

AIRPORT BEACON REPORT

Smith Reynolds Airport

January - June 2026

The Airport Beacon Report is published twice a year to improve the communication between the airport and its tenants with the community around it.



Employment Opportunities

North State Aviation in Winston-Salem, NC is looking for experienced licensed **A&P Mechanics** and other positions. Please visit our website at <https://mroholdings.com/facilities/north-state-aviation/#join-the-team>

Piedmont Propulsion in Winston-Salem, NC is looking for various positions. Please visit our website at piedmontpropulsion.com/careers/ for more details.

Love kids? Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools is now hiring. **Full-time, Part-time & Substitute School Bus Drivers.** Visit wsfcs.k12.nc.us/Page/1188 for more info.

Forsyth County Government is hiring!
www.forsyth.cc/HumanResources

Take Offs & Landings at Smith Reynolds

1 month
December 2024 2,519
December 2025 2,311

12 month
December 2024 42,408
December 2025 37,738

Other County Resources in Your Area

Carver School Road Branch Library, 4915 Lansing Drive, offers a variety of programs and resources. For more information, visit forsyth.cc/library/Carver.



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[View the WFMY story](#)



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We're replacing the lights on our runway

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We're making progress towards the creek revitalization project

3 - More Flight Festival

See more photos from our flight festival

Skybound Flight Festival Takes Off at Smith Reynolds Airport

By Alexandria Shaw, Smith Reynolds Airport Board Member and Jim Shaw ACE Academy President

Smith Reynolds Airport was proud to host the inaugural Skybound Flight Festival, a community aviation celebration presented by Jim Shaw ACE Academy. The event welcomed more than 900 attendees and brought together an impressive lineup of 45 vendors representing aviation, one jet and 10 other aircraft, and drones.



Vendors included flight schools such as Triad Aviation Academy and Skybound Aviation, as well as major community partners like Forsyth Autobahn and Piedmont Advantage Credit Union. Exhibitors traveled from across the region—including organizations from Greensboro such as HAECO and Samaritan's Purse—all contributing to an engaging and welcoming atmosphere. Many attendees shared overwhelmingly positive feedback, noting how kind



and enthusiastic vendors were throughout the day. We had interactive STEM zones where attendees flew drones in the hangar and played games. Drone demonstrations from the AIAA and WSPD, simulators, food trucks, and youth-focused aviation activities rounded out the experience.

The event received media attention from WFMY News 2, which covered the festival and highlighted its impact on the community.

With tremendous community support and excitement, the Skybound Flight Festival will return for its second annual event on September 12, 2026 at Smith Reynolds Airport.

Lighting the Way: A Brighter Future for Smith Reynolds Airport

If you've ever driven past Smith Reynolds Airport at night, you've likely noticed the steady glow of the runway lights guiding travelers safely in and out of Winston-Salem. What you might not know is that those lights — all 525 of them, along with 114 signs — have been faithfully serving the airport for years and have become increasingly difficult to maintain. Now, thanks to a strong partnership between local leaders, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation (NCDOT-DOA), our hometown airport is preparing to shine brighter than ever with a modern system of energy-efficient LED fixtures.

Over the past several months, crews from RG Tenney Electric have been hard at work replacing the aging lights and signage. AVCON Engineers & Planners have been on-site throughout the process, ensuring every installation meets the highest standards of safety and precision. To keep airport operations running smoothly, much of the work has been scheduled overnight, with Airport Operations Manager Shoaib Quader coordinating notices to pilots about temporary runway and taxiway closures. It's a massive project — one that will take more than a year to complete — but every step brings us closer to a safer, more efficient airfield.

If you are a pilot, please check your NOTAMs to find out which runways or taxiways may be closed for the improvements. You can also check with the Airport Department for future closures that are planned in phases.

Neighbors often ask: why does this matter to our community? The answer is simple. Smith Reynolds isn't just an airport — it's a gateway. It's where business leaders arrive to invest in Winston-Salem, where student pilots learn to fly, where medical flights take off to save lives, and where families begin journeys that connect them to opportunities near and far. Brighter, more reliable lighting means safer skies, smoother operations, and a stronger foundation for the future of aviation in our region.

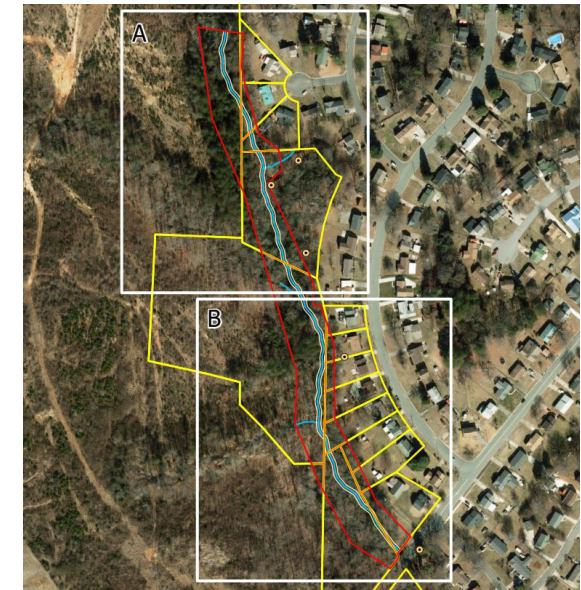


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Brushy Fork Creek Restoration Project Update

We have good news and some bad news in regard to the latest progress on the Brushy Fork Creek restoration! Thanks to everyone's teamwork, as early of January 2026 14 of the 16 required easement signatures have been collected from property owners along the creek. That's a big milestone, and we're grateful for the strong support. A heartfelt thank you goes to the neighbors who joined Airport Office Administrator Shanna Smith in going door to door to help gather signatures. Your efforts truly highlight the community spirit that makes projects like this possible.

We are disappointed that we don't have all the signatures. Without every easement in place, the County may need to adjust the design plans, which could change the scope of the project. Whether we get the signatures or not, the next steps will be to finalize the design and then bid out construction. With financial assistance from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund and the City of Winston-Salem, Forsyth County has partnered with the Resource Institute to design



improvements for approximately 2,100 linear feet along the eastern edge of the Airport property. This restoration will help stabilize the creek and enhance the natural beauty of our neighborhood. Thank you for your patience, support, and involvement — this is truly a community effort!

More From Skybound Flight Festival



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