

# South Lakeland Airport



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AVIATION AND SPACEPORTS OFFICE

**Airport:** South Lakeland Airport  
(X49)

**City:** Lakeland, Florida

**County:** Polk County

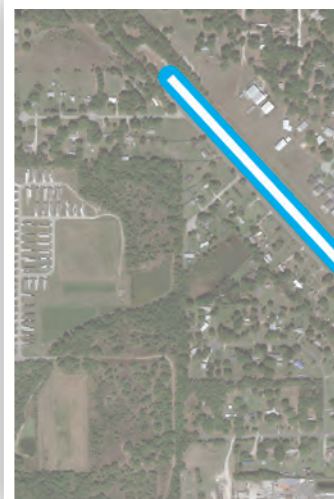
**Owner:** South Lakeland Airport, Inc

**Role:** General Aviation Airport



## Existing Facilities

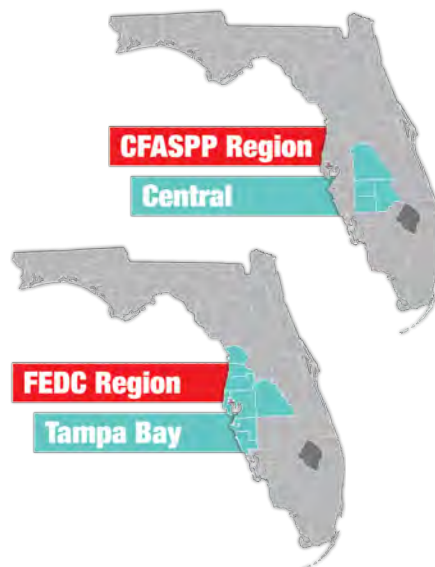
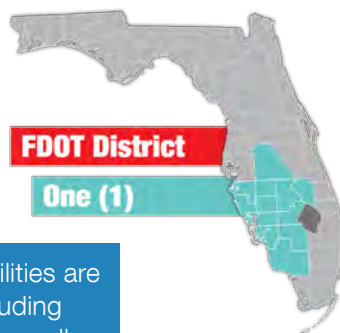
South Lakeland Airport features one turf runway, runway 14/32, which measures 2,412 feet long by 100 feet wide. There is a parallel turf taxiway, as well as a network of taxiways to access homes in the adjacent fly-in community. The runway is not equipped with any lighting or instrument approach aids. 28 T-hangars and several grass tie-down spots accommodate airplane parking and storage.



## Airport Classification



Twenty-three privately-owned aviation facilities are open to the public throughout Florida including South Lakeland Airport. 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.



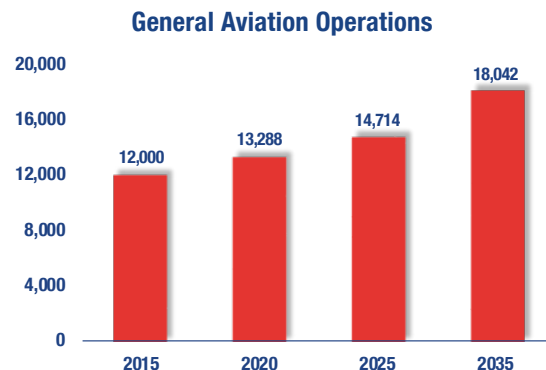
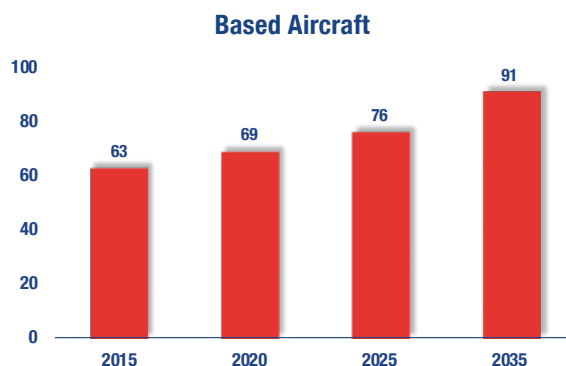


South Lakeland Airport primarily serves as a facility for recreational and sport flying, with some flight training activity as well. The airport is located adjacent to a fly-in community, where residents can taxi their aircraft from the runway directly to their homes. While it is most often used by local general aviation pilots, the airport also hosts several fly-ins each year and is also used as a support facility during the annual Sun 'n Fun fly-in at nearby Lakeland Linder International Airport. The airport also hosts monthly Experimental Aircraft Association chapter meetings. South Lakeland Airport also occasionally hosts military operations, usually from Coast Guard and National Guard helicopters conducting training flights.



## Current and Forecast Demand

According to Florida Aviation System plan data, in 2014 there were 70 aircraft based at South Lakeland Airport. During the same time period, there were approximately 12,000 general aviation operations. For the 12-month period ending on December 14, 2017, 83 percent of all operations were local general aviation, while the remaining 17 percent were transient general aviation operations.



# Current and Future **System Service Requirements/Recommendations**

The airport provides Recreational/Sport (experimental, ultralights), Flight Training, Air Cargo, and Business/Recreational (skydiving, aerial photography) services. The airport plans to increase its flight training and recreational operations, as well as to initiate charter service. However, the analysis indicates that the airport is best suited for providing Recreational/Sport and Tourism (CA) services. The lack of an air traffic control tower and an instrument approach inhibit its ability to provide Flight Training service. The lack of an instrument approach and its low socioeconomic index make the airport a poor candidate for providing Business/Recreational service.

## General Aviation Airport Role



## Other **Airport Characteristics** ---

In 2017, the airport was purchased by Triton Aerospace for \$2 million dollars. Triton Aerospace, who manufactures light sport aircraft in China, plans to use South Lakeland Airport as a training and support center for the aircraft it develops.



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