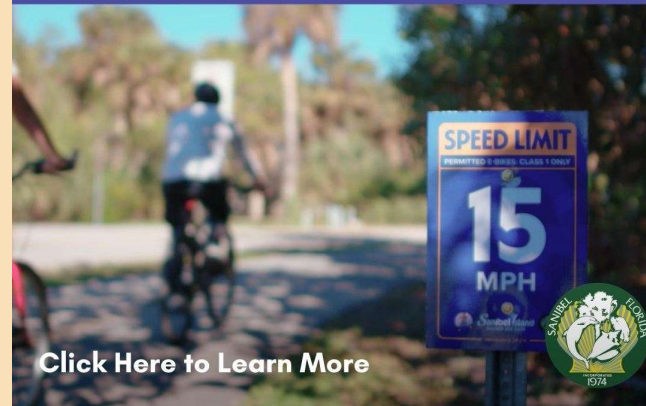


E-BIKE REGISTRATION PROGRAM

**E-BIKE RIGHT.
FOLLOW THE RULES. FOLLOW THE PATH.
ENJOY THE RIDE.**



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BACKGROUND

- At the March 3, 2026, meeting Council reviewed and discussed draft Ordinance 26-003 which expanded the allowance for Class 2 & Class 3 e-bikes on the SUP.
- Council unanimously decided to not proceed with first reading of Ordinance 26-003 and instead directed staff to bring a draft e-bike registration policy back to a future Council meeting for discussion.
 - **Options for Council consideration and discussion:**
 - Continue with current e-bike regulations as outline in Ordinance 24-014;
 - Implement an e-bike registration program;
 - Hold on any changes until House Bill 243 – Electric Bicycles (HB 243) and Senate Bill 382 – Electric Bicycles – (SB 382) are adopted at the State level

SUMMARY & OBJECTIVES

- Data from the 2026 Shared Use Path (SUP) Count Report showed that the City continues to experience increased usage of the SUP system by pedestrians, traditional bike riders and e-bike riders across the island.
- The growing demand creates a need for a clear regulatory framework for e-bike users in an effort to protect all SUP users.
 - Improve safety for all SUP users through clear e-bike operational standards.
 - Promote accountability by requiring visible registration decals.
 - Provide enforceable guidelines aligned with City Code and Florida Statutes.
 - Support equitable access for residents, workforce members, and visitors.

REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

All e-bikes operated on City SUPs must be registered annually (January 1–December 31) through the Sanibel Recreation Center. Upon registration, each e-bike will receive a color-coded decal indicating its class, 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+)
- Annual registration required

Class 2 (Throttle-assisted, ≤20 mph)

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

Class 3 (Pedal-assist, ≤28 mph)

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



FEE STRUCTURE

*The goal of the tiered fee structure is to prioritize safety while offering a balanced approach for managing emerging e-bike trends among residents, non-residents and supporting on-island employees (recruitment / retention) and Sanibel businesses. Staff considered a higher non-resident fee but were concerned it could discourage visitors while the island is still recovering. Staff seeks Council direction on the appropriate non-resident fee.

E-Bike Class	Residents	On-Island Employees	Sanibel Business (Rentals, Resorts, etc.)	Non-Residents
Class 1	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
Class 2	\$10	\$10	Not permitted	Not permitted
Class 3	\$10	\$10	Not permitted	Not permitted

APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

All: Documentation of e-bike class (bill of sale or manufacturer specifications)

All: Signed acknowledgment of the SUP Code of Conduct (to be developed)

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

Residents: List of authorized e-bike operators, residing at Sanibel address, (ages 16+)

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.

Sanibel Business: Proof of current Business Tax Receipt (BTR)

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.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Development of registration forms, SUP code of conduct, decal system, and CivicRec implementation
- 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
- Proration of fees if implemented prior to January 1, 2027