

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS AIRPORT

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS
GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT



AIRPORT LOCATION



DeFuniak Springs Airport is located in Walton County, approximately two miles west of De Funiak.



Existing Facilities

The DeFuniak Springs Airport consists of a 4,100 x 60-foot asphalt runway (Runway 09/27) and a 2,215 x 60-foot dirt runway (Runway 18/36). Aero FX, Inc. provides the FBO services, which include mechanical and electronic repair. Major airframe and painting are also provided. Aviation fuel is available 24 hours per day by credit card at the pump. Runway 09/27 has medium intensity runway lights that are pilot controlled at 122.8 and precision approach path indicators. Runway 18/36 does not have lights or an approach aid.

The asphalt runway, Runway 09/27, was constructed in 1966-67 with a Federal Airport Aid Program (FAAP) grant to 3,200 feet. The runway was expanded to 4,100 feet in 1999. This runway is in fair condition.

Current and Forecast Demand

GENERAL AVIATION

Historic and forecast FDOT aviation activity information on file for the De Funiak Springs Airport follows:

De Funiak Springs Airport	2009	2014	2019	2029
Based Aircraft	18	20	23	29
General Aviation Operations	16,200	17,886	19,748	24,072
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

The airport role in the community has taken on an economic development role that is anticipated to be a tremendous asset in the very near future. The City recently acquired an additional 160 acres and has designated this space as the Airport Industrial Park. The City has one other industrial park on which all of the property is now being utilized. The airport Industrial Park has two companies ready to occupy and discussion is ongoing with three other companies who are considering locating in the park. The City has secured \$560,000 from the U.S. Department of Commerce, \$660,000 from the Florida Department of Community Affairs and \$175,000 from Enterprise Florida. These funds are to be used to build four maintenance hangars. The hangars will have a new airplane paint refurbishing operation and an avionics repair shop. To complement this activity, the City and the Department of Transportation have completed three Joint Participation Agreements to overlay existing aprons, build 10 T-hangars, and construct a partial parallel taxiway.

The FAA has provided 90 percent of the funds to construct Phase I of the taxiway. The City hopes to attract small industries that will perform aircraft-related functions. With the abundance of Air Force installations and construction in the area, there should be ample opportunity to attract industry.

The City recently constructed a 40-acre recreation complex adjacent to the airport. It is anticipated that future fly-ins may involve recreational activities as well. Overnight camping is gaining popularity, and this facility can handle this activity. The airport sponsor believes that the industrial developers will utilize the amenities in the recreation complex.

The airport currently services flying activities for a major industrialist in the area. Another frequent user with a based aircraft on the airport is Professional Products. This company is an orthopedic brace manufacturer with worldwide distribution. The company flies its products to any distributor in the United States if needed.

The De Funiak Springs Airport is a general aviation airport and the only public use airport in Walton County. The airport will see increased levels of activity, due to increasing flight training and sport aircraft operations. More business travel will be centered at this airport as the construction industry in the southern portion of Walton County continues to grow at tremendous rates.

The City owns and operates a 40-acre recreation complex adjacent to the airport. The park includes 20 acres of nature trails, and 20 acres of developed softball, soccer, playground, picnic, basketball, handball, and skateboard facilities. Camping areas can be developed to enhance the complex.

The airport currently accepts small jet business travel. The industrial park activity plans are to strengthen the business travel market.

OTHER AIRPORT CHARACTERISTICS

The City has made a substantial investment toward improvements to the airport since the mid 1980's. Improvements completed are as follows:

- New entrance, entrance road, and parking area for automobiles constructed in 1987
- A new 60 X 80 maintenance hangar built in 1989 for \$80,000.
- VASI installed on Runway 09/27
- The airport property was cleared in all directions to eliminate encroachment into the clear zones in 1997 for \$120,000.
- Runway 9/27 was extended by 900 feet to a total length of 4,100 in 1998 for \$168,369.
- Runway 9/27 lighting and PAPI installed in 1998 for \$84,500.
- 160 acres on the south side of the airport was acquired for an Airport Industrial Park in 2000
- A new Traffic Control Device and airport entrance on U.S. 90 and U.S. 331N was completed in 2002.

The next important areas to grow are the completion of the taxiway adjacent to Runway 09/27 and the overlay and widening of Runway 09/27. The Airport Industrial Park will facilitate the need to pave Runway 18/36. The availability to construct private corporate hangar space will facilitate the growth of private business travel. Currently, there are three businesses awaiting this opportunity to build corporate hangars.

Current Projects are:

- Apron Resurfacing
- T-Hangars Construction
- Taxiway "A" Phase 2
- Security Fencing
- Maintenance Hangars, Taxiway, Parking, and Utilities

The airport currently accepts small jet business travel. The industrial park's activity plans are to strengthen the business travel market.

CURRENT AND FUTURE SYSTEM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to low socioeconomic, airport acreage, and approach indices, the airport was evaluated low in regards to corporate service. However, it should be noted that the airport reports that 100% of its based aircraft are owned by local businesses. The City recently acquired an additional 160 acres and designated it as the Airport Industrial Park. The Airport Industrial Park has two companies ready to take occupancy and there are ongoing discussions with three other companies considering locating in the park. The City has secured \$560,000 from the U.S. Department of Commerce EDA, \$660,000 from the Florida Dept. of Community Affairs CDBG Program and \$175,000 from Enterprise Florida. These funds will be used to build four maintenance hangars. The hangars will have a new airplane paint refurbishing operation and an avionics repair shop. It is assumed that this airport will continue to provide corporate, recreational/sport, and business/recreational service, and has the capability to provide additional flight training and Very Light Jet (VLJ) type operations. This analysis also indicates that Tourism (CA) would be a viable service category for the airport, but there is little justification to that service.

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