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Portable Noise Measurement Report

Rustling Oaks Dr., Millersville, MD 21108

Maryland Aviation Administration

August 2024

MOT MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION



Introduction

PURPOSE

The purpose of the *Portable Noise Measurement Report* is to summarize aircraft and community noise levels at a specific location upon request of a homeowner. The program is offered by the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA), with technical support and report preparation provided by Harris Miller Miller & Hanson Inc. (HMMH) and Airport Design Consultants, Inc. (ADCI).

NOISE DATA

It should be noted that the noise data provided in this report represents noise and operating levels only during the period of the measurements. Noise levels associated with aircraft overflights can vary with the number of operations, wind and weather patterns, temperatures, pilot procedures and Air Traffic Control instruction, and other variables.

MONITORING TIME AND LOCATION

This report presents the measured aircraft and community noise levels from July 13, 2024 to July 28, 2024 at Rustling Oaks Drive, Millersville, MD 21108. The monitoring location is approximately 5.7 statute miles from the center of Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI Marshall) Airport. **Figure 1** shows the location of the measurement site (marked as BW338) relative to BWI Marshall.



Figure 1. Noise Monitoring Location in Relation to BWI Marshall

Site BW338 Summary

? WHEN WAS NOISE MEASURED

Saturday, July 13, 2024 to
Sunday, July 28, 2024




July 2024	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	<i>measurements</i>						
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	<i>measurements</i>						
	28	29	30	31			

✈️ HOW MANY AIRCRAFT NOISE EVENTS OCCURRED AND WHAT WERE THEY



TOP 3 MOST FREQUENT AIRCRAFT DURING THE MEASUREMENT PERIOD

Rank	Aircraft Type	Operation Type and Runway
1	Boeing 737-700 	Arrival, 33L
2	Boeing 737-800 	Arrival, 33L
3	Boeing 737-800 MAX 	Arrival, 33L

🔍 CONCLUSION

During the 16-day measurement period, the Day Night Average Noise Level (DNL) from aircraft noise events was 56 decibels (dB), while the DNL from community noise was 59 dB.

FAA's threshold for land use compatibility is an aircraft-only DNL of 65 dB based on annual average daily aircraft operations.

Aircraft DNL	Community DNL	Total DNL	FAA Threshold
56 dB	59 dB	61 dB	65 dB

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Aircraft Operations

FLIGHTS DURING MEASUREMENT PERIOD

Operations at BWI Marshall fluctuate on a daily basis. During the measurement period, there were 11,454 flights in and out of BWI Marshall (5,719 arrivals, 5,735 departures), in addition to overflights to other airports.

FIXED-WING OPERATIONS

The number of flights per day ranged from 650 to 800. Flights in the vicinity of this site are primarily arrivals to BWI Marshall Runway 33L. BWI Marshall has three runways, designated as Runway 10/28, Runway 15R/33L, and Runway 15L/33R. Runway 10/28 is 10,502 feet in length, while Runway 15R/33L is 9,500 feet in length. Runway 15L/33R is 5,000 feet in length and is only used by certain aircraft. As aircraft cannot arrive and depart from the same runway, BWI Marshall generally operates in two configurations: west flow (primarily departures from Runway 28 and arrivals to Runway 33L) and east flow (primarily departures from Runway 15R and arrivals to Runway 10). On an annual basis, west flow is used approximately 70% of the time, while east flow is used approximately 30% of the time. During west flow, aircraft operations primarily consist of arrivals to BWI Marshall Runway 33L and departures from Runway 28. During east flow, aircraft operations primarily consist of departures from BWI Marshall Runway 15R and arrivals to Runway 10. Arrivals to BWI Marshall were generally 1,300 to 1,800 feet above ground level at their point of closest approach to the measurement site. Departures from BWI Marshall were generally 3,000 to 3,900 feet above ground level at their point of closest approach to the measurement site. During the measurement period, the west flow runway use was 60% (Figure 2), and the east flow runway use was 40% (Figure 3).

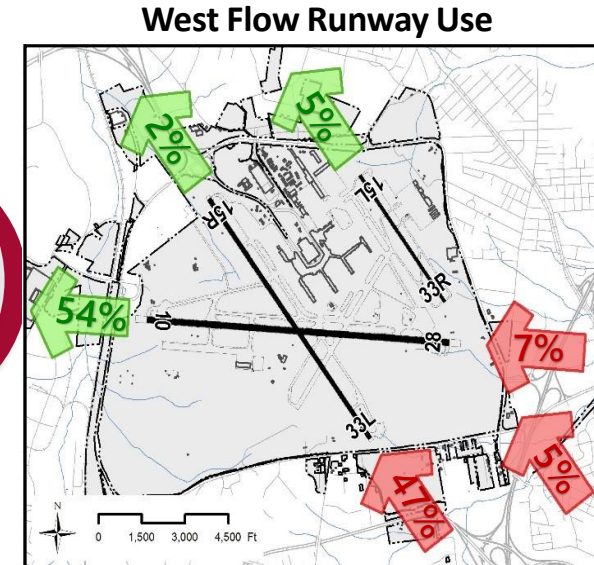
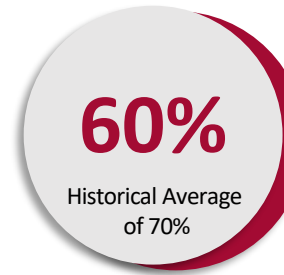


Figure 2. West Flow Runway Use During Measurement Period

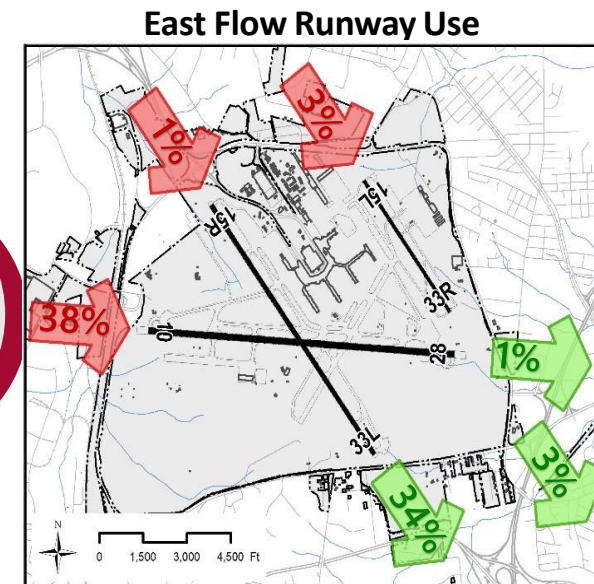
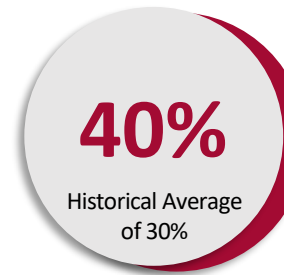


Figure 3. East Flow Runway Use During Measurement Period

Methodology and Location

MEASUREMENT LOCATION AND SETUP

Aircraft noise levels were measured from July 13, 2024 to July 28, 2024 at Rustling Oaks Drive, Millersville, MD 21108.

The noise monitor is a Type I sound level meter and was regularly calibrated. Additionally, the system was checked every two to four days during the measurements to ensure proper operation. During setup, a baseline threshold was established for the noise monitor. Once the sound level exceeded the baseline threshold for 5 seconds, a noise event was recorded. For each noise event, the sound level meter recorded date, time, duration, and noise levels.

The noise monitor was placed in the backyard of the residence. Notable noise sources at this site included aircraft overflights to and from BWI Marshall as well as overflights to and from other airports, and other typical suburban sounds such as local vehicle traffic.

DATA COLLECTION

Once the temporary noise monitoring period was complete, the noise event data was collected from MAA's Noise and Operating Monitoring System (NOMS) to analyze the times of noise events at the site to its database of aircraft radar flight paths. The NOMS conservatively attributes any noise event to an aircraft if the aircraft is within 8,000 feet of the measurement site at an altitude no greater than 10,000 feet. Noise events which occurred while aircraft were passing within the vicinity were associated with an actual aircraft flight and therefore assigned as aircraft noise events. Noise events that did not correlate with an aircraft overflight were assigned as community noise events. Using this methodology, some noise events that are correlated with aircraft overflights may include other community noise, which may or may not exceed the noise level from the aircraft overflight. **Figure 4** on the next page displays all arrivals and departures to and from BWI Marshall during the measurement period. **Figure 5** displays all arrivals and departures to and from BWI Marshall that were correlated with aircraft noise events.

Arrivals and Departures

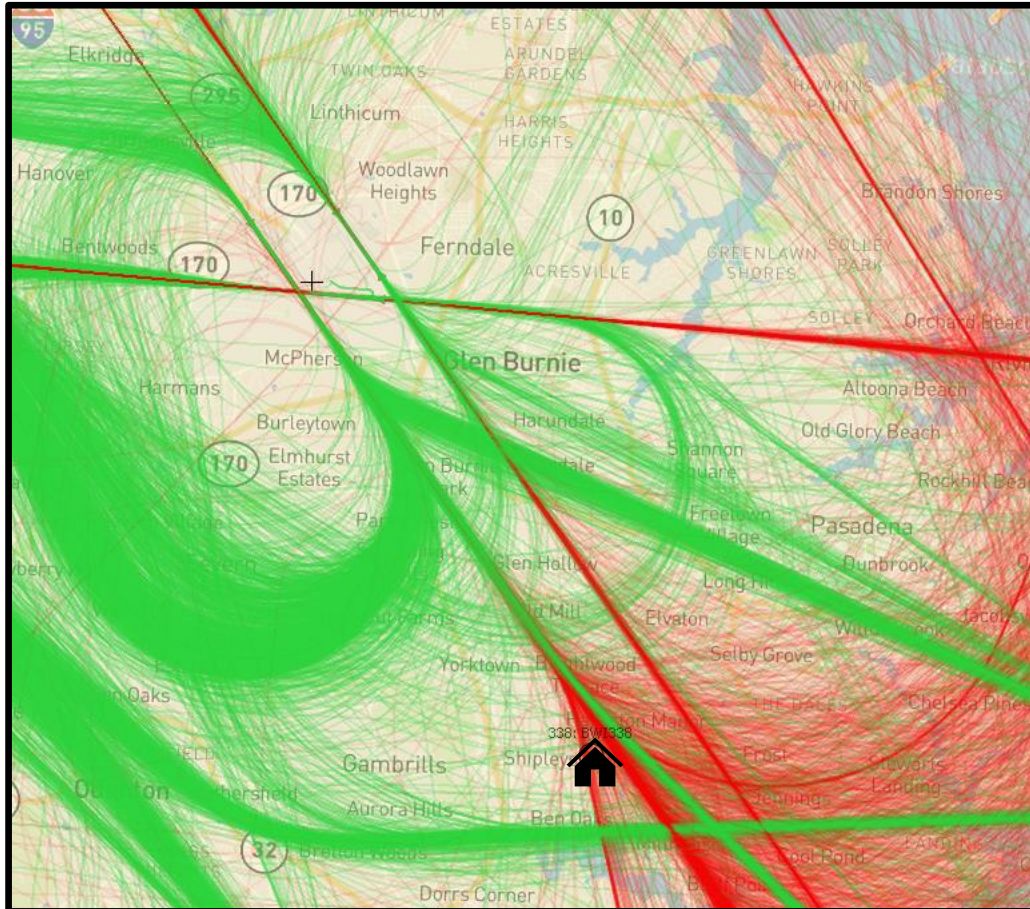


Figure 4. All BWI Marshall Arrivals and Departures During the Measurement Period
Note: Green = Departures, Red = Arrivals

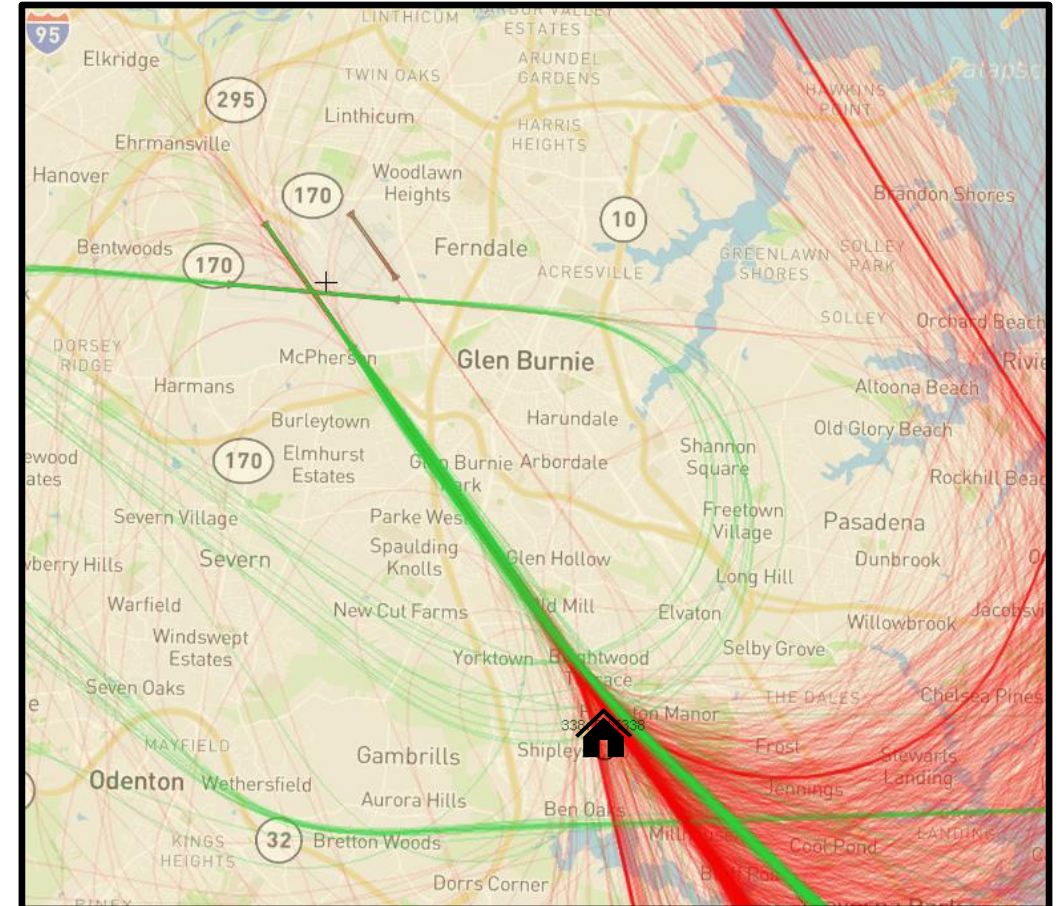


Figure 5. BWI Marshall Arrivals and Departures Correlated to Aircraft Noise Events During the Measurement Period
Note: Green = Departures, Red = Arrivals

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Measured Noise Levels

NOISE METRICS

There are several key metrics that are used to describe aircraft and community noise on a single-event and cumulative basis. The appendix titled “How Do We Describe Aircraft Noise” provides a more detailed overview of the metrics which are discussed in this section. Single-event metrics such as Maximum A-Weighted Sound Level (Lmax) are indicators of the intrusiveness, loudness, or noisiness of individual noise events while cumulative metrics like Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) are generally used to measure long-term noise and are indicators of community annoyance and land use compatibility.

Figure 6 presents the range of maximum single-event sound levels for 2,835 aircraft overflights at the measurement site for the complete measurement period. For a particular noise event, such as an aircraft overflight, the loudest level at any instant during the event is the Lmax. For typical conversational speech at approximately 3 feet, speech is interrupted by noise levels at or above 65 dB. Any noise events shown in this figure with a maximum level at or above 65 dB would interrupt typical conversations outdoors (briefly for quieter events and longer for louder events). **Figure 7** shows common environmental A-weighted noise levels for typical outdoor sounds.

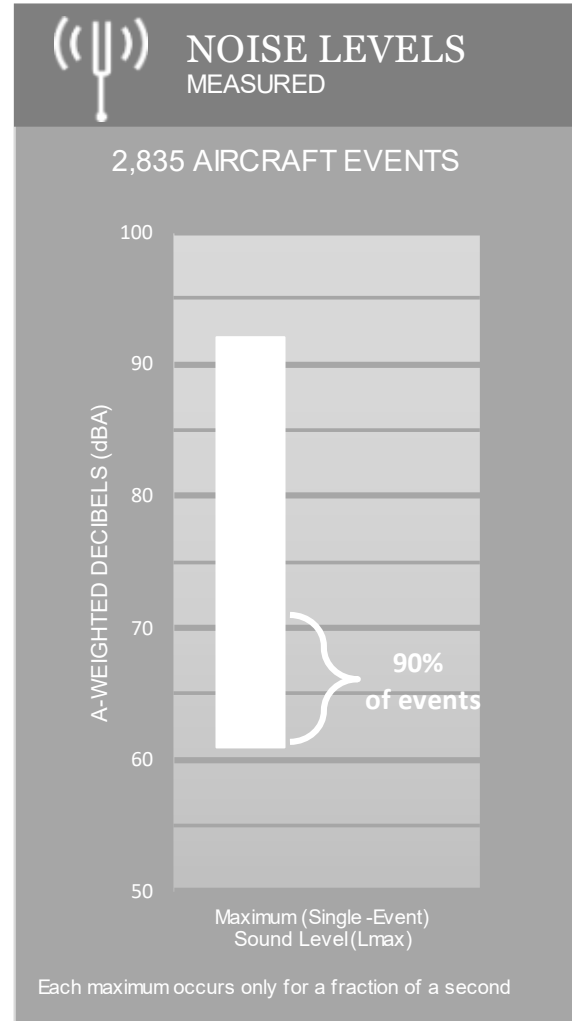


Figure 6. Maximum Single Event Aircraft Noise Levels

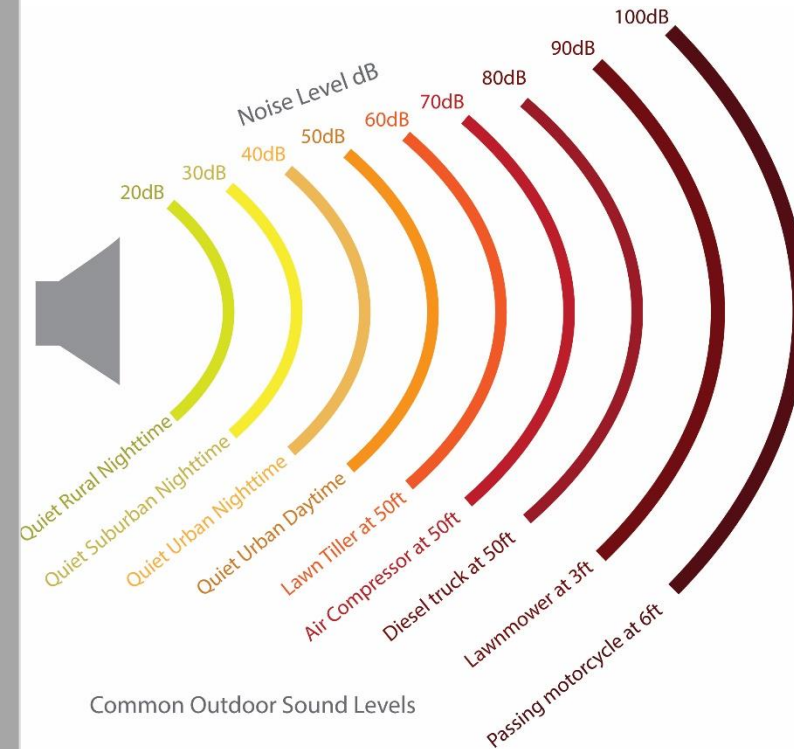

















Figure 7. Common Environmental Noise Levels

Loudest Aircraft Events

Table 1 shows the top 15 loudest aircraft events that occurred during the measurement period including details about the date and time the event occurred, aircraft type, operation type, runway, and slant range (the line-of-sight distance between the receptor and the aircraft). Note that these events only represent the noisiest aircraft events at the measurement site, and the majority of aircraft overflights at the measurement site were less noisy than those shown in **Table 1**.

Note: In some cases, community events may occur simultaneously with aircraft overflights, causing aircraft overflights to have higher recorded sound levels.

Table 1. Top Fifteen Loudest Aircraft Events During the Measurement Period

Rank	Flight Time	Airline	Aircraft Type	Operation Type	Runway	Altitude (ft. AGL)	Slant Range (ft.)	Maximum Sound Level (dBA)
1	7/26/2024 18:04	 Southwest	Boeing 737-800	Arrival	33L	1,639	2,336	92
2	7/18/2024 17:43	 Southwest	Boeing 737-700	Arrival	33L	2,052	2,290	80
3	7/24/2024 22:15	 spirit	Airbus A320 Neo	Arrival	33L	1,471	2,874	79
4	7/16/2024 10:11	 ATI	Boeing 767-300	Arrival	33L	1,506	1,545	79
5	7/28/2024 13:20	 Southwest	Boeing 737-800	Arrival	33L	1,299	5,223	79
6	7/25/2024 17:14	 Southwest	Boeing 737-700	Arrival	33L	2,141	3,038	78
7	7/23/2024 16:07	 Southwest	Boeing 737-800	Arrival	33L	1,357	1,388	78
8	7/24/2024 9:52	 FRONTIER AIRLINES	Airbus A320 Neo	Arrival	33L	1,655	2,415	78
9	7/26/2024 22:47	 ATI	Boeing 737-800 Max	Arrival	33L	1,413	1,476	77
10	7/21/2024 8:18	 Southwest	Boeing 737-700	Arrival	33L	2,028	2,054	77
11	7/27/2024 10:36	 Southwest	Boeing 767-300	Arrival	33L	1,401	2,277	77
12	7/26/2024 17:58	 spirit	Airbus A320 Neo	Arrival	33L	1,537	2,133	77
13	7/24/2024 9:48	 ups	Airbus 321 Neo	Arrival	33L	1,519	2,822	77
14	7/16/2024 5:31	 FRONTIER AIRLINES	McDonnell-Douglas MD-11	Arrival	33L	1,453	3,077	77
15	7/18/2024 21:13	 Southwest	Boeing 737-700	Arrival	33L	1,372	1,470	76

Conclusion

DAY-NIGHT AVERAGE SOUND LEVEL

Figure 8 on the following page presents the cumulative DNL at the measurement site for the 16 complete days of the measurement period for community, aircraft, and total noise exposure. **Figure 9** on the following page presents the daily DNL at the site for aircraft noise exposure. DNL sums the noise from every noise event over the day. The formula for DNL gives an extra 10 decibel weighting to nighttime noise events to account for the intrusive nature of these events. The aircraft DNL ranged from 50 to 59 dB during the measurement period. The total aircraft DNL for the measurement period was 56 dB. The DNL for all recorded community noise events (wildlife, landscaping, weather, etc.) during the measurement period was 59 dB. The total DNL at the measurement site, which includes both aircraft and community noise events, was 61 dB.

AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

Aircraft noise levels at this site are higher when BWI Marshall operates in west flow. During the measurement period, BWI Marshall operated in east flow 40% of the time and in west flow 60% of the time, which is a lower usage of west flow than the annual average of 70% west flow operations and 30% east flow operations.

MONITORING RESULTS

The results of the portable noise monitoring are for informational purposes only and capture the aircraft noise environment for a snapshot in time. The conditions during a monitoring period can vary greatly due to wind and weather (atmospheric conditions), the runway(s) in use at the time for arrivals and departures, and the number and type of operations occurring during the monitoring period. From the data collected, aircraft noise levels in terms of the DNL were calculated and resulted in a 16-day average of 56 dB.

GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

In Appendix A of 14 CFR Part 150, the Federal Aviation Administration provides guidelines for the compatibility of land uses with various annual DNL values. Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 11.03.03.03 establishes limits for cumulative noise exposure for certain land uses around BWI Marshall. These guidelines consider residential land use to be noncompatible when the DNL is 75 dB or greater. For noise levels between 65 dB and 75 dB DNL, residential land use is considered noncompatible, but where the community determines that this land use must be allowed, measures to achieve greater than typical outdoor to indoor noise level reduction should be incorporated into building codes. The guidelines designate all land uses, including residential, as compatible for DNL values below 65 dB.

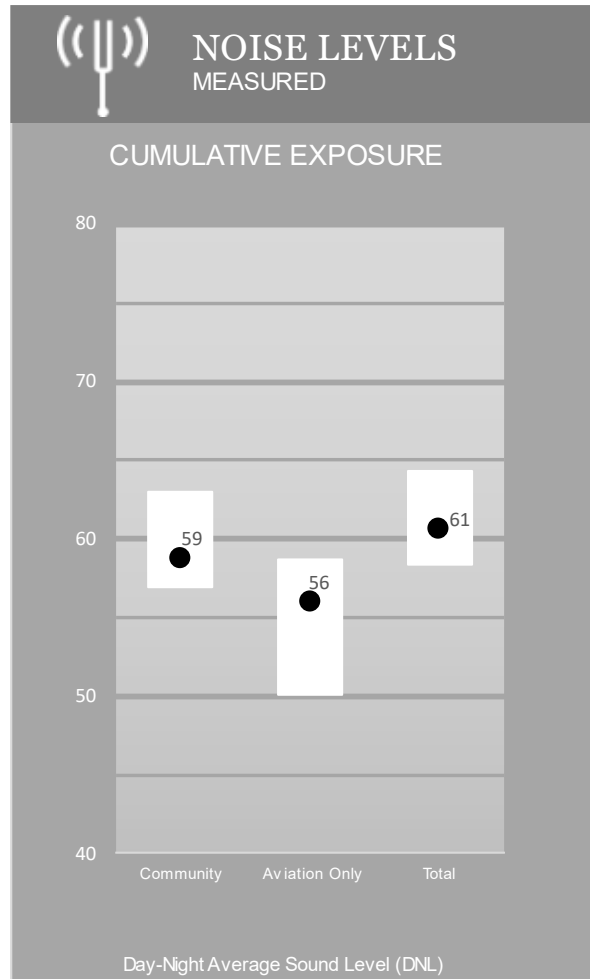


Figure 8. Cumulative Noise Exposure from Aircraft and Community Sources

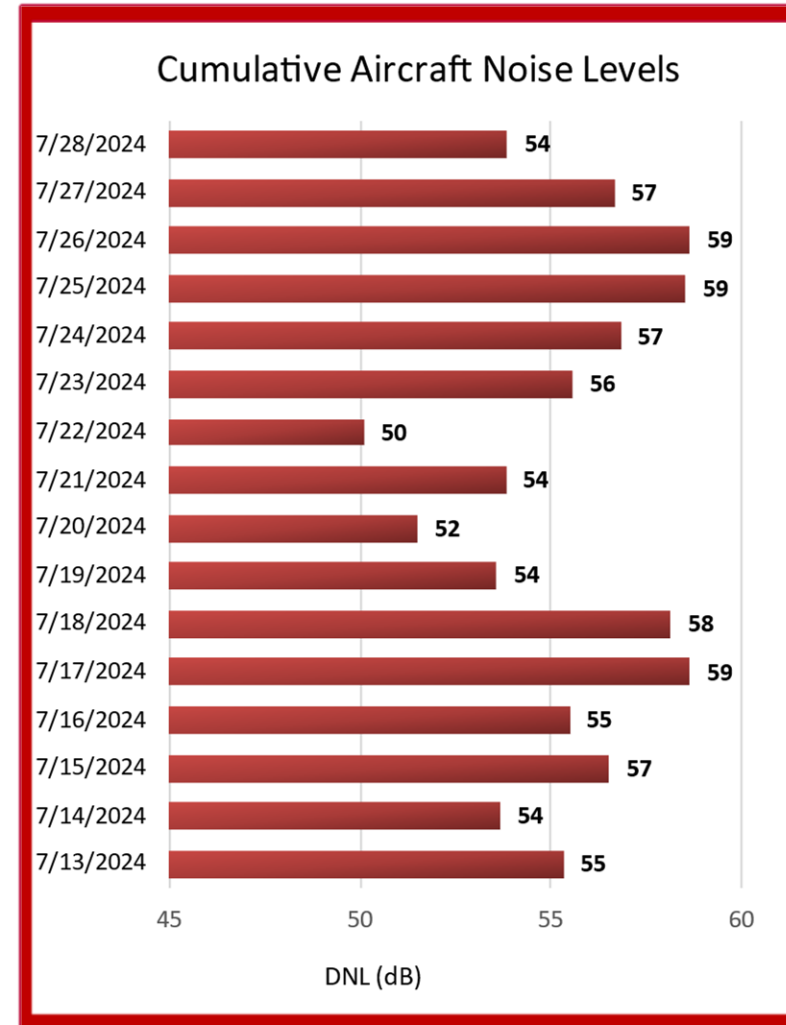


Figure 9. Measured Daily Aircraft Noise Levels

More Information

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Website: www.bwiairport.com

Twitter: @BWI_Airport

MAA'S NOISE PROGRAM

Information about Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Aviation Administration's (MAA's) Noise Program activities can be found at marylandaviation.com. Frequent topics of interest include:

NOISE COMPLAINTS

MAA provides multiple methods to submit aircraft noise complaints, including an on-line form or 24-hour noise complaint and information hotline at 410-859-7021. MAA reviews noise complaints daily, and logs, reviews, and analyzes all noise complaints on a regular basis.

<https://marylandaviation.com/environmental/environmental-compliance-sustainability/noise-complaints>

QUARTERLY NOISE REPORTS

Each quarter, MAA prepares and publishes a quarterly noise report. The report provides information on operational trends (including the number of jet and cargo operations, and the number of nighttime operations), runway use, flight corridors/flight density maps, noise complaints received, outreach efforts, permanent noise monitoring data and MAA's noise assistance programs.

ENEWS EXPRESS

Stay up-to-date on planned runway closures, as well as other important aviation topics, by subscribing to the BWI Marshall eNews Express at

<https://marylandaviation.com/environmental/environmental-compliance-sustainability/enews-express-signup>.

AIRPORT NOISE ZONE

The BWI Noise Abatement Plan and Airport Noise Zone, first established in 1976, includes a wide variety of strategies that are intended to reduce noise impacts for communities around the Airport while maintaining efficient airport operations. Noise abatement at BWI includes operational procedures such as aircraft arrival and departure procedures and a preferential runway use system intended to direct aircraft operations over less populated areas, where and when possible. Other elements of the Noise Abatement Plan include land use restrictions and programs such as land acquisition and soundproofing.