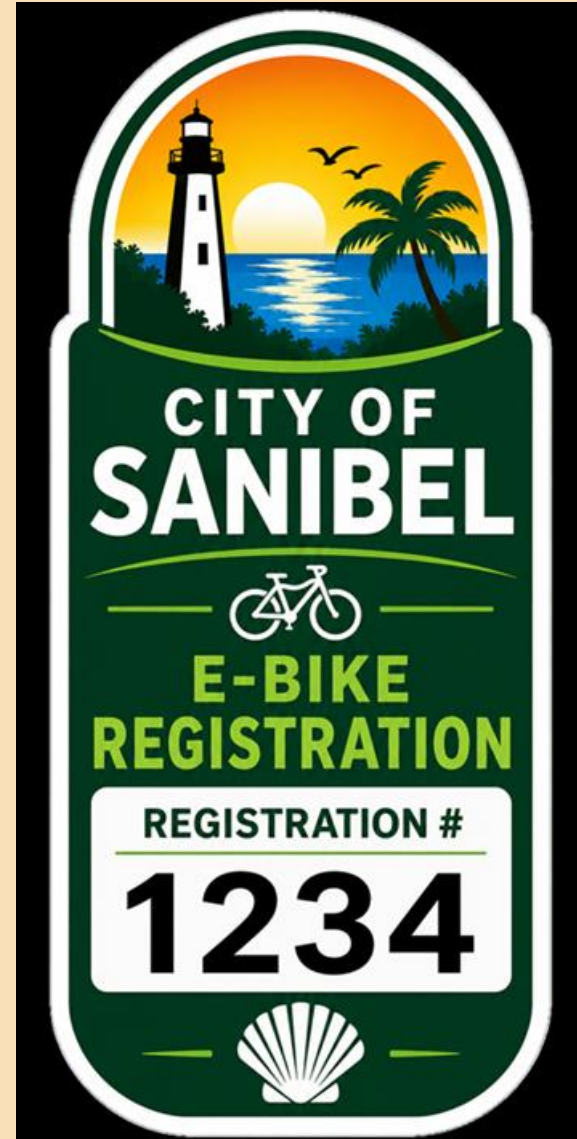


UPDATED E-BIKE REGISTRATION PROGRAM



REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

Class 2 & 3 e-bikes operated on City SUPs by residents and on-island employees must be registered at the Sanibel Recreation Center. Upon registration, each e-bike will receive a decal indicating which must be prominently displayed on the front handlebar/gooseneck area.



REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

Class 1 (Pedal-assist, ≤20 mph)

- Permitted for residents, on-island employees, and non-residents (age 16+)
 - No registration required

Class 2 (Throttle-assisted, ≤20 mph)

- Restricted to residents and on-island employees only (age 16+)
 - Registration required

Class 3 (Pedal-assist, ≤28 mph)

- Restricted to residents and on-island employees only (age 16+)
 - Registration required



E-Bike Class	Residents	On-Island Employees	Sanibel Business (Rentals, Resorts, etc.)	Non-Residents
Class 1	Registration not required – Class 1 e-bikes allowed on SUP by all users			
Class 2	\$0	\$0	Not permitted	Not permitted
Class 3	\$0	\$0	Not permitted	Not permitted

APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

All: Signed acknowledgment of the SUP Code of Conduct

Residents: Proof of residency/property ownership, or valid Sanibel address

On-Island Employee: Proof of on-island employment (such as current paystub)

*Employers registering e-bikes for employees must also agree to revoke permits and remove decals within 10 days of employment termination, ensuring ongoing compliance.

ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES

Graduated framework consistent with existing code:

- First offense, the person liable for the violation shall be issued a written warning advising such person of the violation; provided, however, no civil penalty shall be assessed for a first offense.
- Second offense, a civil penalty of \$100.00, plus a filing fee of \$10.00; provided the penalty is paid within 15 days after issuance of the ticket. In the event the penalty is paid after 15 days, the payment required shall be a civil penalty of \$125.00, plus a filing fee of \$10.00.
- Third offense, a civil penalty of \$350.00, plus a filing fee of \$10.00.
- Fourth or subsequent offense, a civil penalty of \$500.00, plus a filing fee of \$10.00.

POTENTIAL PROGRAM ADVANTAGES

Maintains emphasis on safety for all users of the SUP.

- Restricting higher-speed e-bike access by visitors may lessen increased congestion and speed conflicts on SUP.
 - Program reinforces the City's long-standing emphasis on pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- Registration framework may encourage safer riding behavior due to increased accountability of registration process.



Addresses the Sanibel community's concerns about the growth in e-bike use on the SUP.

- Program is responsive to resident concerns regarding the potential of increasing e-bike activity on SUP.
- Program could reduce complaints related to high-speed or throttle-assisted riding behavior if greater compliance is achieved.
- Program may discourage riders from using prohibited or modified e-bikes, including those manufactured to exceed 28 mph.



Supports resident and workforce transportation needs.

- Resident and employee exemptions may provide affordable transportation alternatives for commuting.
 - The program supports on-island workforce mobility while limiting broader recreational Class 2 & 3 use.
- Visible registration permits could simplify some enforcement interactions and may provide Rangers clearer authority and procedures than the current system. Must have comprehensive education campaign concurrent with enforcement.

POTENTIAL PROGRAM CHALLENGES

It is difficult to distinguish between a Class 1 pedal assist and a Class 3 pedal assist e-bike.

- Class 1 e-bike riders may be stopped by Rangers as they can be easily confused as an unregistered Class 3 e-bike.
- The frustration visitors currently express when stopped by a Ranger for riding a Class 2 & 3 bike will likely grow if prohibited.
- Some visitors with Class 2 & 3 bike won't familiarize themselves with local rules before they arrive and will likely be disappointed.



The proposal prohibits Class 2 & 3 use by visitors while allowing resident/employee exemptions.

- Program may create perception that Sanibel is prioritizing visitor restrictions over SUP safety concerns.
- Visitors staying at resorts/rentals on island may have rented or own Class 2 or 3 e-bike that they brought and can't use.
- Program could generate sentiment that Sanibel is a complicated vacation destination and isn't a friendly destination.



E-bikes are becoming more popular.

- While the 2026 SUP User Survey showed e-bikes made up 16% of bikes on SUP, their use increased by 45% over 2025 survey data.
- The program's enforcement could face claims of government overreach and selective enforcement against non-residents.
- The February – May 2025 e-bike education campaign received excellent exposure but didn't deter Class 2 & 3 riders.

Front Line Enforcement Concerns

Information from Sanibel Police and Rangers

- It is difficult to distinguish between e-bike classes unless someone is clearly throttling a bike and not pedaling.
- A registration program will lead to even more frustration for visitors who would feel singled-out even as they are attempting to vacation and contribute to the local economy.
- Most of these people expect Sanibel to be like other destinations and allow e-bikes.
- The majority of users are adult residents and visitors.
- Enforcement is disappointing, angering, and frightening visitors when being issued a formal warning.
- Most accidents result from stationary falls.

COUNCIL DIRECTION AND NEXT STEPS

- No changes at this time - continue with E-bike regulations as outlined in Ordinance 24-014.
- Wait until House Bill 243 – Electric Bicycles (HB 243) and Senate Bill 382 – Electric Bicycles – (SB 382) are adopted at the State level before proceeding with any local policy and/or regulation changes. Governor DeSantis has not yet signed SB 382.
- Consider behavior-based enforcement for Class 1,2 & 3 e-bikes rather than e-bike classification and permit based enforcement. This aligns with previous Council discussions (that did not move forward) to allow all classes of e-bikes and regulate rider behavior.
- Implement E-bike registration program:
 - Public education campaign prior to implementation (updating website, videos, signage, print materials, etc.)
 - Coordination with Sanibel Police Department for enforcement protocols
 - Program review after the first year to assess effectiveness