

WHAT IS BEING DONE

While aircraft noise will never completely go away, both local and federal agencies are making strides to ensure that the public's exposure to aircraft noise is being reduced. Below are some examples:

- Federal mandates to phase out noisy aircraft
- Continued production of new quieter aircraft
- Airport-specific noise abatement procedures
- Land-use zoning to protect residents

While these steps assist in reducing aviation's noise impacts, it remains even more important to communicate directly with your local airport regarding any unusual aircraft noise events that you may experience. This will help ensure a positive, neighborly relationship.



DALLAS LOVE FIELD

SAGINAW AIRPORT CLOSED IN 2002



1997

2003



2007



CONNECTING GLOBALLY

North Central Texas General Aviation and Heliport System Plan

www2010

For more information on general aviation airports and the importance of protecting them, visit:
WWW.NCTCOG.ORG/AVIATION

PRESERVING GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORTS IN NORTH TEXAS

WHAT IS GENERAL AVIATION

General aviation is any civilian flying other than scheduled commercial airline service. This broad definition encompasses a wide range of aircraft designed to serve even wider purposes. General aviation flights range from small homebuilt single-engine aircraft to large jet engine cargo planes. Some of the most recognizable services that general aviation provides are overnight mail delivery, medical evacuation and airborne law enforcement.

General aviation in the DFW area has an annual economic output of nearly \$4.3 billion, creating 28,000 jobs.

In addition to these services, general aviation has many other purposes such as flight training and corporate and personal transportation, all of which may be farther removed from the public's eye but nonetheless play an invaluable part in the economic vitality of the region.

THE FUTURE OF AIRPORTS



MESQUITE METRO AIRPORT

As one of the premier aviation regions in the nation, the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area is home to over 400 public- and private-use airports, ranging in size from large commercial airports such as Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport to small private residential landing strips. Most people don't realize the economic importance of their local airport and its role as a vital transportation link to their area. The high number of airports coupled with the region's rapidly increasing population means that many North Texas airports are under the threat of urban encroachment. If left unchecked, this can result in the closure of the airport (as illustrated by Saginaw Airport in 2002), and history has shown that once an airport is closed it isn't coming back.

Since 1981, there have been an average of 262 airport closures per year in the US.



A GUIDE FOR THE PUBLIC

ROLES OF GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORTS

Each local general aviation airport in North Texas is a vital economic and transportation asset to the local community and the region. These airports benefit each community by creating jobs, generating local revenue, and attracting business to the area.

CONVENIENT
SAFE
SECURE

The US Department of Commerce estimates that every \$1 spent at local airports adds another \$2.53 to the local economy.

Due to the large infrastructure and land-use requirements, large regional airports are generally located far from home. General aviation airports are often located in a community, saving those who use these airports time and money while increasing productivity. The ability to operate out of an airport close to the office, clients, and home is a big reason businesses locate near general aviation airports.

Another advantage of general aviation airports is their role in disaster relief and crime prevention. During a disaster the community airport is often used as the staging area for relief efforts. Their convenient locations mean that they are often the fastest and most efficient way to get supplies to those in need. Additionally, local law enforcement and news agencies often utilize general aviation airports to give traffic updates and to keep the communities safe.



DALLAS EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

General aviation airports are so much more than just a place for hobbyists to store their planes. These airports have a profound effect on the local economy, and because so many everyday services are provided by general aviation airports, they play an integral part in sustaining our way of life. The following discusses some of the perceived negative impacts of airport operations, why they are important, and how they affect you.

UNDERSTANDING AIRCRAFT NOISE

Because aircraft noise is often one of the most commonly encountered products of an airport, it is important to understand its causes and how it affects you. Most people have different thresholds for pain and pleasure, so the definition of noise, or unwanted sound, is subjective. A retired airline pilot may not be bothered by a passing plane, while a neighbor working at home may be annoyed. Several factors affect the perceived noise level that is produced by a passing aircraft. Some of these factors are:

- Time of Day :** Noise seems louder at night than during the day.
- Age of Aircraft :** Older aircraft are generally louder than newer aircraft.
- Weather Conditions :** Lower cloud cover increases noise by reflecting it back to the ground.

HOW NOISE IS MEASURED

The subjective nature of noise explains why people respond to the same noise differently, and why it is so difficult for airport and aviation officials to plan for noise reduction. While noise is typically a perceived event, sound can be objectively measured. A decibel (dB) is a unit used to measure sound's intensity. The graphic illustrates the decibel level of noise produced by general aviation in comparison to common daily noise-producing events.

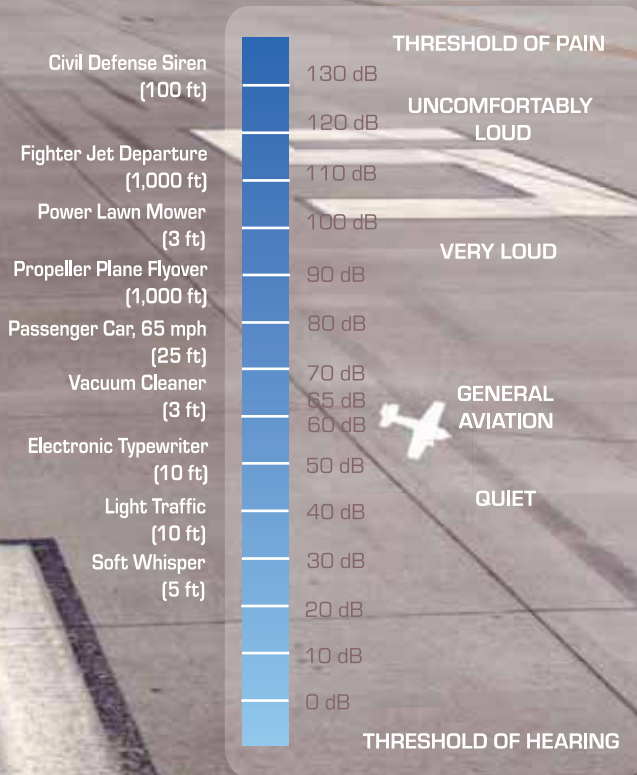
RESIDENTIAL AREA NEAR DALLAS



OVER MY HOUSE

From the ground, aircraft may appear to be flying at random and at the total discretion of the pilot, but the flight is being conducted in a highly controlled environment. The Federal Aviation Administration established flight paths. Just like cars use highways to get from city to city, airplanes use flight paths to get from airport to airport. In addition to these flight paths, aircraft operating in the Dallas-Fort Worth area are under the constant watch of air traffic control who direct them to fly certain routes to ensure the safe operations of the flight.

NOISE SOURCE



REDUCING EXPOSURE TO AIRPORT NOISE

Choosing the right home is one of the most important investment decisions you'll make in life. In terms of aircraft noise, choosing where the home is located is as important a decision as the home itself. People have several reasons for choosing where to live: distance from work, nearby schools, recreation, etc. One important additional item to consider is your potential home's location in relation to local airports. When those airports are discovered, there are a few things you can do to determine the impact of aircraft noise on your home:

- Contact the airport and ask what level of noise you can expect.
- Spend at least two hours at the house to observe aircraft noise levels. [Aircraft noise generally decreases significantly between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.]
- Visit the airport's website to obtain pertinent noise information.

If you live in a home affected by aircraft noise, there are things that you can do to mitigate that noise. The first step is to understand how noise enters. As a general rule of thumb, if air can get into a home, so can noise. This is why noise enters through vents, doors, and windows. Updating these structures will not only make your home more efficient, but it is the most effective way to reduce your home's exposure to noise.

According to the Department of Energy, approximately 52% of energy is lost through windows, walls, and doors.

If you already live near an airport, or if you're considering buying a home near an airport, the best way to understand existing or potential airport noise is to contact your local airport. They can provide information and helpful suggestions to help you reduce aircraft noise from entering your home.