

Questions have arisen within our community regarding the operation of golf carts on public roadways and gated communities.

Pursuant to FS 316.212 and County Ordinance 2010-48 Golf Carts may be driven on certain “Designated State & County Roads.” The following is a list of criteria that must be met in order for persons to legally operate golf carts on public roads. First however, it might be a good idea to clear up some confusion. A County Road doesn’t have to have a CR in front of it like CR 210 or CR 214. Holmes Blvd., Race Track Rd., Woodlawn Rd. and Lewis Speedway are examples of county roads too. What generally determines if it’s a county road is who owns it and or who is in charge of ensuring that it gets maintained (i.e.) St. Johns County Road and Bridge.

FOR COUNTY ROADS:
COUNTY ORDINANCE
2010-48

How do you get approval to legally operate a golf cart on a county road or gated community that has a traffic enforcement agreement with SJSO?

1. A person or applicant must first file a request with the St. Johns County Engineer to have a County Road to be permitted as a “Designated County Road.”
2. The County Engineer will then conduct a traffic engineering study or review one that is provided by the applicant in order to determine if it is safe to allow golf carts to legally operate on the county road and for that road to become a “Designated County Road.”
3. If the County Engineer approves the applicants request and determines that a road be considered a “Designated County Road” the County Engineer shall post or shall cause to be posted appropriate signs to indicate that Golf Cart Use is allowed on that “Designated County Road.” The applicant or designee will be required to pay the County for those signs and any repair or replacement of them prior to installation. Signage must meet the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices Standards.
4. If an application to have a County Road “Designated” is denied the County Engineer will provide written finding of facts to support the denial. The applicant will then have 30days to appeal the County Engineers denial to the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners.

What if I live in a gated community like Sawgrass or Marsh Creek?

1. Gated / Private Communities that own and maintain their own road system can be designated for golf cart usage and enforcement if that community has entered into a Traffic Enforcement Agreement with the SJSO. The cost of signage and or pavement markings that are required shall be the responsibility of the community. Ownership and maintenance of the signs are also the responsibility of the community.

****NOTE* As of August 2011 the only Gated Communities in St. Johns County that have been granted a “Designated Road” status for Golf Cart use or posted as such is Marsh Landing and Cimerrone.***

What is a golf cart?

Golf Cart Defined:

1. Golf cart means: a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.
2. Must have at least 3 or more wheels in contact with the ground.
3. Must weigh less than 1800 lbs.
4. Is not designed to carry more than four persons including the driver.

When can you operate a golf cart on the “Designated County Road”?

1. A golf cart may be operated on a “Designated County Road” only between sunrise and sunset, **unless** the County has determined that on a particular “Designated County Road,” a golf cart may also be operated between sunset and sunrise **and** the golf cart is equipped with the following:

Daylight Operation:

The golf cart must be equipped with the following:

- Efficient Brakes
- Reliable Steering Apparatus
- Safe Tires
- A Rear View Mirror
- Red Reflectors on the FRONT & REAR of the Golf Cart.

Night Time Operation:

A golf cart may be operated on a “Designated County Road” only between sunrise and sunset, **unless** the County has determined that on a particular “Designated County Road,” a golf cart may also be operated between sunset and sunrise **and** the golf cart is equipped with the following:

- Efficient Brakes
- Reliable Steering Apparatus
- Safe Tires
- A Rear View Mirror
- Red Reflectors On The FRONT & REAR Of The Golf Cart
- Head Lights
- Brake Lights
- Turn Signals
- A Windshield

Do you have to have a Drivers License to operate a golf cart on the “Designated County Roads”?

1. Yes, the golf cart driver must hold a valid drivers license. Driver license restrictions apply to drivers of golf carts too. This includes minors with restricted hours of operation under FS. 322.16

What are the penalties for non compliance with this County Ordinance?

1. A driver may be prosecuted in the same manner as misdemeanors are prosecuted and shall, upon conviction, be punished for each offense by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or by imprisonment in the County Jail not to exceed 60 days. Each day that an offense or violation of this ordinance continues, shall be considered a separate offense.

Note: FS 316.1995 still prohibits motor vehicles to include golf carts from being driven on side walks and bike paths, **unless** the sidewalks have been “Designated” and Posted for Golf Cart Use via County Ordinance.

***NOTE* As of August 2011 No “Public” County Roads in St. Johns County have been granted a “Designated Road” status for Golf Cart use or posted as such.**

FOR STATE HIGHWAYS:
FLORIDA STATUTE
316.212 (2)

A golf cart may be operated on a part of the State Highway under certain conditions:

1. The State DOT posts the Highway as having golf carts in operation.
2. Golf carts may cross a State Highway which intersects with a County Road or City Street. The County Road or City Street has had to have been “Designated” / posted as having golf carts in operation too.
3. Golf carts may cross a State Highway at mid block where a golf course is constructed on both sides of the State Highway. This also applies to single mobile home parks that are located on both sides of a State Highway. Golf carts may be operated in mobile home parks so long as it is posted at the entrance to the park that golf carts are in operation.
4. Golf carts can be driven on roads within State Parks that have a 35mph speed limit or less.
5. Golf carts must be equipped with efficient brakes, reliable steering apparatus, safe tires, a rear view mirror, and red reflectorized warning devices on both the front and rear.

Additional Night Requirements:

6. Golf carts can be driven after sunset (night) providing that they are equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals and windshield.
7. Golf cart drivers driving golf carts on State Roads or within mobile home parks as listed below do not have to be licensed, but the driver must be 14 years old or older.

****NOTE* As of August 2011 No State Roads in St. Johns County have been granted a “Designated Road” status for Golf Cart use or posted as such.***

Note: FS 316.1995 still prohibits motor vehicles to include golf carts from being driven on side walks and bike paths, **unless** the sidewalks have been “Designated” and Posted for Golf Cart Use via County Ordinance.

LOW SPEED VEHICLE OR MINI TRUCK **Florida Statute 316.2122**

What are low speed vehicles or mini trucks?

1. A low speed vehicle is defined as any four wheeled electric vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 mph and less than 25 mph including neighborhood electric vehicles.
2. Each Low Speed Vehicle shall be equipped with the following:
 - Seat belts
 - Head lights
 - Front and rear turn signals
 - Tail lights
 - Brake lights
 - One reflector on each side of the vehicle as far to the rear as possible
 - One reflector to the rear
 - A driver side mirror
 - A interior rear view mirror & or a passenger side outside rear view mirror
 - A parking brake
 - A windshield
 - A VIN #

Where can they legally be driven?

They may be driven on roads where the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less, however they may cross another road that has a higher speed limit.

Do you have to have a driver's license to legally drive one?

Yes, you do have to have a valid driver's license to legally operate a low speed vehicle on the public highways.

Does a low speed vehicle have to have a tag on it and be insured?

Yes, it has to be insured, titled and registered the same as a car.