



The Hidden Value: Baldwin County Regional Airport

How the Baldwin County Regional Airport Provides Essential Resources and Boosts Economic Development to the Milledgeville Community

Since the Baldwin County Regional Airport's opening in 1959, this public airport has positively impacted the region and strengthened the local community at large. As the Board of Commissioners continues to prioritize clear communication about the variety of projects occurring in the area, the Baldwin County Government would like to share a brief overview of why the airport is vital to this region and why it is a worthy investment.

Provides Substantial Return on Investment

For each project that is undertaken to improve the Baldwin County Regional Airport, approximately 90% of the funding comes directly from the federal government, and 5% is provided through state funding. Typically, only 5% of Baldwin County money is utilized for airport projects, as the rest of the funding is provided through grants and other funds in connection with the Airport Improvement Project. This is a national program that provides funding for regional airports throughout the United States.

An important aspect of the airport is its ability to generate income that flows directly back into Baldwin County. Almost all of the airplane hangars at the airport are located on leased county property. These monthly land leases ensure more income returns back into the county each month. In addition, the airport's fuel flowage fee generates income as well. Whenever an aircraft needs to refuel at the airport, a fuel flowage fee is paid, and those funds add to the Baldwin County budget. Additional funds are also generated through the sales tax of fuel purchased at the airport. Money also flows back into the County via the ad valorem tax on aircraft and equipment. An ad valorem tax is a tax whose amount is based on the value of a transaction or of property. Ad Valorem tax dollars are divided up between the Baldwin County budget and the Baldwin County School System.

Sets the Stage for Increased Business Development & Industry

The Baldwin County Regional Airport is a big attractor for businesses and industries looking to expand to middle Georgia. Countless companies from across the country utilize the Baldwin County Regional Airport each year to research possible new locations for growth throughout the middle Georgia region. Having a regional airport is often a pivotal quality that businesses look for when looking to relocate or add facilities in a new area.

Many local businesses also rely on the airport to transport people and materials in and out of the region. Skyline Construction, a certified professional roofing contractor, is a frequent user of the airport, flying its employees to residential and commercial clients across the southeast. Other businesses such as Arcilla Mining & Land Company,

Piedmont Mining & Land Company, Southway Crane and Rigging and Southeastern Sight Services utilize the airport for business operations. The airport also supports flight training, aerial inspections, aerial photography, and surveying activities, which could not happen without an airport close by.

Directly Benefits the Agricultural Industry

The airport supports the region's agricultural industry and serves as a gateway to outdoor recreation areas throughout Baldwin County, such as Lockerly Arboretum, Lake Sinclair, and Bartram State Forest.

The Department of Natural Resources and Georgia Forestry Department utilize the airport for crop and forestry management. Agricultural aircraft like crop dusters often operate out of the airport as well, which provide essential protection of crops and lumber to agricultural communities around the state. The Department of Natural Resources also uses the airport as a base for surveying the eagle population of Lake Sinclair and Lake Oconee.

Provides Valuable Public Service during Emergency Situations

The Baldwin County Regional Airport serves as a hub for first responders and emergency personnel in times of need. Air Evac Lifeteam 140 is based in Milledgeville and uses the airport for fueling and transfer. The Georgia State Patrol and various drug enforcement agencies also work out of the airport periodically to help protect Baldwin County and surrounding areas.

In times of natural disaster, small regional airports are the link to the outside world. If a natural disaster like a flood or hurricane affects the middle Georgia region, this airport will serve as a home base for small planes to land and deliver necessary supplies when other routes are impassable.

Offers Community Engagement and Education Opportunities

The airport is also utilized for events that engage residents of all ages in Baldwin County and surrounding areas. In May of this year, the airport hosted a community appreciation event. There were numerous aircraft like bi-planes and helicopters for the community to see up close. The event also featured a restored World War II Jeep and Training Plane, in addition to a car show. This was a special time for families and individuals of all ages to take a look at the airport and learn about aviation.

On Tuesday, November 12th, the Baldwin County Regional Airport is hosting another event in honor of Veteran's Day. A B-17 Bomber, one of World War II's most vital aircraft, will be available for once-in-a-lifetime flight experiences and ground tours. For more information on this event, visit B17.org.

We are pleased to announce that a groundbreaking ceremony for the Baldwin County Regional Airport's West Apron Project will be held on Tuesday, October 29th at 2:00pm. Please see the below map for site location and available parking highlighted in yellow.



For more information on the Baldwin County Regional Airport, please visit this link:
<https://www.baldwincountyairport.com/>.

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