

SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

AND CREATING VALUE
TODAY AND FOR THE FUTURE

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.

For more information, visit the AOPA YouTube channel for our video, *Going Higher*.

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



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AOPA AIRPORT SUPPORT NETWORK



IT'S YOUR
AIRPORT



AOPA AIRPORT SUPPORT NETWORK

VITAL... VIBRANT... VALUABLE

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.

Your local airport is one of the most vital economic assets and transportation links in your area.

JOBS, INCOME 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.



HELPING NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS IN NEED

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

Every day, 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. They do it free of charge, donating their time, airplanes, and piloting skills.

While government agencies struggled after hurricanes in recent years, thousands of general aviation pilots used community airports across the United States to ferry emergency supplies to the impacted regions and displaced residents to safety.

ON RAMP TO THE WORLD

Most big airports are located far from home. But your community 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 businesses seek the advantages of general aviation.

SAFE AND SECURE

Consider this: motor vehicle accidents happen continually but we seldom worry about them. Aviation accidents capture attention because they are so rare, but general aviation airplanes and airports are safe and have had a steadily improving safety record over the past 25 years. In the post-9/11 world, the small airplanes at your airport pose little if any threat. 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

Studies 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. Many local airports use voluntary “Fly Friendly” noise-abatement programs, including flight patterns that avoid noise-sensitive areas.

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.

UPWARD AND ONWARD

The federal government is working on the Next Generation Air Transportation System, or NextGen. NextGen envisions using small airplanes and advanced satellite navigation and communication technologies for speedy point-to-point travel between general aviation airports. Aircraft manufacturers already are producing small airplanes with airline-style flight displays and quiet, fuel efficient engines.

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



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