

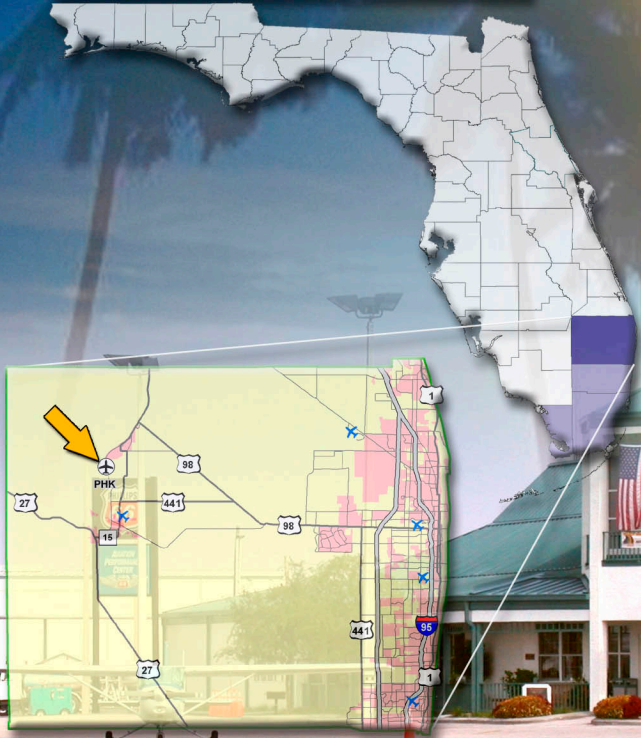
# PALM BEACH COUNTY GLADES

PAHOKEE  
COMMUNITY AIRPORT



## AIRPORT LOCATION

Palm Beach County Glades is located in western Palm Beach County, on the southeastern edge of Lake Okeechobee, approximately three miles southwest of Pahokee.



## Existing Facilities

The airport has one asphalt runway, Runway 17/35, 4,116 feet long by 75 feet wide, in good condition. The runway is equipped with medium intensity runway lights. The airport has a single VOR/DME approach.

*NOTE: In 2004, Florida experienced a record number of hurricanes, with many airports in Florida sustaining various amounts of damage. Since this report was in print at the time, facilities and based aircraft identified in this report do not reflect damage to infrastructure that may have occurred as a result of those hurricanes. Future reports will identify the impact of storm damage.*

## Current and Forecast Demand

### GENERAL AVIATION

The airport primarily accommodates the recreational and sport aviation needs for Palm Beach County. Single-engine aircraft are the largest the airport supports on a regular basis. The current Airport Reference Code (ARC) as defined by the FAA Circular 150/5300-13 is B-II. The airport's annual service volume (ASV) is 230,000 operations. According to FDOT records, there are three based general aviation aircraft at the airport. Currently, there are no available hangars due to hurricane damage in 2004.

Historic and forecast FDOT aviation activity information on file for Palm Beach County Glades Airport is as follows:

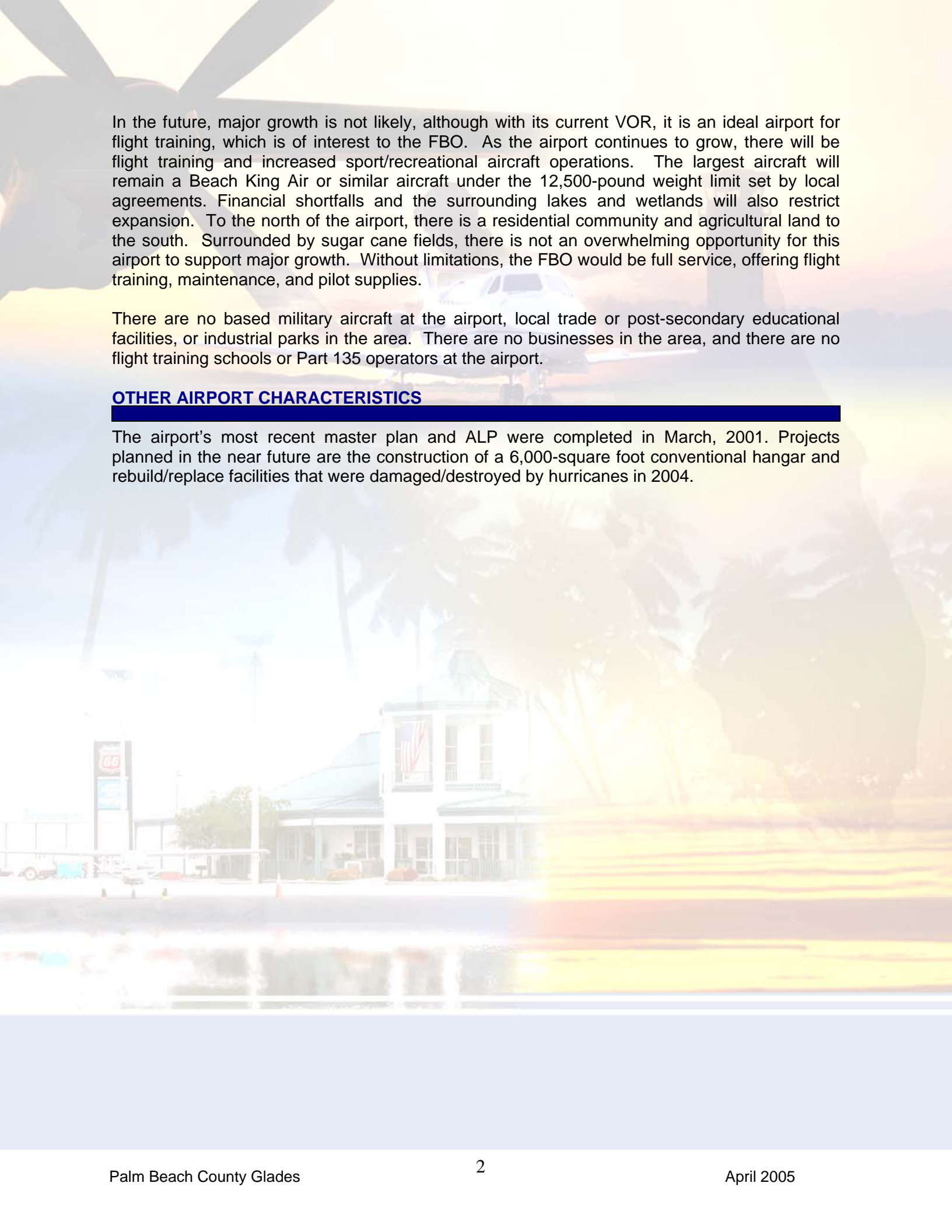
Palm Beach County Glades	2002	2007	2012	2022
Based Aircraft	3	3	3	4
General Aviation Operations	32,650	34,315	36,066	39,839
Commercial Operations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enplanements	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Demand/Capacity Ratio	18.9%	19.9%	20.9%	23.1%

Source: Airport records and FASP 2004.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

This small airport survives in a depressed agricultural area and serves limited general aviation needs. The airport is popular for sport aviation and is West Palm's major source for skydiving. Palm Beach County Glades is the westernmost general aviation airport in the county and attracts recreational aircraft. There is light manufacturing and some aircraft storage. In 1995, the runway, parallel taxiway, and apron were given an overlay. Tie-downs have also been redone in the past seven years. The county has allocated upkeep responsibilities to the FBO, who runs the T-hangars, fuel farm, and the terminal building. The FBO pays rent at a set rate and keeps all other profits. The Board of County Commissioners maintains the facilities and airfield.

Currently, 25 percent of the airport's annual operations result from visiting aircraft and the remaining 75 percent are strictly related to sport aviation or recreational flying. There are no businesses or flight training activities in the area. The airport's low fuel prices attract transient users.



In the future, major growth is not likely, although with its current VOR, it is an ideal airport for flight training, which is of interest to the FBO. As the airport continues to grow, there will be flight training and increased sport/recreational aircraft operations. The largest aircraft will remain a Beach King Air or similar aircraft under the 12,500-pound weight limit set by local agreements. Financial shortfalls and the surrounding lakes and wetlands will also restrict expansion. To the north of the airport, there is a residential community and agricultural land to the south. Surrounded by sugar cane fields, there is not an overwhelming opportunity for this airport to support major growth. Without limitations, the FBO would be full service, offering flight training, maintenance, and pilot supplies.

There are no based military aircraft at the airport, local trade or post-secondary educational facilities, or industrial parks in the area. There are no businesses in the area, and there are no flight training schools or Part 135 operators at the airport.

### **OTHER AIRPORT CHARACTERISTICS**

The airport's most recent master plan and ALP were completed in March, 2001. Projects planned in the near future are the construction of a 6,000-square foot conventional hangar and rebuild/replace facilities that were damaged/destroyed by hurricanes in 2004.

## CURRENT AND FUTURE SYSTEM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

The airport reports limited general aviation activities such as sky diving and light maintenance at the time of this review and evaluation. It attracts a number of recreational fliers and tourists to Lake Okeechobee. There are several facility enhancement activities at the airport, including an overlay for the runway, parallel taxiway, apron (1995), and reconstructed tie-downs. The airport would like to attract flight training activity and there is the possibility for agricultural spraying as the airport is located in an agricultural area. However, there are no improvement projects planned. The analysis indicates that the extent of the existing airport property limits the opportunity for expansion to serve the commercial service segment of the local market. There is potential for the airport to attract business/recreational use, and light tourism.

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