

**Columbus Consolidated Government  
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Councilors
<b>AGENDA SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Change in Closing Times for Certain City Parks</b>
<b>AGENDA SUMMARY:</b>	Approval is requested to temporarily change the hours for Carver Park, Cooper Creek Park, Flat Rock Park, Heath Park, Manchester Park, and Ride, and Rigdon Park, for six months on a trial basis and amend the ordinance if the council decides to change the hours permanently.
<b>INITIATED BY:</b>	<b>Parks and Recreation</b>

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**Recommendation:** Approval is requested to temporarily change the hours for Carver Park, Cooper Creek Park, Flat Rock Park, Heath Park, Manchester Park, and Ride, and Rigdon Park for six months on a trial basis and amend the ordinance if the council decides to change the hours permanently.

**Background:** Normal park hours are currently 5 AM to 11 PM in all City parks;

**Analysis:**

Current operating hours:

Cooper Creek, Flat Rock, Heath Park, Manchester Park and Ride 6 AM to 9 PM.

Carver Park is currently open Monday through Friday 7 AM -7 PM closed Saturday and Sunday. Carver Recreation Center is currently open Monday through Friday 11 AM- 7 PM.

Rigdon Park and Shirley Winston Park Monday through Sunday 6 AM – 11 PM.

Due to ongoing issues in certain parks, hours are requested to be changed as follows effective October 22, 2024:

Carver Park, Cooper Creek Park, Flatrock Park, Heath Park, Manchester Park and Ride, Rigdon Park, and Shirley Winston Park: Monday through Friday 6 AM to 6 PM.

\*Scheduled Parks and Recreation events and activities can be held outside of the above scheduled hours with prior approval from the Parks and Recreation Department.

**Financial Considerations:** This will be at no cost to the City;

**Legal Considerations:** City Council must approve these park closing changes;

**Recommendation/Action:** Authorize approval to temporarily change hours for outlined parks for 6 months on a trial basis and amend the ordinance if council decide to change the hours permanently’

This order shall not apply to organized activities conducted under the supervision of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

This order shall remain in effect until April 24, 2025, unless it is earlier rescinded by action of the City Manager.

Upon expiration of this order, the hours shall return to those provided by Columbus Code Sections 4-2 and 4-41.1 This order is extended by the City Manager, or Council chooses to revise the ordinance pertaining to Park and playground operation.

## **A RESOLUTION**

**NO.**

### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO CHANGE PARK HOURS.**

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 21-057 gives the City Manager, in consultation with the Chief of Police or the Department of Public Health, the authority to change the hours of any public park or playground when warranted by public safety or public health concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, complaints concerning events that are disruptive to the peace of the neighborhoods and threatening to the public safety of our citizens are being reported after dark in various parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to test a shortening of park and playground hours in certain parks and playgrounds for a period of six months before considering a permanent revision to the closing times in those parks.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter an administrative order in the form attached.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ October 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Thomas voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

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Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

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B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 21-057 gives the City Manager, in consultation with the Chief of Police or the Department of Public Health, the authority to change the hours of any public park or playground when warranted by public safety or public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, complaints concerning events that are disruptive to the peace of the neighborhoods and threatening to the public safety of our citizens are being reported after dark in various parks; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to test a shortening of park and playground hours before considering a revision to the closing times for certain parks and playgrounds by ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Effective October 22, 2024, the following parks operated by the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department: Cooper Creek Park, Flatrock Park, Heath Park, Manchester Park and Ride, Rigdon Park, and Shirley Winston Park will be closed to the public from 6 PM to 6 AM. Carver Park will be closed to the public Monday through Friday 6 PM- 6 AM and closed Saturday and Sunday.
2. This order shall not apply to organized activities conducted under the supervision of the Department of Parks and Recreation.
3. This order shall remain in effect until April 10, 2025, unless it is earlier rescinded by action of the City Manager.
4. Upon expiration of this order, the hours shall return to those provided by Columbus Code Sections 4-2 and 4-41.1 this order is extended by the City Manager, or Council chooses to revise the ordinance pertaining to Park and playground operation.

SO ORDERED this \_\_\_\_ day of October 2024:

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Isaiah Hugley, City Manager