

WALTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
AN ORDINANCE
BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF WALTON COUNTY

An Ordinance to amend the Code of Walton County, Georgia, by amending Chapter 34, Article III, Section 34-33 regarding the rules for the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Walton County, Georgia (the “Board”), is authorized by law to adopt ordinances for the general health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Walton County;

WHEREAS, the Board finds it to be in the public interest to formally adopt and incorporate the rules and regulations governing the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir into the Code of Ordinances;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WALTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, as follows:

1.

The Code of Walton County, Georgia is hereby amended by deleting Chapter 34, Article III, Sections 34-33, 34-34, 34-35, and 34-34 of the Code of Walton County, Georgia in their entirety and replacing those sections with the attached Exhibit "A", which is incorporated herein by reference.

2.

Except as specified above, all remaining portions of the Code of Walton County, Georgia shall continue in full force and effect and shall remain unaffected by this Amendment.

3.

It is the express intent of the Walton County Board of Commissioners that this Amendment be consistent with both federal and state law. If any provision of this Amendment or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

4.

All Ordinances and provisions of the Code of Walton County, Georgia which conflict with any part of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

5.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

SO ORDAINED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

David Thompson, Chairman
Walton County Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____
Rhonda Hawk, County Clerk
Walton County, Georgia

[COUNTY SEAL]

EXHIBIT "A"
Chapter 34 – Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions
Article III – Hard Labor Creek Reservoir

Sec. 34-33. - Public access and fishing regulations.

The Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Public Access and Fishing Regulations established by the Walton County Water and Sewerage Authority and Walton County are:

- (1) The possession or consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, or any controlled substance is strictly prohibited.
- (2) All boats or watercraft used on the Reservoir shall be powered by electric motors or paddles only, and shall be equipped with flotation vests for each occupant.
- (3) Sailboats, jet skis/ personal watercraft, inner tubes, paddle boards, and inflatable rafts are prohibited.
- (4) No boat with a gasoline/internal combustion engine is permitted on the reservoir (unless in use by authorized personnel).
- (5) All individuals that are fishing must comply with the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources fishing rules and regulations, daily limits, length limits, creel limits, safety, licenses, etc.
- (6) The use of a set hook, trotline, cast net, seine or fish basket is prohibited.
- (7) Public access to the reservoir shall be made only at the entrance gate and public access area located on Social Circle-Fairplay Road. Private landowners immediately adjacent to the reservoir may access the reservoir from their property, provided such access does not impact the reservoir buffer.
- (8) Those individuals who elect to fish from the bank within the Public Recreation Area must fish from within the "marked" boundaries, identified with "NO FISHING BEYOND THIS POINT" signs.
- (9) Wading, swimming, or bathing is prohibited.
- (10) The use of trail bikes, 4-wheelers, minibikes, go karts, and motorcycles not equipped for street use is prohibited on Authority property.
- (11) Operation or use of any audio or noise producing device, motorized equipment, or vehicles in such a manner to unreasonably annoy or endanger other persons is prohibited.
- (12) Individuals shall not discharge any waste matter on the site and shall keep their trash and litter self-contained and disposed of properly.
- (13) No glass or Styrofoam containers are permitted on Reservoir property.
- (14) Firearms are regulated in accordance with state law. Fireworks or Explosives of any kind are prohibited.
- (15) All hunting and trapping, including waterfowl hunting from or directly over the waters of the reservoir, is prohibited unless conducted under the direct supervision of Georgia DNR
- (16) Destruction, injury, defacement, or removal of Reservoir property is prohibited.

- (17) Individuals may be required to show proper identification and licenses upon request by an authorized representative of the Authority, Walton County, and/or the Department of Natural Resources.
- (18) Once boaters cast off from the recreation area, they are to remain inside their boats except in emergency situations.
- (19) All pets must be restrained by owners (leash law enforced in area).
- (20) All persons under age 16 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult over the age of 21.
- (21) Failure to abide by the regulations will result in expulsion from the recreation area, arrest and/or fines. Your cooperation in abiding by the above regulations will assist us in providing a safe, enjoyable recreational environment, while protecting our valuable water resources.

(Ord. of 10-2-18(2), § 1)

Sec. 34-34. - Boat ramp parking rules and fees.

The Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Boat Ramp Parking Rules and Fees established by the Walton County Water and Sewerage Authority and Walton County are:

- (1) Walton County requires all vehicles parking in the boat ramp area to obtain an Annual Parking Permit or a Daily Parking Pass. Vehicles without a permit/pass are subject to a fine and towing at owner's expense.
- (2) Walton County reserves the right to close the boat ramp area without notice, but will attempt to notify the public when possible.
- (3) Permits are effective yearly from January 1 to December 31.
- (4) Transfer - Permits are not transferable and must be permanently affixed to the rear windshield glass of the automobile. Any transfer of the permit will result in a revocation. Sticker CANNOT be taped to windshield glass or placed on paper or transparencies.
- (5) Replacement - If you should trade or sell your vehicle, OR have your rear windshield replaced, you must SCRAPE the permit from the windshield and return it with your receipt and new car registration.
- (6) Permits that are stolen or lost will not be reissued.

(Ord. of 10-2-18(2), § 1)

Sec. 34-35. - Enforcement.

In addition to the Walton County Sheriff's Office, the Walton County Water Department, the Walton County Planning and Development Department, and the Law Enforcement Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and their duly authorized agents, shall have full authority to administer and enforce the provisions of this article, to perform all functions necessary to administer and enforce this article, to issue citations to violators of this article, and to summon violators of this article to appear before the Magistrate Court of Walton County, Georgia.

(Ord. of 10-2-18(2), § 1; Ord. of 2-5-19, § 1)

Sec. 34-36. - Penalty.

Any person failing to comply with the mandatory provisions of this article or doing any act prohibited by this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction in the Magistrate Court of Walton County, Georgia, shall be punished as provided in section 1-12.

(Ord. of 10-2-18(2), § 1)