



It's Your Airport



Serving your community and creating value today and for the future

Vital... Vibrant... Valuable

Your local airport is one of the most vital economic assets and transportation links in your area. Community airports, also called general aviation airports, create jobs, generate local revenue and attract businesses to the area.

Most people understand the importance of area highways and rail lines. But not everyone knows about the many benefits and strategic value of their own community airport. Whether it's a regional transportation center or a rural airstrip, it is your airport, serving your area's needs today... and in the future.



Multiplying jobs, incomes and economic health

Your airport has a "multiplier effect" on jobs and income. The U.S. Department of Commerce says that every \$1 spent at local airports adds another \$2.53 to your local economy.

Businesses actively seek locations with a community airport when locating a plant, headquarters, or distribution center. Compared to congested and expensive airline hubs, general aviation airports offer unbeatable convenience and cost-effectiveness. These benefits often come at little or no cost to the community.

While government agencies struggled after Hurricane Katrina, thousands of general aviation pilots used community airports across the United States to ferry emergency supplies to the Gulf Coast region and displaced residents to safety.

On Ramp to the World

Most big airports are located far from home. But your airport is at your doorstep. You can save valuable time with regional airline service or on-demand charter service. By becoming a private pilot you also can use small, state-of-the-art airplanes to reach destinations efficiently.

Time savings translate into greater productivity at the office and more time at home with your family. That's a big reason why businesses seek the advantages of general aviation.



***It's true what they say: "A mile of highway
A mile of runway takes you anywhere!"***

Safe and Secure

General aviation airplanes and airports are safe and have had a steadily improving safety record over the past 25 years. Consider this: motor vehicle accidents happen continually but we seldom worry about them. But aviation accidents capture attention because they are so rare.



In the post-9/11 world, the small airplanes at your airport pose little if any threat. That's because they are far too small (lighter than an empty Honda Civic!) to cause mass destruction. And your airport is a neighborhood where the residents are the employees and local pilots. With the AOPA Airport Watch program, they report suspicious activity just as you would in your own neighborhood.

Good Neighbors

AOPA and many local airports use "Fly Friendly" noise-abatement programs, including flight patterns that avoid noise-sensitive areas.

***Flight training helps pilots maintain and im
other groups may also conduct homeland s***

takes you a mile.

Aviation officials and responsible developers use sensible regulations to minimize noise and safety concerns. That's not always the case, and sometimes homes are built too close to the airport. Thankfully, more states require 'full disclosure' for transactions involving property near an airport.

Psychologists say people are more sensitive to airplane sounds because they come and go. Your neighbor's leaf blower may be louder but because it lasts longer it becomes background-level noise.

Upward and Onward

Exciting new developments in community-friendly aviation technologies promise even greater rewards in the future.

The federal government has begun creating the Next Generation Air Transportation System, or NGATS. NGATS envisions using small airplanes and advanced satellite navigation and communication technologies for speedy point-to-point travel between general aviation airports including yours.

Aircraft makers already are producing small airplanes with airline-style flight displays and quiet, fuel-efficient engines.



All of that is coming soon to your airport.

Very Light Jets, or VLJs, will soon be part of the emerging air taxi industry. With their ultra-quiet jet engines, they can carry up to six people to and from small airports safely, quickly and economically.

Ready For Takeoff

Your airport already is a valuable asset. But with a little understanding and planning it can be a source of civic pride and future growth. It will be part of your legacy to the future.



improve proficiency. The Civil Air Patrol and security flights from your airport.



Helping Neighbors and Friends in Need

During emergencies, your airport is the rallying point for airborne medical, law enforcement, and disaster relief services.

Everyday, news and traffic reporters use helicopters and small airplanes, also based at your local airport, to cover regional and breaking news to keep your community safe and informed.

Private pilots also volunteer as “angels” by transporting patients who could not otherwise afford to travel to and from life-saving medical treatments. And they do it free of charge by donating their time, airplanes and piloting skills.

Your airport may be an important staging point for disaster relief. When calamity strikes, general aviation is often the fastest and most efficient way to get aid to those in need.

The federal government considers airports essential elements of the national transportation system and provides much of the funding.

**For more information and a copy of our video,
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please contact:**

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**The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
has represented general aviation
and its pilots since 1939.**

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