

Master Plan Introduction



Highlights

- 1) The Duluth Airport Authority (DAA) is completing a Master Plan to help the airport meet our communities' aviation needs for the next 20 years
 - 2) The Master Plan aims to provide direction for future preservation and development priorities
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Sky Harbor Airport Master Plan

The Duluth Airport Authority (DAA) has begun an Airport Master Plan update. The master planning process began in Summer 2020 and is expected to be complete in the Summer of 2021.

A Master Plan is a comprehensive study of an airport that describes short-, medium-, and long-term development plans. The main goal of a Master Plan is to provide the framework necessary to guide future development that will cost-effectively satisfy aviation demand while considering potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts. After over ten years of planning, environmental considerations, and analyses, Sky Harbor completed a runway relocation project in June 2020 to preserve and protect the forest, plants and aquatic habitat that is unique to the area.

Following the runway relocation project, the DAA began efforts to complete a Master Plan update to ensure that the airport continues to operate safely and efficiently while consideration is given to inclusive and comprehensive long-term planning of the building area, seaplane base and aviation support facilities.

Objectives for the DAA of this Master Plan include:

- Increase visibility/value to the hometown community and flying community
- Capitalize on Sky Harbor's uniqueness
- Maximize revenue potential
- Financial feasibility and planning paramount to any project's inclusion in the Final Master Plan
- Maintain the critical balance between the sensitive natural environment around the airport and aviation

The Master Plan will identify projects, which may be implemented at varying times as needed in the 20-year planning term. Before implementation, each project must undergo additional analysis including environmental review through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. For some projects, additional environmental permitting may also be needed. Additionally, funding must be secured for each project before implementation. Funding sources may include FAA, MnDOT, the Duluth Airport Authority and other sources.

Master Plan Components

The Master Plan process includes the following major components:

- Inventory of existing conditions
- Aviation activity forecasts
- Identification of facility requirements and recommendations
- Alternatives analysis and selection of preferred development alternatives
- Environmental overview
- Airport Layout Plan (ALP)
- Implementation Plan including Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

The deliverables of the Master Plan include:

- [Public Involvement Plan](#) – The plan documents approach and processes that are needed to effectively engage stakeholders, airport users, tenants, and businesses throughout the project.
- [Master Plan Report](#) – The report documents the analysis and conclusion reached during the planning process. The FAA accepts the Master Plan and has approval authority over the aviation activity forecasts contained within.
- [Capital Implementation Plan \(CIP\)](#) – The report analyzes and documents estimated project costs, prioritization, implementation of planning, and funding for the 20-year planning period.
- [Airport Layout Plan Update \(ALP\)](#) – A scaled graphical depiction of the existing and proposed airport development included in the Master Plan. In addition to the DAA, the FAA and MnDOT Office of Aeronautics also have approval authority over the ALP.

How to get involved!

Project information and updates will be provided throughout the project on a dedicated project webpage on the Sky Harbor Airport website. Project updates, meeting agendas and minutes and project documents will all be posted on this site.

Website: <https://skyharbor.duluthairport.com/>

If you have additional feedback on the Master Plan process, questions or additional comments please contact Kevin Lyons, Sky Harbor Airport Manager at klyons@duluthairport.com

