

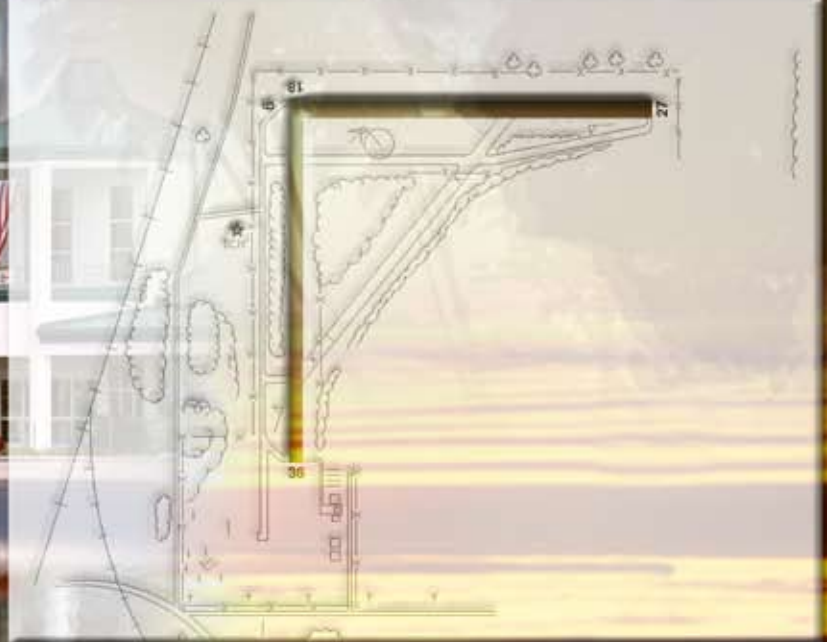
# IMMOKALEE REGIONAL AIRPORT



## AIRPORT LOCATION



Immokalee Regional Airport is located in Collier County near the Gulf Coast of South Florida. The airport is northwest of the central business district, situated north of County Route 846 and north of State Route 29.



## Existing Facilities

Immokalee Regional Airport is served by two runways. These runways are Runway 09/27 and Runway 18/36. Both of these runways are asphalt and are 5,000 ft. long x 150 ft wide. They both have MIRL, MITL, and taxiways that are 25 feet wide. Both runway pavements are in good condition. Runway 09/27 has no navigational aids, but Runway 18/36 has a VOR, and a GPS non-precision approach. The airport has a 1,800-square foot administration building to serve general aviation pilots and passengers. There are currently 12 on-airport auto parking spaces to serve the terminal building. There are currently 25 tie-downs for the airport's general aviation aircraft, and between the airport's T-hangars and conventional hangars, there are 30 covered parking spaces for aircraft. The landside facilities include a race track that is located on a closed down runway. The race track currently generates approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year in revenue for the airport. There are fuel sales, T-hangar rentals and rented industrial facilities that also generate income for Immokalee Regional Airport.

The airport has identified several initiatives as necessary to serve levels of demand in the near term, including a taxiway extension project, rehabilitation of runway lighting, development of a security plan, development of a U.S. Customs facility, and the installation of an emergency generator. The airport completed a master plan in 2003.

## Current and Forecast Demand

### GENERAL AVIATION

Immokalee Airport serves the needs of air cargo and general aviation. The largest plane that currently uses the airport's facilities is a DC 3. The current Airport Reference Code (ARC) as defined by the FAA Circular 150/5300-13 for the airport is A-III. As of the FDOT 2006 inspection, there are 59 based aircraft at the field. Of this total, approximately 100 percent of the aircraft are in T-hangars or conventional hangars. Currently, the FDOT Work Program for Immokalee Regional Airport shows plans to develop additional covered storage spaces.

Historic and forecast FDOT aviation activity information on file for the airport is as follows:

| Immokalee Regional Airport  | 2008   | 2013   | 2018   | 2028   |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Based Aircraft              | 59     | 67     | 76     | 99     |
| General Aviation Operations | 18,980 | 20,447 | 22,027 | 25,563 |
| 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 focuses primarily on serving general aviation aircraft. The airport serves flight training operations. The airport also has business and sport related flights. The airport encourages this kind of activity, and in the near future, it plans on having more business-related flights. The airport is interested in the idea of serving the Very Light Jet (VLJ) aircraft; however, Immokalee could not support the Very Light Jet (VLJ) aircraft at this time. The airport's future role is unlikely to be hampered by manmade factors, as there is plenty of room for growth. There are no environmental concerns on the property and community relations are excellent. The only potential challenge faced by the airport at this time is financial constraints. The airport does see itself growing significantly in the future. It plans on attracting cargo and shipping facilities and intends to add industrial facilities. The airport's plans for development are in line with the Collier County Airport Authority's vision for the facility.

Flight training is a component of this airport's general aviation activity. Roughly 60 percent of the airport's annual operations are related to flight training. Most flight training operations originate from other airports and their flight schools. General aviation operations by corporate and business users are also common at the airport. The airport estimates that 30 percent of its annual general aviation operations are business related. Roughly 20 percent of the airport's based aircraft are owned by local businesses. The airport does not have any based military aircraft.

## OTHER AIRPORT CHARACTERISTICS

In 1942, Immokalee Regional Airport was initiated by the military and was used as a bomber training facility. The airport's original name was Immokalee when it was given to the airport authority. The name was then changed. The airport is overseen by a seven-member board, which is appointed by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners and not elected. Each member is appointed for a four-year term and may be re-appointed at the expiration of their term. The members are not, and by County Ordinance, cannot be County Employees. They do oversee the three airports under their jurisdiction: Everglades Airpark, Immokalee Regional Airport and Marco Island Executive.

## CURRENT AND FUTURE SYSTEM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

The airport provides Flight Training, Tourism (CA), Business/Recreational and Recreational/Sport services through flight training, sky diving, and agricultural spraying operations. The airport would like to serve additional flight training needs, but not recreational aviation. It would like to become an air cargo center, but as the analysis shows, the facilities are inadequate, primarily because of the runway length. The analysis shows that the airport is only marginally suitable for Flight Training. It is better suited for Business/Recreational, Recreational/Sport, and Tourism (CA).

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