

RIVER PLANTATION MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

**Order Adopting Rules and Regulations for District Parks, Recreational Areas
and District Property, Facilities, Easements and Rights-of-Way**

On March 28, 2024, the Board of Directors (“Board”) of River Plantation Municipal Utility District (“District”) met at its regular meeting place, with a quorum of directors present, as follows:

Julie Gilmer, President
Timothy Goodman, Vice President
Betty Brown, Secretary
Karl Sakocius, Assistant Secretary
Thomas Vandever, Treasurer

and the following were absent:

None

when the following business was transacted:

The order set out below was introduced for the Board’s consideration. It was duly moved and seconded that said order be adopted, and after due discussion, said motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: All directors present

Noes: None

The order thus adopted is as follows:

The order hereinafter set forth shall become effective on March 28, 2024.

RIVER PLANTATION MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
DISTRICT PARKS, LAKES, RECREATIONAL AREAS AND
DISTRICT PROPERTY, FACILITIES, EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY

MISSION STATEMENT

In pursuit of an enhanced quality of life through a greater opportunity for recreational activity, River Plantation Municipal Utility District seeks to develop and maintain versatile parks and recreational facilities for its residents and further seeks to preserve the health and well-being of its residents.

RULES

Section 1: **AUTHORITY.** These rules and regulations (“Rules”) have been adopted under the authority of Section 54.205 of the Texas Water Code and previous orders of the Board of Directors of River Plantation Municipal Utility District.

Section 2: **ADMINISTRATION.** The Board of Directors of River Plantation Municipal Utility District, along with the Montgomery County Sheriff, the Montgomery County Precinct 2 Constable and their respective deputies, shall enforce these Rules.

Section 3: **AREA COVERED.** These Rules apply to all existing and future parks and recreational facilities of the District, including the property comprising the former Charleston course, and related areas developed and maintained pursuant to the Texas Water Code, together with such additional land as may be designated as parks and recreational facilities by the District, and to all District property, facilities, easements and rights-of-way.

Section 4: **DEFINITIONS.** As used in these Rules:

- a. “Alcoholic Beverage” means any beverage containing more than one-half of one percent (.5%) of alcohol by volume, which is suitable for use as a beverage, either alone or diluted;
- b. “Board” means the Board of Directors of River Plantation Municipal Utility District;
- c. “Cart Paths” means the asphalt or concrete paths approximately five feet in width within the Recreational Facilities and constructed for the purpose of the operation of a Golf Cart.
- d. “County” means Montgomery County, Texas;
- e. “District” means River Plantation Municipal Utility District;
- f. “District Property” means any water plant site, wastewater treatment plant site, lift station site, detention pond, drainage facility, easement or right-of-way owned or used by the District in performing its responsibilities as a Texas municipal utility district, including facilities and improvements located thereon;

g. “Explosives” means any chemical compound or mixture that is commonly used or intended for the purpose of producing an explosion;

h. “Golf Cart” means a small motorized vehicle designed for the purpose of transporting golfers and their golf equipment with a dry weight of less than 1,000 pounds.

i. “Parks” means all existing and future park and recreational facilities of the District, including the property comprising the former Charleston course, and related areas and developed and maintained pursuant to the Texas Water Code, together with such additional land as may be designated as parks and recreational facilities by the District;

j. “Peace Officers” means sheriffs and their deputies, constables and deputy constables, and all other peace officers as defined in Article 2.12 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended;

k. “Pet” means a domesticated animal kept for pleasure rather than utility;

l. “Recreational Areas” means any Parks or other areas, whether within or outside the District’s boundaries, that have been designated by the District for recreational use by residents of the District and the public;

m. “Road” means any road maintained or controlled by the County or other entity for the public passage of vehicles;

n. “Special Event” means an organized activity intended for more than twenty five (25) persons to share a common purpose as a group;

o. “Vehicle” means every motor-driven device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may transported or drawn upon a road except devices moved by human power;

p. “Weapon” means a rifle, handgun, pistol, bow and arrow, shotgun, gas gun or gas pistol, BB gun or BB pistol, pellet gun or pellet pistol, sling or sling shot; and

q. “Wildlife” means living things that are neither human nor domesticated.

Section 5: HOURS OPEN. Unless otherwise posted, the Recreational Areas shall be open from sunrise to sundown. No person shall enter into or remain within the Recreational Areas at any other time without prior written approval of the Board.

Section 6: MOTORIZED VEHICLES AND GOLF CARTS.

a. No person shall operate a Vehicle, other than a Golf Cart in the manner permitted herein, within the Recreational Areas or District Property except on any Road or associated parking lots. Operation of a Vehicle on the shoulder of a Road will be limited to driving thereon for the purpose of parking on the shoulder of the Road or driving a parked Vehicle from the shoulder of the Road to the paved portion of the Road. This provision does not apply to any Vehicle making deliveries of material, supplies and equipment purchased or rented by the District;

b. No person shall operate or cause or participate in the operation of a Vehicle other than a Golf Cart on a Cart Path within the Recreational Facilities other than on a designated Road or within designated Parking Areas.

c. No person shall operate or cause or participate in the operation of a Vehicle including a Golf Cart at a speed in excess of ten (10) miles per hour.

d. No person shall operate or cause or participate in the operation of a Vehicle including a Golf Cart in a manner which causes damage to District facilities or improvements.

e. No person shall operate or cause or participate in the operation of a Vehicle including a Golf Cart in a manner which is unsafe, reckless, or may cause harm to themselves or to others who are present on District property.

f. No person shall cause a Vehicle to be parked within the Recreational Areas except in a designated parking area. Vehicles parked on the shoulder of a Road in designated areas must be parked parallel to the Road. This provision does not apply to any Vehicle making deliveries of materials, supplies and equipment purchased or rented by the District; and

g. No person shall cause a Vehicle to remain within the Recreational Areas after hours unless one of the officers named in Section 2 above is notified; provided, however, that in no event shall any person cause a Vehicle to remain within the Recreational Areas in excess of twenty-four (24) hours at any given time. Vehicles remaining within the Recreational Areas for which notification has not been received will be towed and placed in storage by Peace Officers at the owner's expense.

h. No person shall operate a Vehicle including a Golf Cart within the Recreational Facilities who does not hold a valid driver's license, or learner's permit if accompanied by a licensed driver at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

i. The operation of a Golf Cart is permitted within the Recreational Facilities on Cart Paths only. Operation of a Golf Cart outside of the Cart Paths is prohibited. The operation of a Golf Cart within the Recreational Facilities is subject to all rules and regulations herein, including but not limited to Section 6 (a)-(h).

Section 7: GOLFING. No person shall play golf or otherwise strike a golf ball with a golf club within the Recreational Areas.

Section 8: WILDLIFE. No person shall willfully feed, harm, harass, trap, confine, catch, or possess any Wildlife within the Recreational Areas.

Section 9: PLANT LIFE. No person shall willfully destroy or remove any tree, shrub, vine, wildflower, grass, fern, moss, leaves, cones, or dead or downed wood within the Recreational Areas except with prior written approval of the Board.

Section 10: FIRES. No person may light, build or maintain a fire within the Recreational Areas other than within a camp stove and/or barbecue pit. If a burn ban has been enacted by the District, fire is prohibited in all areas.

Section 11: **SMOKING.** No person shall light, burn or smoke any cigar, pipe, cigarette, electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or other device used for smoking or delivering tobacco or nicotine or any other legal substance within the Recreational Areas.

Section 12: **WEAPONS.** No person other than a Peace Officer or a person duly licensed by the State of Texas may carry or possess a weapon within the Recreational Areas. The unlawful possession or discharge of weapons within the Recreational Areas is prohibited.

Section 13: **EXPLOSIVES.** No person may possess gun powder or other combustibles, explosives or fireworks within the Recreational Areas. Provided, however, that this provision does not apply to gasoline and other petroleum products in fuel tanks of Vehicles or to petroleum products intended to be used as fuel for cooking.

Section 14: **ANIMALS.** No person may bring into or possess in the Recreational Areas any Pet or other animal other than a dog or domestic cat, except in areas clearly marked "off-leash." Any person bringing a dog or domestic cat into the Recreational Areas shall keep such dog or domestic cat confined to a vehicle or secured by a leash not exceeding fifteen (15) feet in length. Each person who brings a Pet or other animal of any kind into the Recreational Areas is responsible for the prompt clean up and disposal of any Pet or animal waste in an appropriate trash receptacle.

Section 15: **GLASS BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.** No person shall use any glass beverage containers in the Recreational Areas. This provision shall not apply to baby bottles, baby food jars, glass lined thermos bottles and glass lined picnic beverage coolers.

Section 16: **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.** No person shall consume an Alcoholic Beverage in the Recreational Areas.

Section 17: **USE OF LOUDSPEAKERS.** No person shall use any loudspeaker, public address system or amplifier within the Recreational Areas without prior written permission from the Board.

Section 18: **DUMPING AND LITTERING.** All persons shall dispose of trash associated with use of the Recreational Areas in an appropriate trash receptacle. No person shall bring into the Recreational Areas or District Property any trash, refuse or waste material. Disposal of household or commercial waste, trash or refuse using any of the District's trash receptacles is prohibited.

Section 19: **ADVERTISING.** No person shall place, erect or attach any structure, sign, bulletin board, post, pole or advertising device of any kind whatsoever, or attach any notice, bill, poster, sign, wire, rod or cord to any tree, shrub, fence, railing, post or structure, in the Recreational Areas.

Section 20: **SOLICITING AND SALES.** No person shall solicit funds or donations, or sell or offer to sell services or goods or distribute circulars in the Recreational Areas. This rule does not apply to the following:

a. Persons soliciting donations or conducting fund-raising events for and on behalf of non-profit organizations who have secured prior written permission from the Board;

b. Concessionaires and persons employed by concessionaires when selling goods or services, or charging for amusements, pursuant to written authority of the Board; and

c. Fees, including reasonable security deposits, for the use of specific Recreational Areas as may be established by the Board from time to time.

Section 21: **CAMPING.** No person shall engage in overnight camping in the Recreational Areas except with prior written approval of the Board.

Section 22: **SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN.** Children under 13 years of age must be supervised by an adult at all times.

Section 23: **NUISANCE:** No person shall use profanity or vulgar language within the Recreational Areas. No person shall use any threatening, abusive, or insulting language or language otherwise constituting "fighting words." No person shall commit any obscene, lewd or indecent act or create a nuisance of any kind. No person shall disturb in any manner any picnic, meeting, service, concert, exercise or exhibition.

Section 24: **SPECIAL EVENTS.** No person or organization shall solicit for, hold or sponsor a Special Event in the Recreational Areas without submitting a completed Application for Use for Special Event form and the prior written permission of the Board, who may require the providing of liability insurance in the amounts of \$100,000 for each person, \$300,000 for each single occurrence for bodily injury or death and \$100,000 for each single occurrence for injury to or destruction of property, naming the District as insured, and the furnishing of one or more Peace Officers. The opinion of the Board as to whether or not insurance will be required and as to the required number of Peace Officers shall be final and binding.

Section 25: **EMERGENCY BURN BAN.** The Board may, at its sole discretion, find and determine that drought conditions exist in the District, or in the vicinity of the District, and that such drought conditions create an elevated danger of fire in the Recreational Areas or District Property that constitutes a hazard to public health and safety and an emergency.

After making such findings, the Board may impose a temporary emergency burn ban to prohibit charcoal fires, open fires, fireworks, outdoor use of inflammable materials and other conduct that could result in a fire, such burn ban to be applicable to and effective on all Recreational Areas and District Property.

Imposition of a burn ban by the Board shall have the effect of an immediate, temporary suspension of any and all authority for fires, fireworks and use of combustible materials as provided in Sections 10, 11 and 13 of these Rules until termination of the burn ban by the Board.

Notice of a District emergency burn ban shall be provided by signs, flyers, public service announcements and any other means necessary to call public attention to the burn ban, the conditions that constitute an emergency, and penalties that may result from violations of the burn ban. Notice of termination of a burn ban shall be provided by the same means.

Section 26: **VIOLATIONS; REWARDS.** No person shall use any portion of the Recreational Areas or District Property for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was

designed or designated. The District will pay a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest of persons responsible for vandalism or destruction of any portion of the Recreational Areas or District Property.

Section 27: PENALTIES. Compliance with these Rules and state and federal law is a condition of the use of the Recreational Areas. Pursuant to the authority granted by Sections 49.004 and 54.205 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, the Board may seek reasonable penalties for the failure of any person to comply with these Rules and laws, which penalties shall not exceed the jurisdiction of a justice court as provided in Section 27.031 of the Texas Government Code, as amended, currently up to \$20,000.00. Such penalties may be sought for each violation of these Rules and for each day of a continuing violation and shall be in addition to any other penalties provided by state or federal law and may be enforced by complaints filed in the appropriate court of jurisdiction in the County. In any suit to enforce these Rules, the District shall seek to recover reasonable fees for attorneys and expert witnesses and other costs incurred by the District. The Board may adopt a schedule of penalties solely for its own use and guidance in levying penalties prescribed herein.

Section 28: SANCTIONS. Compliance with these Rules and state and federal laws is a condition to the use of the Recreational Areas.

a. The authorities designated in Section 2 above to enforce these Rules are hereby authorized to notify any person who fails or refuses to comply with these Rules or applicable state or federal laws to depart from the Recreational Areas.

b. Any person who fails to depart upon such notification shall be subject to prosecution under Section 30.05 of the Texas Penal Code for criminal trespass, in addition to other punishment or prosecution for any other crime.

c. A person who fails to comply with these Rules is subject to civil penalties of currently up to \$20,000, for each violation and for each day of a continuing violation, together with attorneys' fees, expert witness fees and costs, as provided in Section 49.004 of the Texas Water Code, as amended. These penalties shall be in addition to any other penalties provided by state or federal law and may be enforced by complaints filed in the appropriate court of jurisdiction in the County.

d. In the event of a violation of these Rules, a violation notice shall be issued to the person responsible for the violation, and the Board shall conduct a hearing on the violation and imposition of a penalty.

e. Any person witnessing any concerning action or discovery of any concerning situation should immediately notify a District constable or any other Peace Officers on duty, the District's General Manager or a member of the Board.

Section 29: APPLICABILITY AND WAIVER. The Board may, at its sole discretion, waive any portion of the Rules, for any reason, including but not limited to as necessary to perform District functions including for work being performed on behalf of the District by employees, contractors, or subcontractors of the District.

Section 30: EFFECT ON EXISTING LAW. These Rules are in addition to, and not in lieu of, all state and federal laws and other rules and regulations applicable within the Recreational Areas and District Property.

Section 31: SEVERABILITY. The provisions of these Rules are severable. If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, section, provision or part of these Rules should be held invalid or unconstitutional, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, and it is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board that these Rules would have been adopted as to the remaining portions, regardless of the invalidity of any part.

Section 32: AMENDMENTS. These Rules may be reviewed and amended from time to time by the Board.

Section 33: POSTING: A summary of these Rules shall be conspicuously posted at or near the entrances to the Recreational Areas, and a copy or an excerpt of these Rules shall be provided to any person who requests a copy and to any person who submits an Application for Use for Special Event of the Recreational Areas.

Section 34: EFFECTIVE DATE: These Rules shall become effective and enforceable five days after the first publication of the notice of adoption or any amendment of these Rules, as provided in Sections 54.207 and 54.208 of the Texas Water Code.

The President or any Vice President is authorized to execute and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest this order on behalf of the Board and the District.

Passed and adopted this 28th day of March, 2024.

JULIE GILMER

President

ATTEST:

BETTY BROWN

Secretary