

Columbia Airport

Fly-In & Campground Information and Rules for Use

The Columbia Airport Campground is an amenity of Columbia Airport that is available to all visiting aircraft. It is a fly-in only facility that is not open to motorhomes or car campers. The campground is available for year around fly-in camping. However, the below freezing winter temperatures require that the water system be shut off and drained in mid October. The water is usually turned on the first week in April. During the winter pilots are discouraged from taxiing their planes to the campground due to the muddy conditions that can exist. The peak use of the campground is between the months of May and August.

The campground is available on a first-come-first-served basis. No reservations are taken, however, pilots can check with the Columbia Airport Administration office whose telephone number is 209-533-5685 in advance to find out if there is a fly-in group using the campground on any particular weekend. All fly-in groups are encouraged to contact the Administration office in advance to schedule their event to avoid conflicts of large groups of campers.

The Columbia Airport Campground offers several features that make the campground a great destination for visiting pilots. These features include:

- 21 regular campsites with picnic tables
- Bathrooms with flush toilets and hot showers
- A campground pavilion complete with meeting room and kitchen facilities
- 5 small pedestal barbecues
- 2 large block barbecues
- 2 horseshoe pits
- Walking distance to Historic Columbia State Park
- Historic Air Tanker available to tour

There are a few rules that should be followed by those using the campground. These rules are to assure the safety and enjoyment of our visitors.

Aircraft Parking

1. Pilots should not park their aircraft in the Object Free Area (OFA) of the grass runway. This area must be kept clear of parked aircraft, people, vehicles, etc. The edge of the OFA is 125' from the centerline of the grass runway. Failure to keep this area clear may result in closing the grass runway for safety.

2. No tiedowns are available at the campground but pilots can install their own anchors if they choose to do so. All tiedown anchors must be removed at the end of the visit. Please do not use rocks as wheel chocks.
3. Camping under the wing of your plane is permitted

Campground Use

1. No open fires are allowed. Use of the barbecues is allowed only if charcoal briquettes are used. No wood should be placed in the barbecues. Summer brings EXTREME FIRE DANGER to Columbia Airport.
2. Camp stoves are only permitted when used on the picnic tables.
3. Use of the campground pavilion must be scheduled with the Airport Administration office.
4. Showers should be limited to 5 minutes to reduce hot water consumption and to avoid backing up the septic system
5. Quiet hours are between 10 pm and 7 am (airplane noise excepted)
6. Trash cans and recycle bins are provided around the campground and should be used by all campers
7. The overnight use fee of \$8 per aircraft should be paid using the payment envelopes provided in the campground or at Bald Eagle Aviation.
8. The vehicle parking area for the Campground is accessed via the Chili Gulch Road Gate. Vehicles may only be parked overnight in the designated parking area.
9. No vehicles to be driven inside the campground area, except for Clubhouse related supplies (especially, no parking overnight within the Campground).

Runway Safety

1. The rules for use of the grass runway shall be strictly adhered to by all pilots.
2. No vehicles are allowed to drive on the grass runway. If crossing the grass runway is required it should be done at the east end of the runway by driving across the asphalt blast pad only. Look both directions for aircraft before crossing
3. All vehicle drivers must stop and look both directions before crossing any runway.
4. Aircraft always have the right-of-way.
5. All vehicles crossing Runway 17-35 must cross at the south end only. Vehicle crossing at the windsock is not allowed.
6. Pedestrians can cross the runway at the windsock after carefully looking both directions for arriving and departing aircraft and verifying that it is safe to cross.

Fly-In Group Requirements

1. Assign a responsible individual to assure no aircraft park in the Object Free Area (OFA) of the grass runway.
2. Schedule the use of the Campground Pavilion in advance with the Airport Administration Office. The Pavilion use fee must be paid in advance.
3. Clean up the campground and Pavilion prior to leaving the airport.
4. Place all refuse in the location specified by the airport.
5. Notify the Airport Administration Office in advance if you plan to conduct any special events or contests such as spot landings, flour bombing, live music, banquets, etc.
6. Fly-In groups shall understand that their group will not have any exclusive use of the tiedown areas or campsites. The airport and campground will remain open to all visitors.
7. The sale of alcoholic beverages is not permitted.
8. The rules for use of the grass runway shall be distributed to all pilots participating in the group fly-in.

Special Events

1. Airport personnel need a minimum of 7 days notification for Fly-In special events, such as spot landings, and flour bombings.
2. Provide Columbia Airport personnel with the name, address, and phone number of a "Contact Person" for the Fly-In group. This person must be immediately available to Airport personnel during the Fly-In, so that circumstances, which require immediate resolution to mitigate safety problems, can be addressed.
3. With prior notification of date and time, Airport personnel will put a chalk/limestone line on Runway 17/35 for spot landings and prepare the area immediately west of Runway 17/35 for flour bombing contests.
4. No contest or special events are to be held on the grass runway.
5. No more than two (2) judges for each special event may stand inside the Obstacle Free Zone (OFZ) on the West side of Runway 17/35 (within 40 feet of the edge of Runway 17-35 pavement) during landing or bombing contests.
6. No more than five (5) aircraft in the flight pattern at a time are allowed for bombing or landing contests.
7. Spectators must stay at least forty (40) feet from the west edge of Runway 17/35 (behind the OFZ on the West side of the Runway) or on the East side of the parallel taxiway.
8. Do not congest the UNICOM radio frequency during contests.
9. All aircraft contests must be scheduled to conclude by 5:00 PM.

Do's and Don'ts for Pilots

1. Do not take off on Runway 17 and then make an early turnout to the right over the campground or grass runway.
2. All pilots shall be alert that there are 4 active runways at Columbia Airport and that aircraft could be using all of them at any time.
3. Landings on Runway 11 are discouraged and go-arounds on Runway 11 should be avoided if possible. Take-offs on Runway 11 are prohibited. This is due to the conflict with aircraft departing Runway 17-35.
4. Pilots should avoid heavy braking on the grass runway. Also, tailwheel pivot turns should be avoided. These damage the grass.
5. All pilots should use the radio (Unicom 122.975) to announce their position in the traffic patterns.
6. Pilots taking off on Runway 17 should be especially alert for aircraft landing on Runway 29. Also, pilots landing on Runway 29 should be alert for aircraft departing Runway 17.
7. Pilots on downwind for Runway 17 should be alert for aircraft departing Runway 29 or in the traffic pattern for Runway 29.
8. Pilots should manage their power settings to minimize the noise their propellers produce while in the traffic pattern while still operating their aircraft in a safe manner.
9. Repetitive low passes on the grass runway is prohibited.
10. If a "KEEP OFFF – MUDDY" sign is posted anywhere on a taxiway or parking area, pilots shall not taxi or park their aircraft there. These areas are not suitable for aircraft movements.