

# City of Naples Airport Authority 2013 Annual Report





**CITY OF NAPLES AIRPORT AUTHORITY**  
**160 AVIATION DRIVE NORTH • NAPLES, FLORIDA 34104-3568**

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October 17, 2013

Greetings,

The Board of Commissioners and staff of the City of Naples Airport Authority proudly present this report to share the activities and accomplishments of the 2013 fiscal year. Naples Municipal Airport celebrates its 70th anniversary on December 23, 2013. We have spent time this year reflecting on how the airport has progressed since its 1943 launch as the Naples Airdrome. The transition from an Air Corps base to a thriving general aviation airport has been interesting, but not always smooth.

One recent example is the government sequestration that threatened to close air traffic control towers at Naples and 148 other airports across the nation this year. Federal Aviation Administration contract towers handle 28 percent of tower operations in the United States. The Airport Authority, with several other airports, filed a lawsuit that postponed the closures, but a long-term resolution has yet to be determined.

Sequestration also delayed the start of an important construction project at the airport. In September 2012, the Airport Authority secured initial grants totaling almost \$1.2 million from the Federal Aviation Administration and Florida Department of Transportation for water-management system improvements and the Taxiway A extension project. Additional grants, to fund 95 percent of the \$8 million-plus project, were expected in spring 2013. The government slow-down delayed those grants, which in turn delayed construction. The grants finally were confirmed in August 2013.

Due to the combined resourcefulness of airport staff, project consultant Hanson Professional Services and contractor Manhattan Construction, a plan to streamline construction was developed and most of the work on the airfield will be completed before the end of December 2013, despite the delay in the start date.

Other work has continued unhindered, such as the focus of the board and the Noise Compatibility Committee on making the airport a quieter neighbor. The “Please Fly Safe Fly Quiet” campaign, launched in 2012, continues to promote the airport’s noise abatement measures, primarily among general aviation pilots and airport tenants.

The Airport Authority also continues its priority on communications and public outreach efforts to foster an open exchange of accurate information and ideas. Although airport critics are visible and vocal, their information is often inaccurate, and I believe they are a minority. Most Neapolitans appreciate all the airport contributes to the community and understand its role as an economic engine.

My 11 years on the Board of Commissioners come to an end in November, but my pride in “The Best Little Airport in the Country” will never end. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve my community.

Respectfully,

Ernest Linneman, Chairman

John Allen, Vice Chairman → Cormac Giblin → Linda Flewelling → John Nocera

## Distinctions

- ➔ The Government Finance Officers Association recognized the Airport Authority and Director of Finance Sheila Etelamaki with their eighth consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
- ➔ In April, the Federal Aviation Administration completed its annual review and gave Naples Municipal Airport its 18th consecutive perfect score in complying with all required standards.
- ➔ Readers of Professional Pilot magazine named Naples Municipal Airport the 23rd best fixed-base operator and the 13th best independent fixed base operator in the nation. The previous year's rankings were 27th and 15th.
- ➔ The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Collier County Commissioners selected Naples Municipal Airport as the Business of the Month, October 2012, in recognition of its positive contribution to the community.

## Other accomplishments

- ➔ Work began on water-management system improvements and the Taxiway A extension project, with 95% of the funding provided by the FAA and Florida Department of Transportation. If the two years of performance monitoring included in the project confirms predictions, the \$8 million-plus project could set a national standard for how airports should handle water-management issues.

Grant funding also covers the extension of Taxiway A, which will enhance airport safety and operations by eliminating the need for aircraft leaving from the east side of the airport to cross the active runway to take off. Using the full length of the runway for takeoff will allow pilots to reach higher altitudes as they leave the airport, reducing noise on the ground.

- ➔ Work on a public observation deck at the south end of the airfield was completed with the help of Eagle Scout candidates Richard Evans and Ryan Dell'Aquila, who added landscaping, benches, picnic tables and a bike rack.



- ➔ The Museum of Military Memorabilia at Naples Municipal Airport continues to add exhibit items and hosts more than 10,000 visitors a year in space provided inside the Commercial Airline Terminal.
- ➔ The Harmon-Meek Gallery installed the first of a series of loaned art exhibits in the General Aviation Terminal in February 2013. The gallery, which represents 38 American artists, changes the airport exhibit periodically to provide a beautiful welcome to travelers and guests.

## Statistics

- ➔ Total aircraft operations in 2013: 91,605, an increase of 5.2% compared to the previous year
- ➔ Total number of aircraft clearings through U.S. Customs: 561, with 549 (nearly 98%) staying in Naples

## Acknowledgements

It is not possible to identify everyone who contributed to the Authority's accomplishments, but the following people must be acknowledged for their work:

### Noise Compatibility Committee Members:

Chair Scottie Yeager • Vice Chair William Cox  
William Barnett • Robert Erbstein • Richard Evans  
William Goddard • William T. Hummel  
M. Richard Mellon • Robert Tweedie

Thanks to those whose terms ended in March:  
Kenneth Lohmann • Byron Meade • Duane Repp



This report reflects results of significant contributions from Naples Airport Authority staff, including Theodore D. Soliday, Executive Director • Sheila A. Dugan, Deputy Executive Director  
Ryan Frost, Director of Airport Operations • Kerry Keith, Director of Airport Development and Facilities  
Sheila Etelamaki, Director of Finance and Administration  
Ron Jefferson, Assistant Director of Airport Development and Facilities • and others

## City of Naples Airport Authority Chairs

1969-70	Potter Smith	1997-98	Joseph A. Bawduniak
1970-71	Robert L. Hill, Jr.	1998	Ronald M. Pennington
1971-72	William H. Creason	1999	Leonard H. Thornton
1972-74	Byron E. Harding	2000	Ronald M. Pennington
1974-78	John M. Miller	2001	Eric West
1979	Robert E. Lee Hall	2002	Peter L. Manion
1979	John M. Miller	2003	Peter G. Eschauzier
1980-82	Edwin J. Putzell, Jr.	2004	Alice J. Carlson
1983-84	Robert N. Tiffany	2005	Peter L. Manion
1985-86	Edward J. Kant	2006-07	Ernest W. Linneman
1987-88	William R. Blaikie	2008-09	John N. Allen
1988-90	Toivo Tammerk	2010	Robert J. Sullivan II
1991-92	Raymond E. Carroll	2011-12	Cormac J. Giblin
1992-94	Eugene J. Schmidt	2013	Ernest W. Linneman
1994-97	Edwin J. Putzell, Jr.		



We invite you to attend Airport Authority board meetings, or watch them on the Internet at [www.naplesgov.com](http://www.naplesgov.com).  
Learn more about the airport, or subscribe to electronic news updates at [www.FlyNaples.com](http://www.FlyNaples.com).