



# QUARTERLY NOISE REPORT FIRST QUARTER 2026



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**Overview** This report provides a review of the aviation noise program for the First Quarter of 2026 (January 1 to March 31). Included in this report is information on jet aircraft operations, observance rates for noise abatement procedures, complaints received about aircraft noise, and community outreach efforts by the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA). The table below displays various measurements for the First Quarter of 2026 in comparison to the first quarter of 2025.

Measurement	1st Quarter (2025)	1st Quarter (2026)
Average Daily Jet Operations	563	551
Average Daily Night-time Operations	87	90
Complaints to Noise Office	21,584	24,976
West Flow Operations	79%	74%



## Definitions

**Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA):** Operator of Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall Airport).

**Decibel (dBA):** A unit of measurement of sound pressure adjusted for the human ear’s response to particular frequencies.

**Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL or Ldn):** A descriptor of 24-hour noise (midnight to midnight) that adds a ten-decibel (dB) nighttime penalty to noise events which occur between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. to account for the intrusive nature of noise at night. This metric is required by FAA and COMAR.

**Airport Noise Zone (ANZ):** An area of land surrounding the airport within which noise levels are equal to or greater than DNL 65 dBA.

**Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR):** Requires MAA to control development in areas where noise levels are DNL 65 dBA or more.



### MAA Noise Section Mission Statement

The Noise Section of the Office of Environmental Compliance and Sustainability is committed to monitoring aircraft operations and airport-related noise levels in the communities surrounding BWI Marshall and Martin State Airports, and is dedicated to helping stakeholders understand the facts, science and regulations associated with airport noise in a transparent, clear, and accessible way to those we serve.

Website: <https://www.marylandaviation.com>

Noise complaints may be submitted at this website, via phone at (410) 859-7021, via WebTrak interface, via email to [maanoiseabatement@bwiairport.com](mailto:maanoiseabatement@bwiairport.com), via Airnoise.io, or via mail.



## Frequently Asked Questions

MAA has developed a list of frequently asked questions regarding aircraft noise topics. The full list can be accessed at:

<https://marylandaviation.com/environmental/airport-noise/acronyms-faqs-more/>

### Can MAA change flight paths?

No. The FAA controls and regulates the airspace. Any changes in departure or arrival paths must be approved and implemented by the FAA.

### Who instructs aircraft where to fly?

The FAA is the sole organization in the United States responsible for the movement of aircraft both on the ground and in the air.

### Will filing a complaint bring about an immediate change to flight paths?

Filing a complaint will not bring about an individual's desired change, rather it provides a means for the Airport to gather information, report, and disseminate the information to the FAA, airlines, public, and local representatives.

### Why was I awoken last night by aircraft noise?

BWI Marshall Airport operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. There is no nighttime curfew at the airport.

### Can MAA restrict where aircraft fly and when?

No.

## Airport Operations

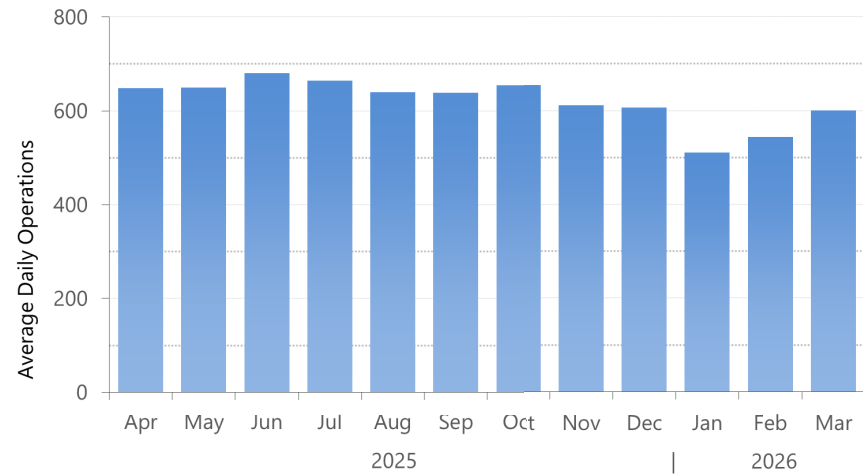
This section presents information on the level of operational activity at BWI Marshall Airport, including air traffic levels by jet aircraft, runway use, and flight corridors.

### Jet Operations and Nighttime Activity

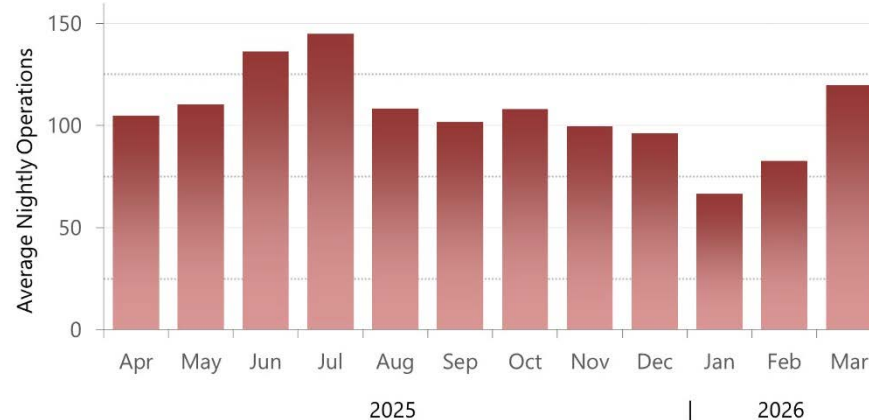
The first figure shows the average number of daily jet flights at BWI Marshall, including arrivals and departures by air carrier, business jet, and cargo jet aircraft. The figure also presents data for the preceding nine months, for a twelve-month total. The average daily number of jet operations during the First Quarter of 2026 was 551.

The next figure presents nighttime air carrier, business jets and cargo jet operations. At BWI Marshall Airport, a nighttime operation is defined as an arrival flight or departure flight that occurs between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. The average number of nighttime jet operations was 90 per night during the First Quarter of 2026.

Average Daily Jet Operations



Average Nightly Passenger & Cargo Jet Operations



## Most Frequent Aircraft Operations at BWI Marshall

The following table represents the top ten aircraft by type and operations count at BWI Marshall for the First Quarter of 2026.



First Quarter 2026 Top Ten Aircraft Operations	
Aircraft Type	Operation Count
Boeing 737-800 Max	13,252
Boeing 737-700	12,791
Boeing 737-800	9,969
Airbus A321	1,585
Airbus A320	1,228
Boeing 767-300	1,116
Airbus A320 Neo	1,014
Boeing 737-900	785
Embraer E175	526
Boeing 717-200	518

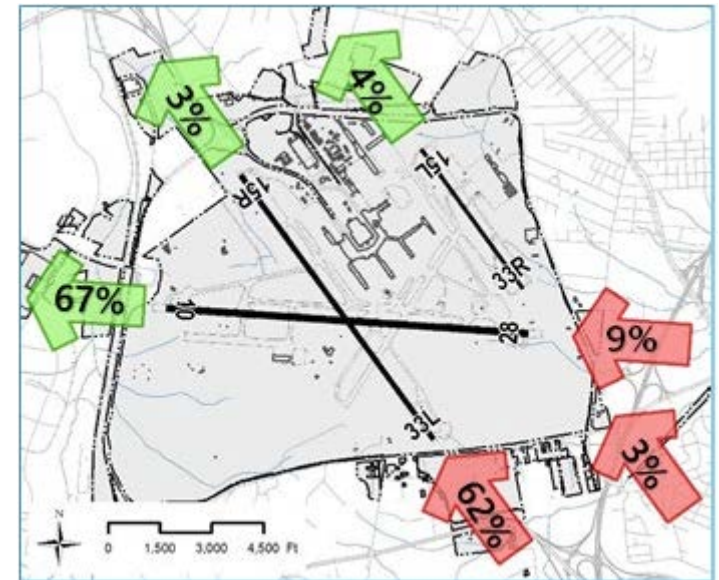
## Runway Use

The MAA maintains a preferential runway use program to minimize the aircraft noise impact on neighboring communities. For noise abatement purposes, west flow (aircraft departures to the west) is preferred. Prevailing wind speed, direction and weather factors determine the direction of air traffic flow. Aircraft usually take off and land into the wind to meet safety and operational requirements. The figures to the right show jet runway use for the First Quarter of 2026.

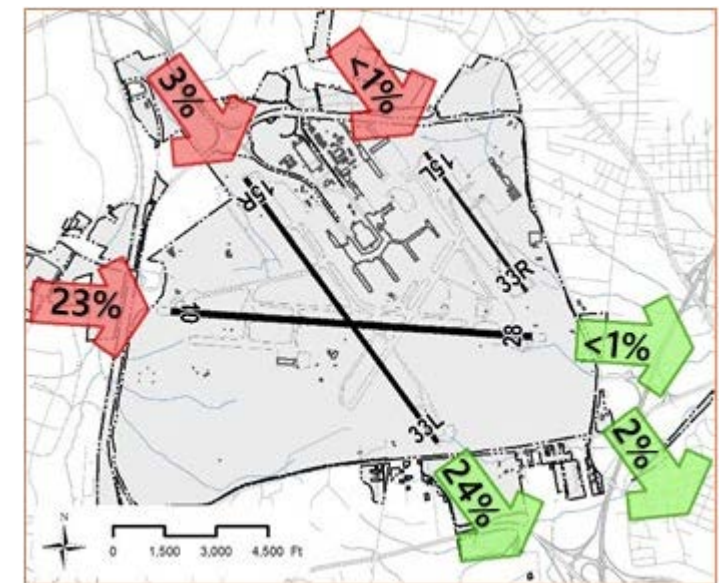
During west flow, all jet aircraft primarily depart (green arrows) from Runway 28 and arrive (red arrows) on Runway 33L, as shown in the top figure to the right. Historical trends result in an annual average west flow of about 70%.

During east flow, all jet aircraft primarily depart (green arrows) from Runway 15R and arrive (red arrows) on Runway 10, as shown in the bottom figure to the right. Historical trends result in an annual average east flow of about 30%.

**West Flow Runway Use**  
74% in First Quarter 2026  
(Historical Annual Average of 70%)



**East Flow Runway Use**  
26% in First Quarter 2026  
(Historical Annual Average of 30%)

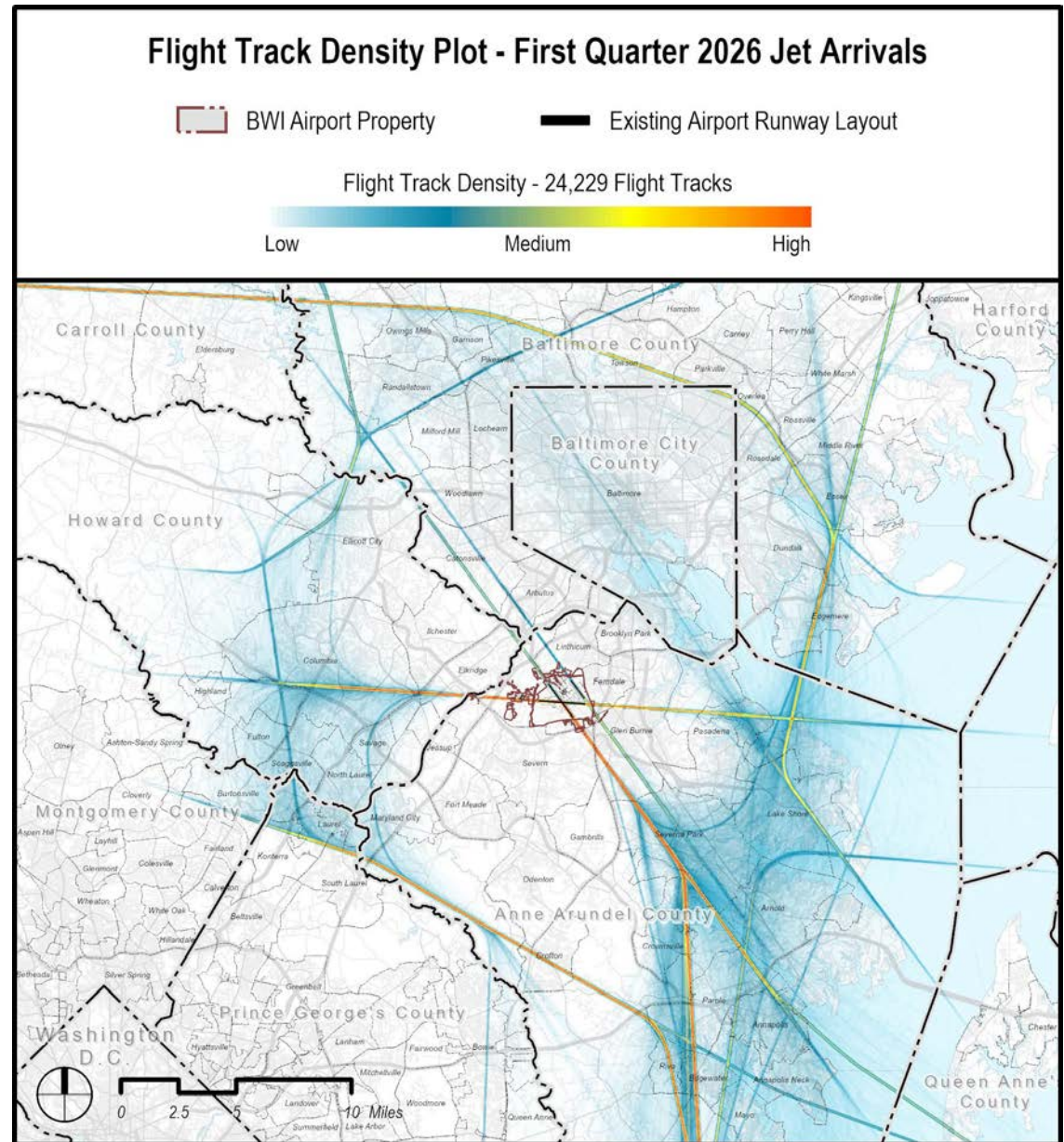


## Flight Corridors – Jet Arrivals

The following figures depict the flight corridors at BWI Marshall Airport for jet arrivals and jet departures as derived from BWI Marshall Airport’s Noise and Operations Monitoring System (NOMS).

The figure on the right shows jet arrivals during the First Quarter of 2026.

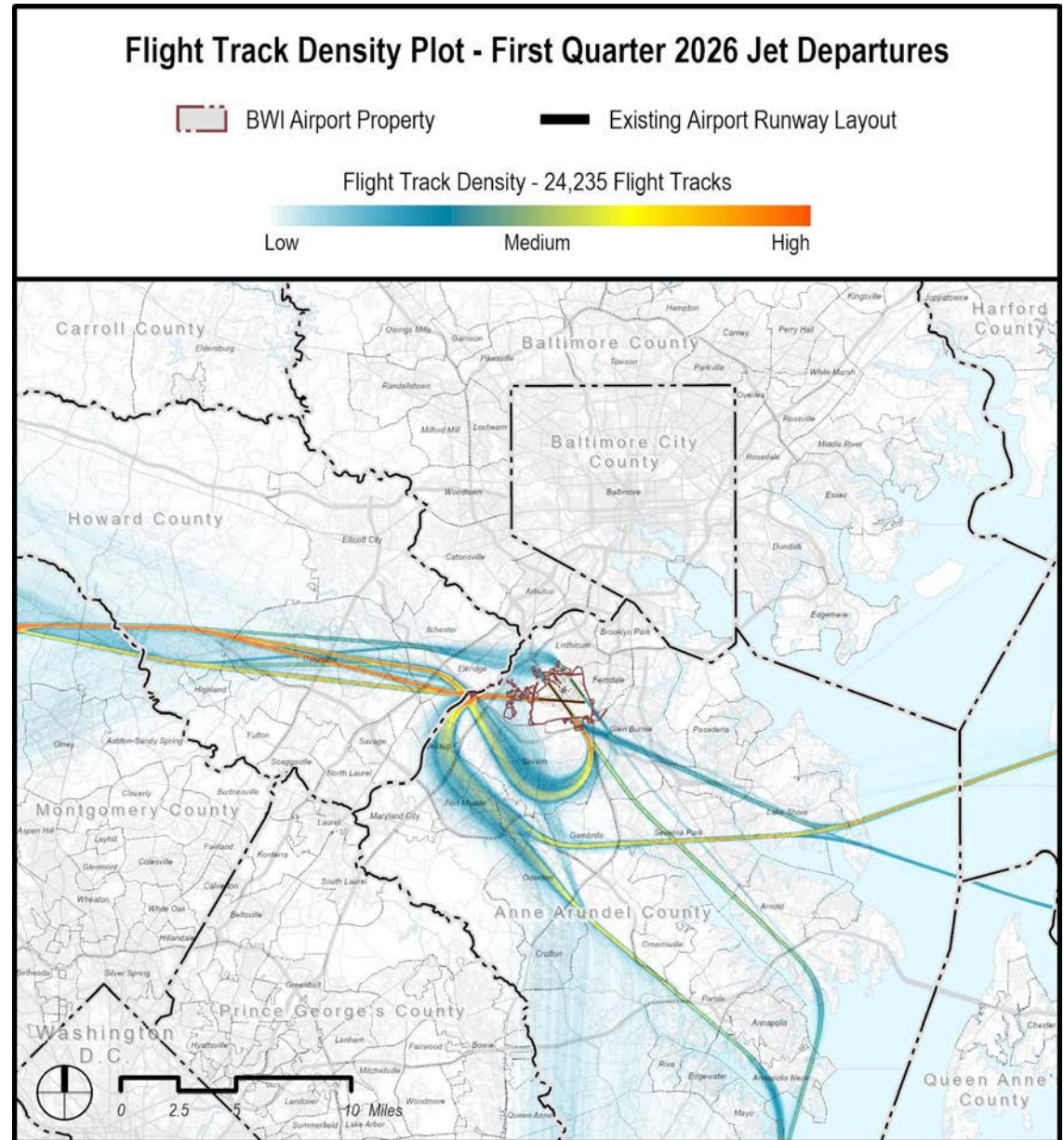
This flight track density plot uses color gradations to depict the flight track geometry, dispersion, and relative frequency of overflights. The color ranges are assigned based on the relative density of aircraft operations. Orange shows the highest density of flights, fading to yellow and then blue as the density decreases.



## Flight Corridors – Jet Departures

The figure on the right shows jet departures during the First Quarter of 2026.

This flight track density plot uses color gradations to depict the flight track geometry, dispersion, and relative frequency of overflights. The color ranges are assigned based on the relative density of aircraft operations. Orange shows the highest density of flights, fading to yellow and then blue as the density decreases.



**Observance of Noise Abatement Procedures**

Adherence to approved noise abatement measures is voluntary and subject to change based on weather, efficiency, and safety.

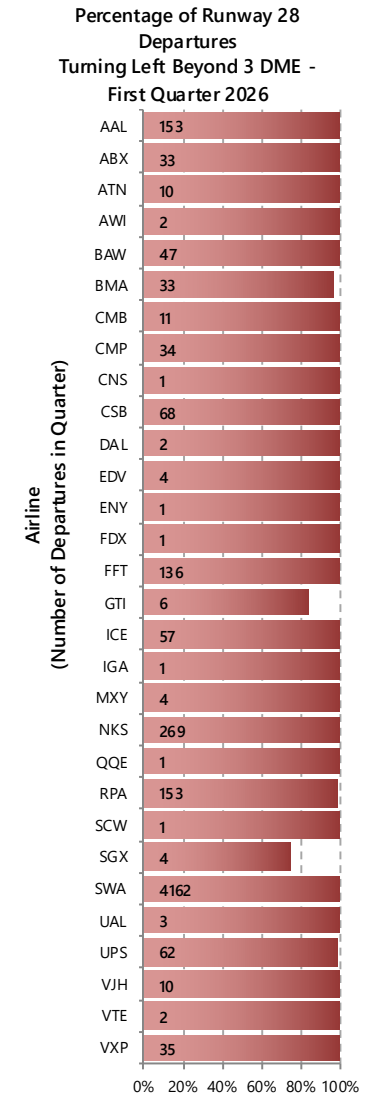
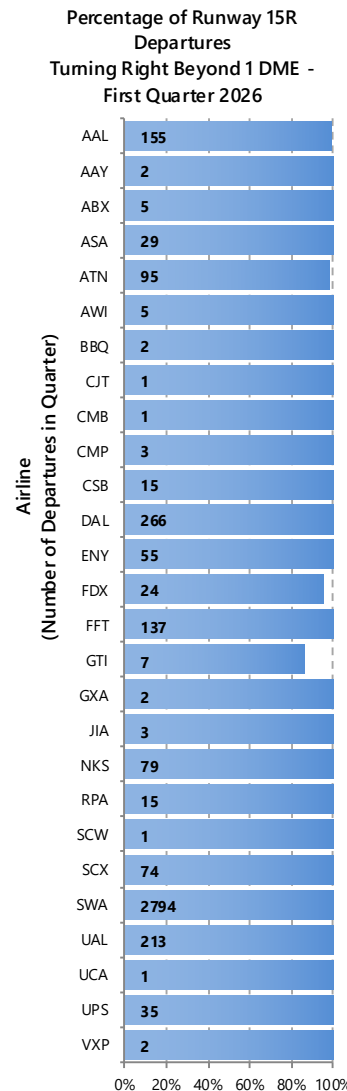
The graphs to the right show how the major carriers and cargo operators perform on the two noise abatement procedures of most interest to the local communities. These procedures are:

1. Runway 15R departures initiating their right turns at, but not prior to, 1 DME
2. Runway 28 departures initiating their turns at, but not prior to, 3 DME

The graphs show the percentage of flights for each airline which comply with each of the two procedures. Each bar also provides the number of operations by each airline subject to the noise abatement procedure. DME stands for Distance Measuring Equipment and is the measured slant range from the aircraft to the navigational aid located near the center of the Airport. One DME equals one nautical mile.

For the First Quarter of 2026, 100% of departures turning right from Runway 15R initiated their turns beyond 1 DME.

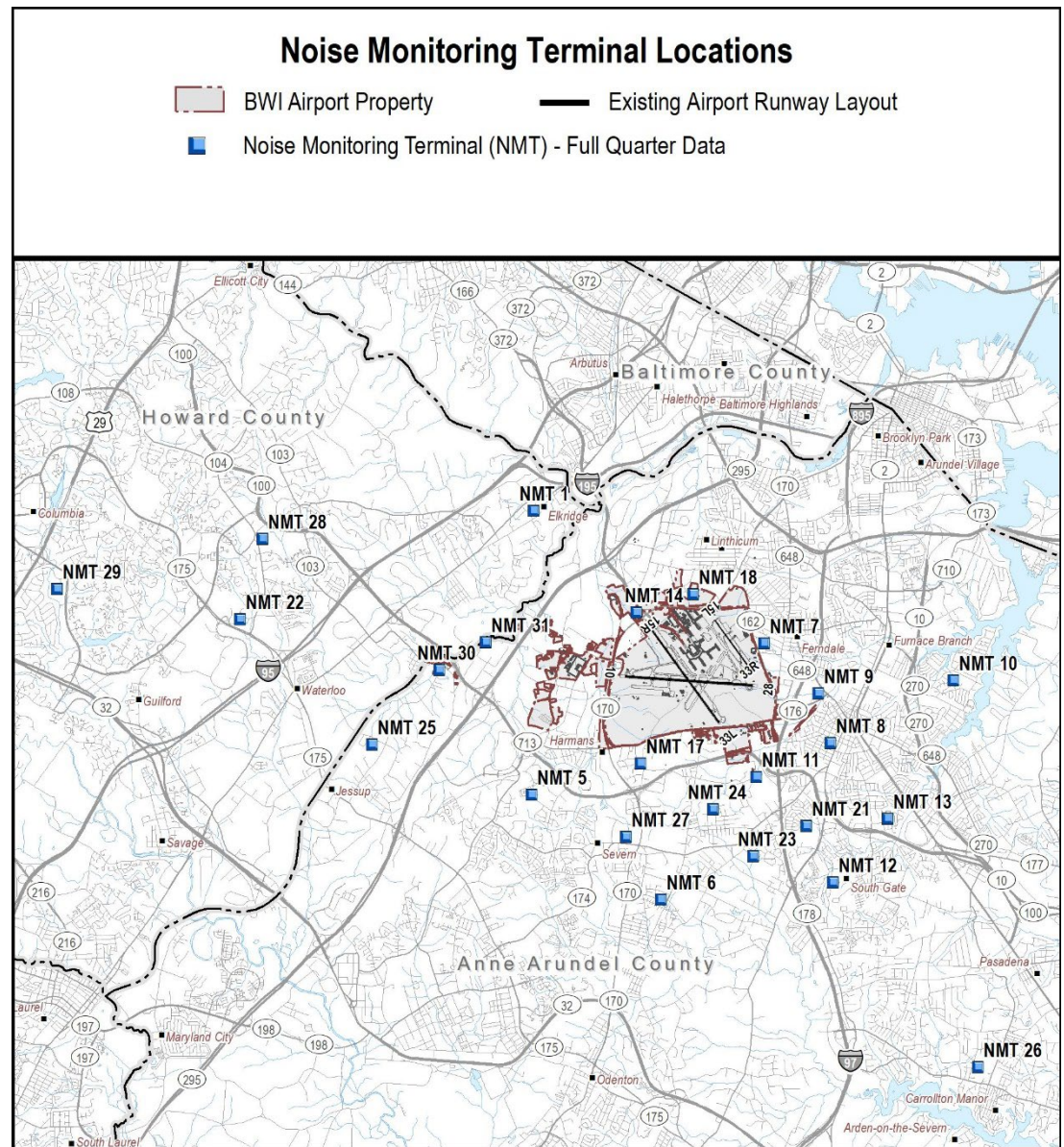
For the First Quarter of 2026, 100% of departures turning left from Runway 28 initiated their turns beyond 3 DME.



 **Noise Monitoring Program**

MAA has 24 permanent Noise Monitoring Terminals (NMTs) located within the communities surrounding BWI Marshall Airport.

The table on the following page provides the quarterly Aircraft, Community, and Total DNL values at each site. At some sites, community or environmental noise levels (street traffic and other neighborhood noises) exceed aircraft noise levels.



First Quarter 2026 Aircraft, Community and Total DNL				
NMT#	Location	Aircraft DNL (dBA)	Community DNL (dBA)	Total DNL (dBA)
1	St. Augustine Church, Elkridge	44.5	56.8	57.0
5	Hebron-Harman Elementary, Hanover	46.9	56.3	56.6
6	Delmont United Methodist, Severn	51.2	54.9	55.9
7	Wicklow Woods, Ferndale	56.8	61.0	62.4
8	Richard H. Lee Elementary School, Glen Burnie	47.9	59.3	59.6
9	Maryland National Guard Armory, Glen Burnie	59.5	62.3	64.1
10	Margate Pumping Station, Glen Burnie	51.7	55.8	56.8
11	Jones Rd., Queenstown	68.1	61.2	68.8
12	Rippling Woods Elementary, Glen Burnie	61.4	58.4	63.1
13	Woodside Elementary, Glen Burnie	48.2	56.6	57.1
14	Runway 15R Approach	61.2	65.0	66.4
17	Timber Ridge Rd., Hanover	38.9	56.7	56.8
18	Runway 15L Approach	56.8	59.6	61.3
21	Glen Burnie Park Elementary, Glen Burnie	60.2	60.0	63.1
22	Lark Brown Road, Columbia	53.6	58.2	59.2
23	Quarterfield Elementary, Severn	57.6	57.6	59.7
24	Poplar Grove HOA, Elmhurst, Severn	46.6	54.8	55.1
25	Belclare Court, Jessup	51.7	58.1	59.0
26	Benfield Elementary, Severna Park	55.9	56.7	59.3
27	Severn Elementary School	53.3	69.6	69.7
28	Maryland School for the Deaf, Ellicott City	43.2	58.5	58.6
29	MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration, Columbia	49.1	55.1	56.1
30	Forest Ave, Hanover	62.3	63.5	66.0
31	Race Road, Hanover	60.2	58.2	62.4

## Residential Portable Noise Monitoring

The portable noise monitoring program is conducted by the MAA's Office of Environmental Compliance and Sustainability - Noise Section.

The residential portable monitoring program measures noise levels in selected areas on a temporary basis (typically for a two-week period) upon request of a homeowner. The final report provides aircraft noise levels for each day, the percentage of east/west operations, and general information about noise measurements and airport operations.

Portable Noise Monitoring Reports and online applications for residential portable noise monitoring can be found here:

<https://marylandaviation.com/application-for-portable-noise-monitoring/>

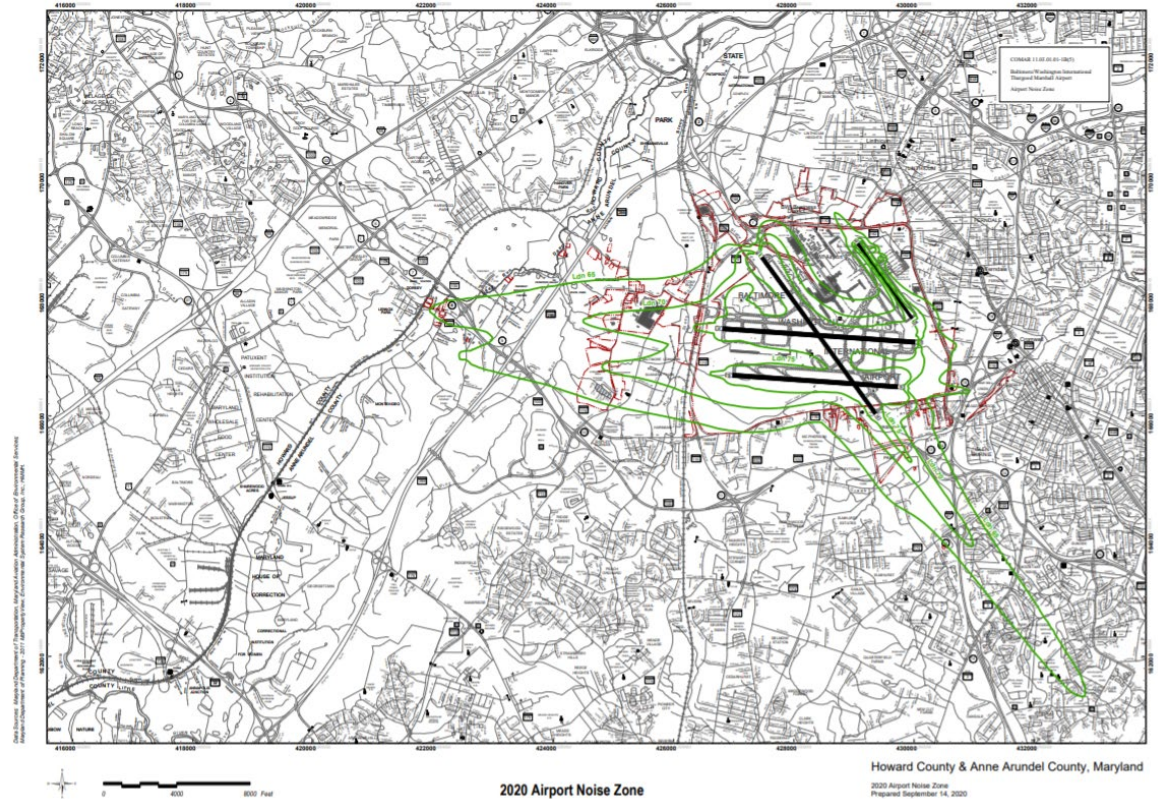




## Airport Noise Zone

The Maryland Environmental Noise Act of 1974 provides for the protection of citizens from the impact of transportation-related noise. The aviation portion of the Act requires the MAA to create a certified Airport Noise Zone (ANZ) to control incompatible land development around BWI Marshall Airport and a Noise Abatement Plan (NAP) to minimize the impact of aircraft noise on people living near the Airport. An ANZ and NAP were first established for BWI Marshall Airport in 1976. The latest update to the ANZ became effective on April 19, 2021.

The ANZ is a composite of three noise contours: a base year contour, a five-year forecast, and a ten-year forecast. The contours depict the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) around the Airport. Both the State of Maryland and the FAA require the use of the DNL metric by all airports conducting environmental studies. The ANZ represents the largest extent of the DNL contours for all three years included in the study and is defined to provide the largest area of protection for existing or future noise exposure contours.



MAA updated the BWI Marshall and Martin State Airport Noise Zones in 2020. The current BWI 2020 ANZ is depicted above. More information is available on the Maryland Aviation Airport Noise website at [www.marylandaviation.com](http://www.marylandaviation.com).

*Further information on the ANZ can be found here:*

<https://marylandaviation.com/environmental/airport-noise/bwi-marshall-airport-noise-zone/>

**Outreach and  
Community Involvement**

The MAA engages in on-going efforts to enhance the level of communication and interaction between the Airport and area residents.

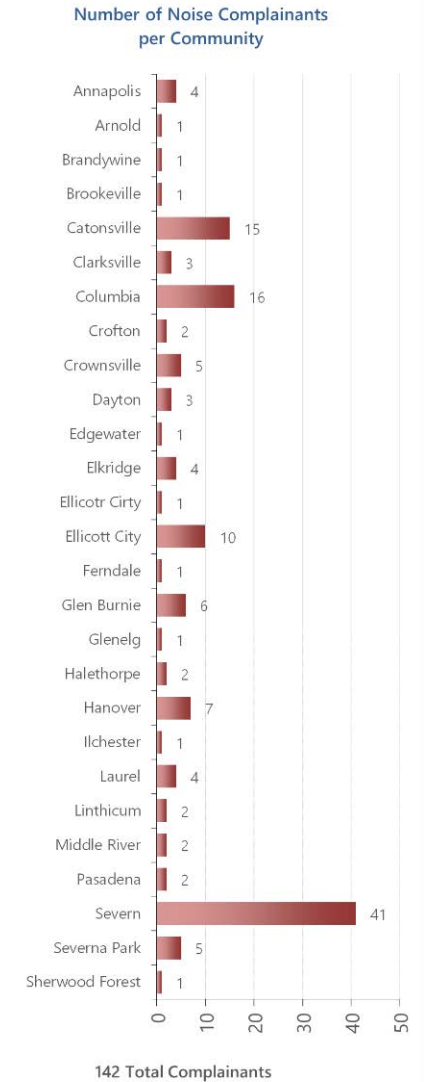
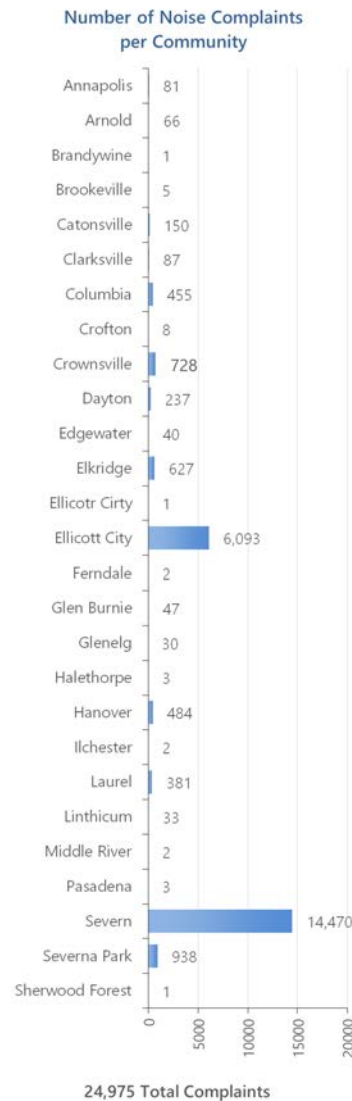
**Airport Noise Complaints**

The MAA maintains a 24-hour Airport Noise Hotline at (410) 859-7021. Noise complaints can also be entered online at:

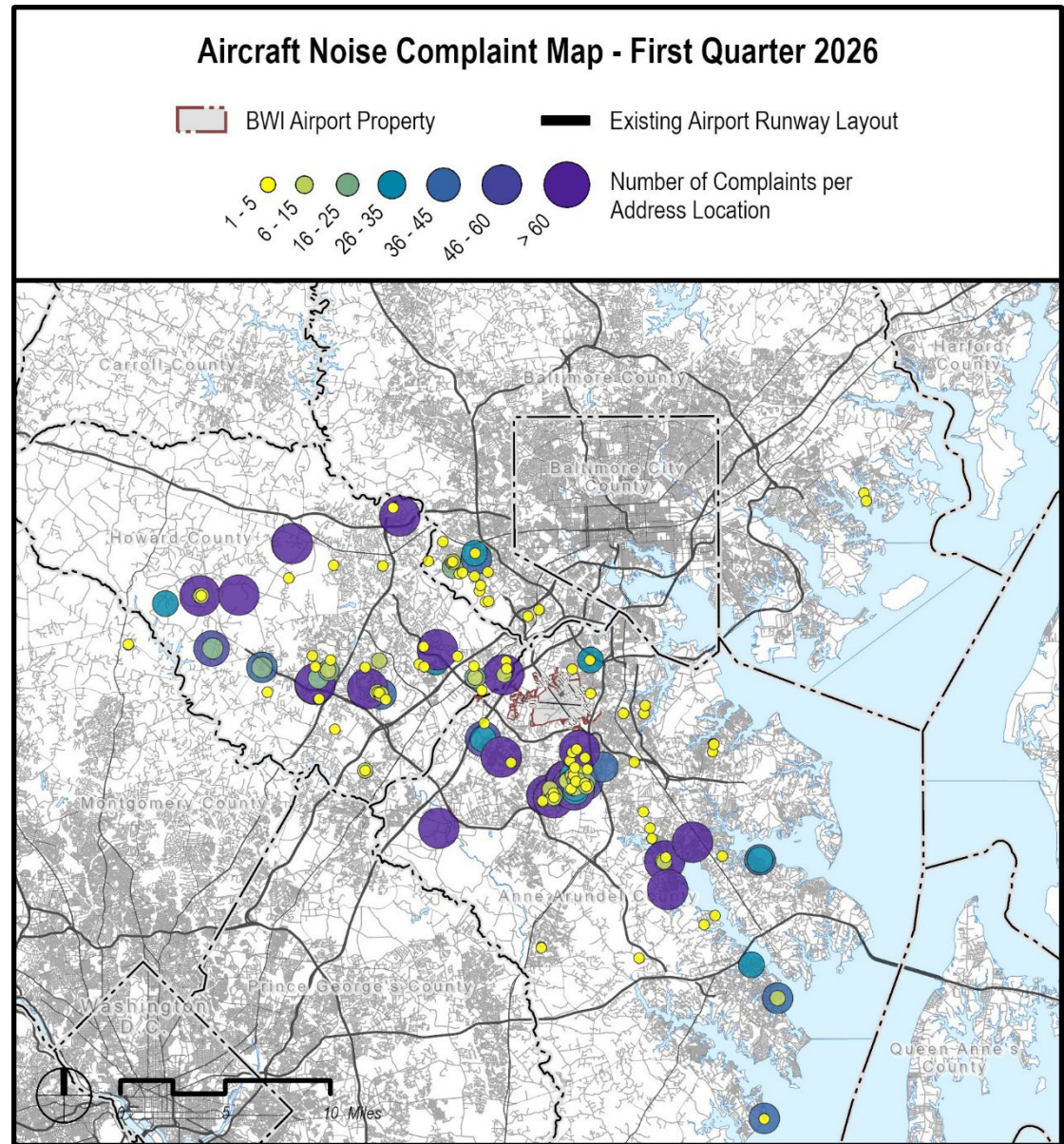
<https://marylandaviation.com/environmental/airport-noise/noise-complaints/>

The graphs show the number of complaints and complainants per community for the quarter.

*There were 24,975 complaints (142 complainants) during the First Quarter of 2026.*



The map to the right shows the locations and number of complaints for the First Quarter of 2026. The size and color of each caller location denotes the number of times a complaint was submitted during the quarter. Small yellow circles depict locations with fewer complaints while large darker circles depict greater numbers of complaints.



## Community Enhancement Grant Program

Maryland Senate Bill 276 established a 12 member (Legislative Update Oct. 2024) “Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities Surrounding Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.”

The intent of this legislation is to provide some benefit to those citizens living in communities impacted by the daily operation of BWI Marshall by allowing them the opportunity to apply for grants for transportation-related projects such as sidewalks, speed humps, streetlights, etc. These communities must be located within the 1998 certified Airport Noise Zone or within two miles of the outermost noise contour.

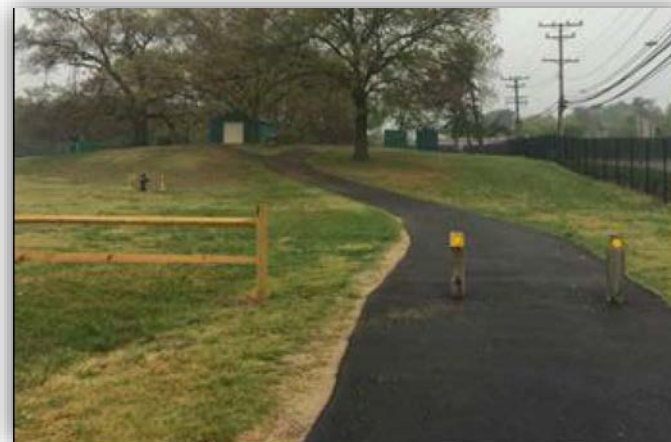
For more information about the application process, or to get more involved, please see:  
<https://marylandaviation.com/environmental/airport-noise/transportation-community-enhancement-grants-program/>


*The Community Enhancement Grant Committee met via TEAMS virtual platform on March 25, 2026. Two grants were recommended in aid pursuant to Section 2-103(i)(2) of the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.*

### Example of Eligible Project



### Example of Completed Project



 **Outreach and  
Community Involvement**

*The MAA engages in on-going efforts to enhance the level of communication and interaction between the Airport and area residents.*

The MAA Community Outreach Programs encourage the exchange of information between the MAA and local community groups and residents. These programs supplement the efforts of the BWI Marshall Airport Neighbors Committee to promote the active participation of local residents in Airport issues.

Specific services or activities provided by the MAA are listed in the table to the right along with the number of events or recorded reports.

 **DC Metroplex BWI Community  
Roundtable**

*The DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable is an MAA initiative formed at the request of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).*

More information about the Roundtable, including meeting agendas, past meeting minutes, and presentation materials, is available at: [www.marylandaviation.com](http://www.marylandaviation.com).

Public Education & Activities – First Quarter of 2026	
Committee Meetings	1
Community Meetings	1
Community Noise Monitoring Reports	1
Airport Zoning Permits	86
eNews Express notifications	18
BWI Airport Noise Zone Update Workshop	1
MTN Airport Noise Zone Update Workshop	1

 **Community Roundtable Meetings – First Quarter of 2026**

- The Roundtable met on February 24, 2026.
  - See the MarylandAviation.com website for related meeting information [DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable - Maryland Aviation Administration](#)

# OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

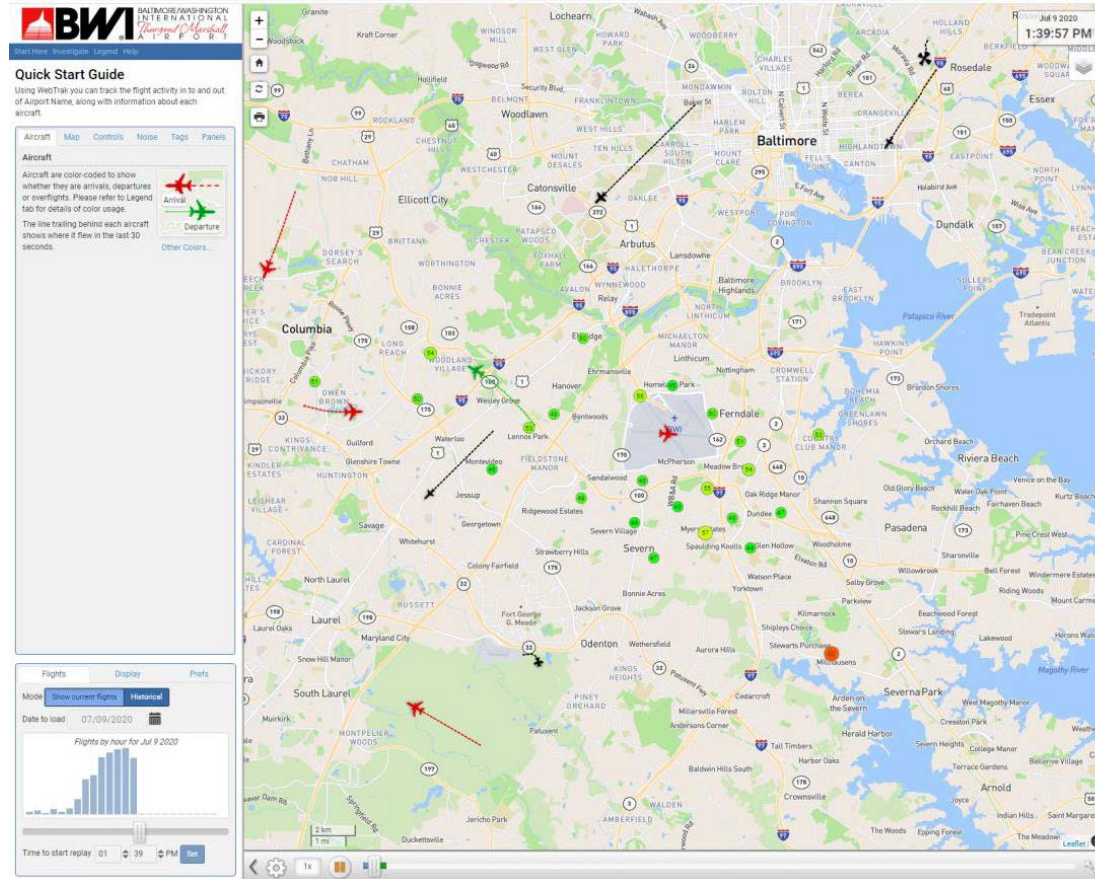


The BWI Marshall WebTrak system can be accessed from the airport website at:

<https://bwiairport.com/flying-with-us/about-bwi/aircraft-noise-webtrak/> or the Maryland Aviation Airport Noise website at: <https://marylandaviation.com/environmental/airport-noise/online-noise-and-flight-tracking/>

The WebTrak system provides historic and near real-time flight tracking information, as well as noise level data for users. The tool displays aircraft flights, weather information, BWI Marshall Airport noise monitor locations, and aircraft noise levels on a user-friendly map. The flight tracking system includes specific details about flights associated with BWI Marshall Airport, as well as information on air traffic transitioning through the region.

WebTrak users can research aircraft noise concerns by replaying flight tracks from specific times. The system's location tools enable users to clearly see flights relative to their location. Live data is delayed approximately 16 minutes for system data processing and aviation security requirements. Historic data can be viewed and is available for 90 days. Users may submit aircraft noise complaints to the MAA directly from the WebTrak system.



Office of Environmental Compliance and  
Sustainability - Noise Program

P.O. Box 8766

BWI Airport, MD 21240-0766

## **Noise Complaints**

**BWI Noise Hotline: (410) 859-7021**

**Online:**

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