

# Chalet Suzanne Air Strip



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AVIATION AND SPACEPORTS OFFICE

**Airport:** Chalet Suzanne Airstrip  
(X25)

**City:** Lake Wales, Florida

**County:** Polk County

**Owner:** Chalet Suzanne Properties, Inc

**Role:** General Aviation Airport



Located in Polk County, approximately 65 miles east of Tampa, Chalet Suzanne Air Strip serves a variety of general aviation activities. With its single 2,313-foot turf runway, the airport can accommodate small general aviation aircraft.



## Existing Facilities

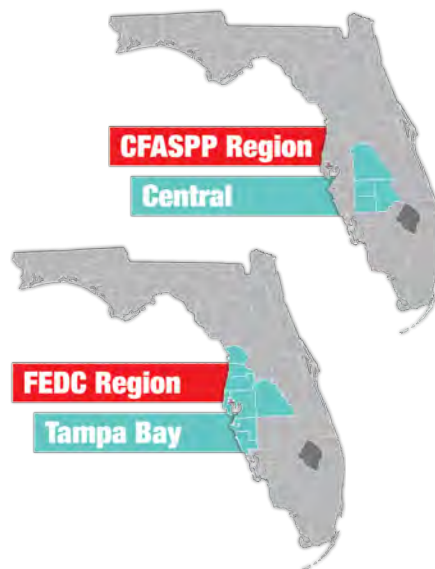
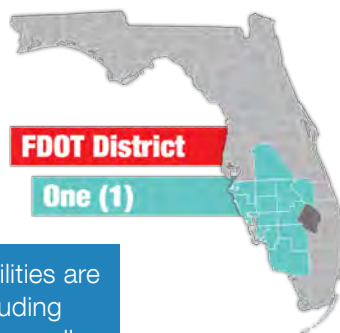
The Chalet Suzanne Airstrip features a single turf runway in fair condition, designated runway 18/36. The runway is 2,313 feet long by 50 feet wide. The runway is not equipped with any instrument approach or lighting systems. There was a small general aviation terminal building to support pilot needs.



## Airport Classification



Twenty-three privately-owned aviation facilities are open to the public throughout Florida including Chalet Suzanne Airstrip. These facilities generally comprise fly-in communities with grass strips or contain short paved runways that primarily serve the recreational general aviation public. Although these facilities are owned and operated by private individuals or companies, the facilities are open to the public for aviation use.





## Community Service

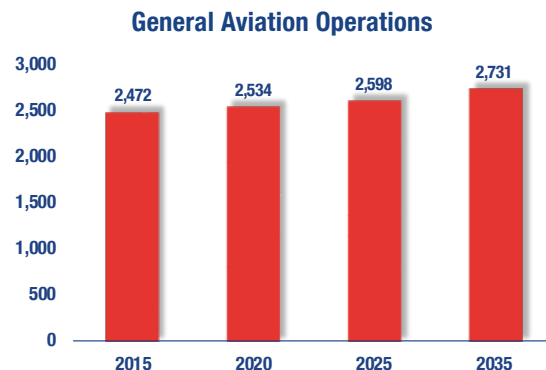
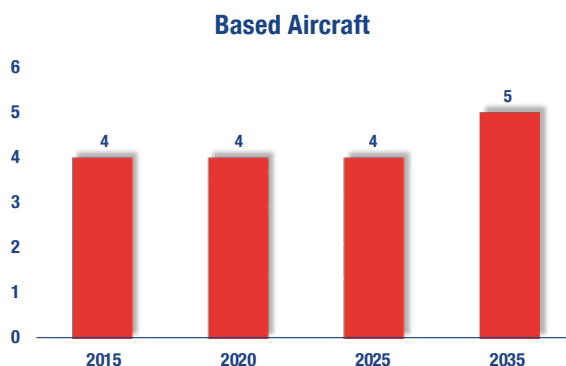


The Chalet Suzanne Airstrip formerly served as the aviation gateway to Chalet Suzanne, a famous resort and restaurant located adjacent to the airstrip. The chalet closed on August 4, 2014. The owners of the chalet and its airstrip have yet to put the property on the open market, as they are seeking a buyer who will commit to preserving the chalet rather than redeveloping it.



## Current and Forecast Demand

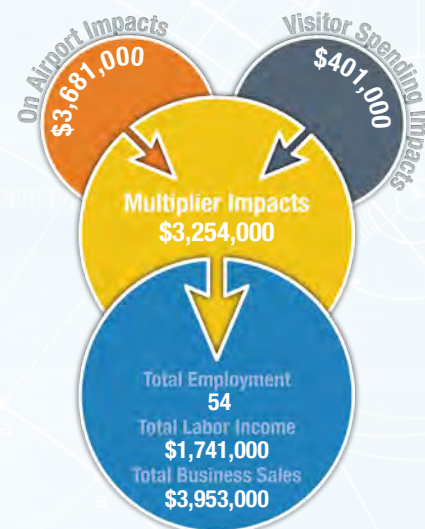
According to Florida Aviation System Plan data, in 2014 there were six aircraft based at Chalet Suzanne Airstrip. During the same time period, there were approximately 2,412 general aviation operations and 60 commercial operations. For the 12-month period ending on July 12, 2017, 81 percent of all operations were transient general aviation, 16 percent were local general aviation, two percent were air taxis, and less than one percent were military operations.





# Economic Impact

Located on the air strip's property is the Chalet Suzanne Restaurant and Country Inn, which has been offering visitors a peaceful retreat and delicious dining since 1931. In addition to tourism-related traffic, the air strip supports business, recreational, and flight training activity. The annual economic impact of Chalet Suzanne Air Strip is associated with direct impacts that come from the Chalet Suzanne Restaurant and Country Inn and construction projects that take place at the air strip and restaurant/inn. Indirect impacts are associated with spending from visitors who arrive in the area via general aviation aircraft.



*Economic data for this airport are based on data from the 2014 FDOT Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study, adjusted for inflation in 2017 dollars.*

## Other Airport Characteristics

While the airport does not have any based military aircraft, it does accommodate transient military operations. The airport reports that it has 12 military operations annually.

## Current and Future System Service Requirements/Recommendations

The airport reports a large amount of flight training and recreational activity. It also has modest levels of corporate activity and agricultural spraying, making it a Corporate and Business/Recreational airport, respectively. The airport expects it will serve increased levels of flight training and recreational aviation, both of which it scored well in the analysis. It did not score well in the Corporate or Business/Recreational service categories, mainly because of its short runway (2,313 feet) and lack of an instrument approach. It scored relatively well in Tourism (CA), making this a potential future service.

### General Aviation Airport Role



Flight Training



Tourism



Recreational/Sport



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