



NOISE MITIGATION FAQs

Does Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (RMMA) have the authority to restrict airport operations or limit flights, make airplane routing decisions or institute curfews in an attempt to decrease the noise?

No. RMMA, which was founded in 1960, is a federally funded, public use airport subject to complex laws and regulations. The Airport Noise and Capacity Act (ANCA) passed by Congress in 1990 severely limits the ability of local airports to regulate noise. The law shifts responsibility for noise abatement away from local governments and airport sponsors to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which imposes noise and capacity restrictions at airports. Additionally, the FAA determines the safest route for aircraft to follow with respect to terrain avoidance and airspace procedures, controls flight paths and routes and assigns altitudes.

Can RMMA charge landing fees to decrease operations, which will cut back on the noise?

No. Unlike many commercial service airports, which charge landing fees for airfield maintenance due to the impacts of heavier commercial aircraft, general aviation airports like RMMA don't typically charge landing fees. The FAA requires that instituting such a fee must be reasonable and not solely for the purpose of restricting access to the airport.

Can RMMA change the location of where planes land and take off?

No. Airplanes must take off and land into the wind. Arrivals, departures and traffic pattern operations are dictated by FAA Air Traffic Control Tower and standardized traffic pattern procedures, which improve safety and traffic flow. The primary runways are positioned in a manner consistent with the northwest prevailing wind direction at RMMA.

Why can't airplanes climb higher before flying over residential areas?

Airplanes at this altitude (5,670 feet above sea level) don't perform as well as they do at lower elevations. This means they can't climb as quickly because their wings, engines and propellers are less efficient in the thin air. Planes create more noise than at lower elevations because they must fly closer to the ground for longer periods of time.

Why do aircraft take off and land at early and late hours?

Aircraft operate in the early morning and late-evening hours for various reasons. Many are medical flights with patients or critical organs on board or check-carrying cargo operations. Other flights involve corporations and businesses based near the airport. In the summer, higher temperatures and afternoon turbulence cause many pilots to fly earlier in the day.

Is there anything RMMA can do to address the noise complaints?

Yes. RMMA works continuously with the FAA and airport tenants and users to develop aircraft routes and procedures that maintain a high level of safety while reducing aircraft noise. RMMA is part of the RMMA Community Noise Roundtable, which is a regional, coordinated approach to address the noise impacts to the community surrounding RMMA, and airport officials continue to gather information from the National Business Aircraft Association's noise mitigation programs.

Additionally, RMMA has proactively instituted a noise abatement program that provides pilots with recommendations aimed at decreasing noise while staying within safe aircraft operation parameters.

What exactly is the proactive noise abatement program?

The program is designed to minimize noise from aircraft operation and reduce negative effects on the surrounding areas. Program recommendations include flying as high as possible when leaving the airport perimeter, lowering propeller speed, flying over major road corridors and/or open space when possible, using the full length of the runway to ensure aircraft are as high as possible before leaving the airport perimeter and limiting departures from flight schools in the evening hours.

Who do I call to complain about airplane noise?

If you have been affected by noise from RMMA, please call the noise complaint line at 303-271-4874 or complete the [online complaint form](https://www.jeffco.us/1697). (<https://www.jeffco.us/1697>)

What does RMMA do with the complaints?

Noise statistics are tracked by household and neighborhood in a format similar to the one used by Denver International Airport. This helps determine problem areas, and the offending aircraft can sometimes be tracked, and when the situation warrants, we can contact the aircraft owner to discuss the situation.