

# LEESBURG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

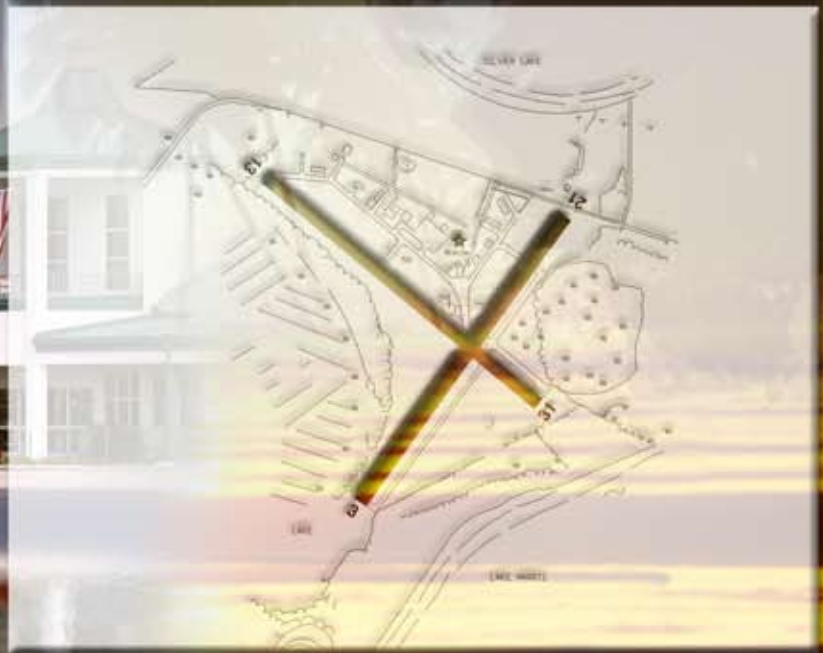
LEESBURG  
GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT



## AIRPORT LOCATION



Leesburg International Airport is located approximately three miles northeast of Leesburg Florida in central Florida. The airport is less than a one-hour drive to the northeast of Orlando's theme parks and tourist attractions.



## Existing Facilities

Leesburg International Airport is served by two intersecting runways. These runways are Runway 03/21, which is 4,957 feet long by 100 feet wide and Runway 13/31, which is 6300 feet long by 100 feet wide. These runways are both asphalt and are in good condition. Both runways are served by full-length parallel taxiways. The airport also has a 4,600 square foot terminal to serve general aviation pilots and passengers. There are 15 paved automobile parking spaces to serve the general aviation terminal. There are 81 tie-downs for general aviation aircraft, and between the airport's T-hangars and conventional hangars, there are 130 covered parking spaces for aircraft.

Leesburg International is now a user-fee airport, offering U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspections. A U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer is on duty daily from 8:30 am until 5:00 pm. Over flight permits may be obtained at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office. Special arrangements can be made for service outside of normal business hours.

## Current and Forecast Demand

### GENERAL AVIATION

Leesburg International Airport serves many facets of general aviation. The majority of the planes that use the airport on a regular basis are small to mid-range business jets. The current Airport Reference Code (ARC) as defined by the FAA Circular 150/5300-13 for the airport is C-III. General aviation constitutes a considerable portion of the airport's annual activity. According to the 2004 inspection the airport has 215 based general aviation aircraft. Of this total, approximately 38 percent of the aircraft are stored on paved tie-downs and 62 percent are in T-hangars or conventional hangars. The airport presently reports a waiting list for hangars that shows 46 aircraft. The current FDOT work plan for Leesburg International Airport shows plans to develop an additional 27 covered storage spaces.

Flight training is a component of this airport's general aviation activity. Roughly 40 percent of the airport's annual operations are related to flight training. There are three different businesses located on the airport that provide flight training. These businesses employ nine total flight instructors and have 16 aircraft that are based at the airport. In addition to local flight training, Leesburg supports training activity from many of the larger Florida flight schools in Orlando, Daytona, and Melbourne.

In addition to flight training, the airport now offers airframe and powerplant maintenance, aircraft painting, upholstery, avionics installation, and instrument repair.

General aviation operations by corporate and business users are a component at the airport. The airport estimates that 10 to 15 percent of its annual general aviation operations are currently business related. Approximately 10 percent of the airport's based aircraft are owned by local businesses. Local companies that use the airport's general aviation facilities include The Villages Equipment Company, Mission Inn, Orlando Financial Corp., Phillips Auto Sales, and Aerostat, Inc. The airport also attracts a number of transient or visiting general aviation aircraft with approximately 45 percent of annual operations. Two of the visiting businesses that fly into the airport include the Federal Prison at Coleman, and Allied Physicians. Approximately 80 percent of all visiting general aviation aircraft fall into the business jet category. The airport

supports an industrial park that is approximately 10 miles west. While the airport does not have any based military aircraft, it does accommodate transient military operations. The airport reports that less than one percent of its total annual activity is attributable to military operations.

Historic and forecast FDOT aviation activity information on file for Leesburg International Airport is as follows:

Leesburg International Airport	2008	2013	2018	2028
Based Aircraft	200	213	226	256
General Aviation Operations	66,372	71,361	76,724	88,692
Commercial Operations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enplanements	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: FDOT Aviation Office.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

In its current role, the airport is serving as the transportation hub of Lake County for business purposes. An ancillary purpose is that of providing flight training. Many of the flight training aircraft utilize Leesburg, as it is possible to conduct flight training more efficiently in this area due to the lower volume of traffic. Leesburg International Airport has the potential to be a "Florida Recreational Airport." There are 1,400 named lakes in Lake County, and many of them provide excellent fishing and swimming. There are also over 30 golf courses in the area, which provide the "fly in and play for a day," as well as extended golf vacations. The theme parks in the Orlando Metroplex are also less than an hour's drive away. At the present time, Leesburg International Airport has the potential to sponsor air taxi service, if the right service were offered. It would take proper advertising and require a needed service for the large number of senior citizens in this area. Leesburg believes that there is a significant number of commercial airline trips generated in their market area but has no idea about the actual number since many airport users travel to Orlando if they need to fly commercially. The airport does not report any manmade, environmental, community, or financial factors that will limit its future system role or growth. The airport sees itself experiencing significant growth in the coming years. The future role of the Leesburg International Airport is to act as the transportation hub for the surrounding area. Lake County is experiencing a rapid population growth that will need the services of air taxi and air charter operators. The increased traffic in the Orlando area and the delays due to increased security measures will produce a requirement for air transportation without the hassle of major airports. The infrastructure for this role will be in place in the near future and Leesburg will be prepared to meet this need.

### OTHER AIRPORT CHARACTERISTICS

The Leesburg area boasts flexible and efficient multi-modal transportation, making it easily accessible by air, sea and land. The Leesburg International Airport has been designated a Gold Seal Airport by the Florida Department of Transportation, recognized for its high standards for infrastructure, service, and safety to the flying public.

The airport had its most recent master plan completed in 2000. One unique operation is Skybolt Aeromotive Corp., which was funded under the Federal Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program in 1998. Skybolt was an established company that relocated to the airport, since some of their products can be installed on aircraft that are able to fly in. The bulk of the company's business is the sale of fasteners and is done via telephone or email.

## CURRENT AND FUTURE SYSTEM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

The airport provides flight training, Corporate, recreational/sport (experimental, ultralights), and business/recreational (sightseeing, real estate tours, charter, military, medical flights, environmental patrol) services. The airport plans to increase its flight training, recreational, corporate, and charter operations. It has plans to install an ILS which will make the airport more appealing to corporate operators. The analysis indicates that the airport is best suited for providing Flight Training, Recreational/Sport, and Tourism (CA) services. It is currently marginally suitable for Corporate and Business/Recreational services, but the planned improvements to the airfield will enhance the Airport's ability to provide those services.

As part of its process to plan for near term and longer term development needs, the airport has identified the following six initiatives as being needed in the near term:

1. Control Tower - Capital Project (Complete, went live 10/23/2006)
2. ARFF Facility - Capital Project (Complete, went live 10/11/2005)
3. Runway 03/21 Overlay –Maintenance Project (Completed May, 2010)
4. New FBO Building (Complete, opened May, 2005)
5. Phase I of Runway 13/31 extension completed August 2008. Involved a 300 foot extension of runway, a 500 x 1000 foot Overrun Safety Area and a large run-up area. Phase II & III will involve a 1.000 foot runway extension at the end of Runway 31, a 500 x 200 foot Overrun Safety Area, and a new parallel Taxiway A to provide a 400 foot separation from Runway 13/31 so that an ILS can be installed on Runway 31. Phases II & III(Completed December, 2009)
6. Installation of ILS on Runway 31
7. Three new corporate block hangars – Completed 2/15/07
8. 60,000 square feet of GA ramp space with wash rack and dump station – Completed June 2008.

Based on the infrastructure planning analysis for Leesburg International Airport, the following depicts the airport's current levels of service as well as the types and levels of service that the Airport will likely be required to accommodate by the year 2030:

	<u>Current Service</u>	<u>Future Service</u>
<b>COMMERCIAL SERVICE ROLE</b>		
Tourism		
Business		
Air Cargo		
International		
<b>GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT ROLE</b>		
Flight Training	X	X
Corporate	X	X
Tourism		X
Recreational / Sport	X	X
Business / Recreational	X	X