

WELCOME

TO

DISCOVER

Flying Cloud Airport



PLANNING PROCESS

Baseline Existing Facilities

Inventory and document existing facilities and aviation activity levels to establish baseline conditions

Forecasts

Forecast MSP aviation activity levels (passengers, cargo, and aircraft operations) for the milestone years between 2020 and 2040

Facility Requirements (Gap Analysis)

Determine any facility deficiency gaps between the baseline condition and desired future conditions based on forecasted activity levels

Development Concepts

Develop and evaluate alternative means to remedy facility deficiencies identified through the process

Proposed Development

Determine a proposed development program, funding plan, and implementation strategy to present to the community and the MAC board

Environmental Considerations

Prepare an overview of factors that should be considered when determining the appropriate level of environmental review needed to implement the plan

HISTORY OF

Flying Cloud Airport

In 1941 the U.S. Navy reached an agreement with Martin Grill to conduct training flights on a grass strip on his farmland in modern-day Eden Prairie. Grill later sold the site to American Aviation Inc., a private enterprise.

Originally, the airport was going to be called Southwest Minneapolis Airport. Airfield manager John Stuber gave it the “Flying Cloud” name.

With flight activity on the increase in the late 1940s, the MAC acquired Flying Cloud in 1948 and paved it the next year. In the late 1960s and 1970s the airport was home to eight very popular flight schools, as piloting became a popular career choice for

veterans returning from service in Vietnam. The airport’s location near the growing Twin Cities area also drew a steady stream of student pilots.

Flying Cloud’s air traffic in that era is hard to imagine by modern standards. Eden Prairie remained largely undeveloped in the 1960s, and in 1966 Flying Cloud ranked second to only Chicago’s O’Hare Airport as the busiest airfield in the central United States. In 1968, Flying Cloud had 446,198 take-offs and landings, or operations.

Today Flying Cloud today is primarily a recreational flying hub and also houses a number of corporate jets for businesses in the southwest metro area.

