

Frequently Asked Questions

Airport

What is the procedure to complain about airport noise?

Airport General Information

What are the rules regarding how low an aircraft can fly over a residential area?

My concern isn't about noise; it's about safety. Who should I contact?

What are the airport's hours of operation?

Why are training flights that originate at other airports using the Vance Brand Municipal Airport?

How do I report an aircraft that is flying too low or in an unsafe manner?

Does the City of Longmont receive Federal or State funds for the operation of Vance Brand Airport?

What good does it do to call in or complete an online noise complaint form when the noise abatement program is voluntary?

Pilot education is a major part of our noise abatement program and the complaints assist the Airport in this effort. The complaints are compiled which allows the Airport to see trends which assist staff in enhancing the education program. The program includes mass mailings and individual contact with pilots.

My house is not supposed to be under the flight path, so why do I get over flights?

Why do I always get aircraft flying over my house during bad weather?

Will filing a noise complaint change how the Airport operates?

The City of Longmont uses noise complaints to monitor activities at the Airport and analyze trends that may be adversely affecting the local community. Noise complaints help the City track and understand Airport activities that impact the community, particularly during times when the Airport is unattended.

Noise complaints are compiled to determine if any trends are developing and to enhance pilot education programs. All complaints are logged and reported regularly to the Longmont Airport Advisory Board and the Longmont City Council. Furthermore, if an aircraft operator is behaving in an unsafe manner, this information can be provided to the FAA for further investigation.

If complaints reveal a trend related to a specific aircraft or business based at the Airport, the City will try to work with the airport tenant to develop a **voluntary** resolution, such as changing the time they operate or flying certain routes at night. Often aircraft operators are unaware their actions are adversely impacting the local community and they will do what they can to cooperate, so long as such actions do not adversely affect safety or their business. As such, pilot education is a major part of our noise abatement program and the noise complaints assist the city in this effort. This includes regular meetings with airport tenants, informational mailings and individual contact with pilots.

The City occasionally receives requests to adopt policies to limit aircraft operations, penalize pilots or close the Airport at certain times. Federal laws prohibit the City from taking such actions; however, the City will continue to work with airport tenants to ensure the Airport is a good neighbor.

What effort is the City of Longmont taking to reduce noise impacts on the community?

Federal law preempts the legal authority of the City relating to aircraft over flights. To the extent that complaints about aircraft noise relate to flights leaving from or coming to the Airport, the City does not have any legal authority to control the flight paths of such aircraft, or the timing of their passage above the City. Nor does the City have the authority to deny access to any type or class of aircraft operating at the airport.

In addition, federal requirements often conflict with local desires for noise mitigation efforts, and noise concerns at the Vance Brand Municipal Airport is no exception. The desire of the City to manage the operation of its Airport may conflict with the federal requirements dictating open and nondiscriminatory access. The federal requirements are a condition of federal funding that the City has received to fund improvements to the Airport. The City has considered the benefits and disadvantages of accepting Federal

funds and has opted to relinquish some control over its Airport in order to ensure the facility remains safe for public use and is an asset to the community.

The City strives to be a responsible airport operator. To that extent, the City has developed the Voluntary Noise Abatement Procedures (VNAP) in an effort to be responsive to the concerns of our neighbors and to continue to provide an excellent facility for pilot use. VNAP are designed to minimize the exposure of residential and other noise sensitive areas to aircraft noise, while ensuring the safety of flight operations.

Pilots are asked to follow the voluntary noise abatement procedures and “fly friendly” in an effort to be good neighbors to the citizens who live under the aircraft flight paths. Depending on the aircraft, these procedures may involve the pilot using a faster rate of climb in order to get the aircraft to higher altitudes as fast as possible or using designated practice areas to avoid residential areas.

For more information on the city’s VNAP, please visit our [VNAP web page](#).

Since the City does not have the authority to regulate pilots or their aircraft, this program will remain voluntary. Further, Federal grant assurances prohibit the city from imposing restrictions or limitation on aircraft operations. In accepting Federal airport improvement funds, the City has agreed to keep the airport open to all aircraft users.

Can the City of Longmont impose aircraft restrictions or ban nighttime aircraft operations for the purpose of reducing aircraft noise?

Other airports restrict aircraft operations to control noise, including several Colorado airports, so why is the City of Longmont prohibited from doing the same?

Restrictions on aircraft operation that were in place prior to October 1, 1990 were grandfathered under ANCA. As such, there are airports throughout the nation that have aircraft restrictions or nighttime curfews for noise purposes. These grandfathered restrictions vary and require FAA's approval if the airport sponsor wants to revise them.

Why can't the airport be moved to Interstate 25 or east of Interstate 25?

What authority does the FAA have over the Vance Brand Municipal Airport?

Is there Federal assistance available to help mitigate aircraft noise?

How busy is the airport? How is the level of activity at the airport measured?

When do most airplanes depart or arrive at Longmont's airport?

Why do so many airplanes take off and land in the same direction?

Which areas experience the greatest amount of aircraft over flights?

Why is there airplane traffic during the middle of the night?

Is there a legal minimum altitude that airplanes can fly over residential areas?

What can the City of Longmont do to keep airplanes from flying over my neighborhood?

What happens when I file a noise complaint on the online Noise Complaint Form?

The City of Longmont takes noise complaints seriously and will investigate non-routine complaint received.

We spend considerable time and effort on a weekly basis in handling and analyzing complaints. In some instances, we may discover the complaint is associated with a one-time event, such an emergency medical flight. In other instances, complaints can be correlated to a specific aircraft based at the Airport. When this occurs, the Airport Manager typically talks with the aircraft operator and sends a letter reminding them of noise abatement procedures.

We will only accept one complaint per incident, per individual. Making multiple complaints regarding the same incident does not change how the complaint is processed or investigated. The data collection system will record your name, address and the information on the form. The form will be sent to the responsible staff person and queued tracking, email response and closure. If you would like a call-back, please include telephone number and a request for a call-back.

We understand that airport noise can be frustrating but please be respectful of our staff when making a noise

complaint. Obscene language and threats will result in the complaint not being accepted. In addition, we are required to report any threats to pilots and aircraft to Federal authorities.

Airport Concerns

Does the City of Longmont have any responsibility for the Vance Brand Municipal Airport?