



Chapter One | Introduction

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1 | Section 1 – Introduction

The Elbow Lake Municipal Airport (“Y63 – Pride of the Prairie”) is a growing aviation facility located in West Central Minnesota. It is operated by the Elbow Lake Municipal Airport Board and the City of Elbow Lake.

Over the last several years, shifts in demands for service, growth in general aviation activity, the completion of needed improvement projects, and updates to FAA design criteria have created changing conditions at Y63.

In order to provide guidance through these changes and in anticipation of emerging trends, the Elbow Lake Airport Board (Board), in conjunction with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), has chosen to undertake this airport master planning effort.

This master plan will analyze current demand, forecast future demands and develop a plan to support the infrastructure needs of Y63 over the next 20 years. This is the first Airport Master Plan (MP) for Y63, but it shall reference past documents to review and assist in making decisions throughout the planning process. The MP will be prepared in accordance with the guidance provided in FAA Advisory Circular 150/5070-6B, *Change 2 to Airport Master Plans*.

This is the first comprehensive Airport Master Plan for Y63.

1 | Section 2 – Goals and Objectives

The Airport’s last adopted planning document was the 2004 Airport Layout Plan-Master Plan, which was updated in 2005. Since this time, Y63 has experienced growth in aviation operations and activity, and completed both safety and capacity projects with the guidance of MnDOT and the FAA. These improvement projects include paving the existing grass runway, apron, and access road; the addition of runway lighting; the addition of a seaplane base; construction of new private and T-hangars; the addition of an FBO (Prairie Air, Inc.) serving the airport; and the construction of a new public storage hangar.

The Airport Board has established several goals and objectives for the Master Plan study to guide future development. These include specific areas in which the existing condition is to be evaluated against forecasted future demand, such as hangars, runway length and orientation, and parallel taxiways. The Board’s goals also include the evaluation of opportunities for implementation of improvements to airport safety, security, and enhanced amenities.

| <i>Elbow Lake Master Plan Goals and Objectives</i> | |
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| Airfield & Airspace | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study operations forecasts and fleet mix - Analyze existing and proposed taxiways and runways based on anticipated critical aircraft and forecast demand - Evaluate land use within Runway Protection Zones - Evaluate NAVAIDs for compliance with FAA requirements |
| General Aviation Facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review capacity and layout of existing hangars against forecast - Evaluate existing AD Building/amenities against forecast and Y63’s goals |
| Support Facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate equipment needs and storage facilities - Evaluate fueling facility |
| Access, Circulation, & Parking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze need for improvements to wayfinding system - Evaluate site security lighting and fencing - Review visitor and employee automobile parking areas |
| Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update the Airport’s Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) through MnDOT - Update the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) set - Review Seaplane Base and create Seaplane Base Layout Plan (SBLP) - Perform Wildlife Hazard Site Visit and create Management Plan - Consider the need for 3-phase electrical service - Develop Solid Waste Management Plan - Develop Obstacle Action Plan - Update Exhibit “A” document - Collect and submit safety critical Airport Geographical Information |

1 | Section 3 – Study Design

Development of Airport Master Plans is guided by procedures and requirements stipulated in FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5070-6B, *Change 2 to Airport Master Plans*. The criteria contained in this AC calls for the survey and review of existing conditions at the airport and in the community it serves, development of forecasted aviation demand, and an evaluation of this demand on the Airport’s existing facilities and infrastructure, guiding the development of a recommended 20-year Capital Improvement Plan. In addition to these planning activities, a detailed review of environmental issues is conducted, and a survey of obstructions both off and on airport property – which may impact the safe operation of aircraft – is completed.

The updated Master Plan will abide by the criteria outlined in the AC as described above. In the final chapter of the MP, a financial feasibility and implementation plan will be developed to guide the execution of the recommended alternative. The Airport Layout Plan (ALP) drawings will graphically depict current and future recommended activities, Exhibit “A” property map, and airspace and obstruction drawings, as well as other drawings needed to describe the recommended airport development.

A financial feasibility and implementation plan will be developed to guide the execution of the recommended alternative.



