



Airport Runway Safety Project

Investing in Safety. Supporting Lake County.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Waukegan National Airport Runway Safety Project is designed to improve operational safety and bring the airport into compliance with updated Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety standards. Our goal is to ensure the airport continues serving Lake County as a safe, reliable, and important economic asset for generations to come.

This is a safety and modernization project — not an expansion project.

FACTS ABOUT THE PROJECT

- **Not Another O'Hare:** Waukegan National Airport will remain a general aviation and corporate reliever airport. There are no plans for commercial cargo or passenger airline service
- **A Safety Project, Not an Expansion:** This is a safety and compliance project designed to meet updated FAA standards and improve operational safety
- **A Shorter Runway Plan:** Updated FAA guidance reduced the proposed runway length from 7,000 feet to 6,000 feet
- **Minimized Forest Preserve Impact:** Revised plans reduced the impact from the purchase of approximately 52 acres to less than one-quarter acre. An aviation easement over 18 acres of Forest Preserve land allows their control and access
- **Environmental Review Is Ongoing:** Environmental analysis materials have been made publicly available on the airport's website, and the Waukegan Port District remains committed to environmental stewardship and transparency throughout the process
- **Benefits the Entire Community:** Waukegan National Airport supports law enforcement, emergency response operations, the U.S. Military and Coast Guard, healthcare transportation, flight training, and local businesses throughout Lake County

SUPPORTING PUBLIC SAFETY AND LOCAL JOBS

Waukegan National Airport supports:

- Lake County Health Department Support
 - Receiving site for human health emergency medicines and supplies
 - Served as an emergency temporary morgue during the COVID crisis
- According to a 2021 Illinois Department of Transportation study:
 - The airport generates approximately \$183 million in annual economic impact
 - The airport supports more than 900 local jobs