, of the Code of Ordinances. Any conduct constituting a violation of Chapter 38 shall likewise constitute a violation of this chapter when occurring within or upon city recreational property. Examples include:

1. Playing amplified music at an excessive volume;
2. Repeated yelling, shouting, or other loud vocal disturbances;
3. Sound amplification devices used without authorization; and
4. Other unnecessary noises that unreasonably disturb patrons.

Sec. 50-66. - Vehicle Noise and Exhibition of Power. No person shall operate a motor vehicle within or upon any city recreational property in a manner that violates Chapter 38 (Environment), Noise Control Article, of the Code of Ordinances, or that constitutes an exhibition of power. Prohibited conduct includes:

1. Unnecessary revving of engines;
2. Tire squealing;
3. Burnouts;
4. Racing or exhibition of speed;
5. Sudden acceleration intended to create noise; or
6. Operation of a vehicle in a manner that disturbs patrons or recreational activities.

Sec. 50-67. - Loitering.

(a) For purposes of this section, "loitering" means remaining idle in essentially one location, lingering, hanging around, or congregating without an apparent recreational, business, or other lawful purpose.

(b) No person shall loiter in a park, recreational facility, or associated parking area in a manner that:

i. Obstructs pedestrian or vehicular traffic;
ii. Harasses or intimidates patrons;
iii. Creates a reasonable concern for the safety of persons or property;
iv. Disturbs the comfort and repose of others lawfully using the facility; or
v. Interferes with the operation of the facility.

(c) A police officer, park employee, recreation employee, or other authorized city representative may direct any person violating this section to leave the property. Any person who refuses to comply with such lawful directive shall be in violation of this article.

Sec. 50-68. - Park Hours.

(a) Parks, athletic facilities, courts, trails, playgrounds, and associated parking areas shall be open only during posted operating hours.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to remain on city recreational property outside of posted operating hours unless:

i. Participating in an authorized event;
ii. Performing official duties;
iii. Authorized by the city; or
iv. Otherwise permitted by law.

Sec. 50-69. - Damage to City Property. No person shall damage, deface, misuse, destroy, or interfere with any city recreational facility, building, equipment, structure, sign, fence, landscape feature, court, parking lot, or other city property.

Sec. 50-70. - Compliance with Lawful Orders. No person shall refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of a police officer, recreation employee, facility supervisor, or authorized city representative acting within the scope of official duties for the enforcement of this article.

Sec. 50-71. - Administrative Rules. The City Manager may establish administrative rules governing the operation and use of recreational facilities, including:

1. Facility hours;
2. Court reservations;
3. Parking regulations;
4. Spectator conduct;
5. Facility capacity limits;
6. Event regulations; and
7. Other operational matters necessary to protect public safety and recreational opportunities.

Sec. 50-72. - Penalty. Any person violating this article shall be punished in accordance with Section 1-11 of the Code of Ordinances.

Section 2.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

Section 3.

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Ringgold that the section, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of this Ordinance.

Section 4.

The adoption date of this Ordinance shall be September 28, 2026. The effective date of this Ordinance shall be September 28, 2026.

SO ORDAINED, this 28th day of September, 2026.

CITY OF RINGGOLD, GEORGIA

KELLY BOMAR, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK