



BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Dear Colleagues,

As we close out another productive year at the Boca Raton Airport, I'm pleased to share several important updates and milestones from across our airfield and community. From ongoing capital improvements to sustainability initiatives and partnerships that continue to strengthen our Airport, these projects reflect our commitment to safety, innovation, and exceptional service. We're grateful for the collaboration of our tenants, employees, and stakeholders who help make this work possible. We look forward to continued progress and new opportunities in the year ahead.



Clara Bennett
Executive Director

IN THIS EDITION

PROJECT UPDATES

Page 2

QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

Page 5

TENANT FEATURES

Page 3

OBSERVATION AREA: **QUARTERLY VISITORS**

Page 6

STAFF FEATURE: **FLORENCE STRAUGH**

Page 4

FUN FACT

Page 7

PROJECT UPDATES

Stormwater Improvements / Wildlife Mitigation Project (Phase 1B)

BRAA continues Phase 1B of its Stormwater Improvements and Wildlife Mitigation Project, a \$4.1 million effort to enhance safety and improve drainage near Runway 5-23. The work includes construction, inspections, testing, and other professional services to upgrade portions of the runway safety area and the stormwater system along Airport Road. By placing parts of the open culvert system underground, the project will help level the terrain, reduce wildlife attractants, and support safer airfield operations. Ranger Construction Industries, Inc. began work in spring 2025 and is expected to be completed winter 2025.



Sustainability Management Plan

BRAA has completed its Sustainability Management Plan, a comprehensive framework designed to guide environmentally responsible and community-focused airport development. The plan establishes a Sustainability Policy, measurable goals, and strategies addressing energy use, water quality, waste reduction, emissions, and noise. Its completion supports long-term environmental stewardship, cost savings, and stronger community relations. Developed by Ricondo and Associates, the plan was funded in part by a \$280,000 FDOT grant toward the overall \$350,000 project cost.

Noise Exposure Map Update

BRAA has completed its Noise Exposure Map (NEM) Update, providing an up-to-date analysis of aircraft activity, fleet mix, and community noise exposure. As part of the process, BRAA held multiple public and Noise Technical Advisory Committee meetings and accepted public comments on the draft NEM. The updated noise contours and documentation have been submitted to the FAA and are now pending their formal review. Ricondo and Associates led the project, supported by \$160,000 in FDOT funding and \$164,661 in Federal Aviation Administration grant funding.

Airport's Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS)

BRAA has secured FAA and FDOT grant funding to replace the AWOS, a critical resource providing real-time weather information to the Air Traffic Control Tower and directly to pilots when the tower is closed. Installed in 2013, the current system has supported operations for over a decade. The upgraded system will feature modern technology, improved accuracy, and lower long-term maintenance needs. It will also be relocated to a ground-level site free of obstructions to improve performance. Trinity Electrical Services, LLC will manage engineering, permitting, and installation. Construction begins in January 2026, with completion expected by the summer.



[Learn More About Our Current Projects](#)

SCAN ME



TENANT FEATURES

Our tenants play an important role in creating the welcoming experience we're proud of at the Boca Raton Airport. This quarter, we spotlighted three of our valued partners on our social media channels: Atlantic Aviation, Fairfield Inn & Suites Boca Raton, and Boomers Parks.

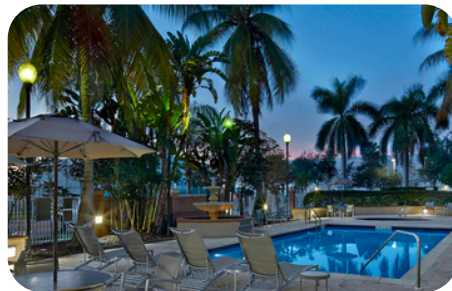
Atlantic Aviation

Elevating the BRAA with a \$50 million investment in modern, sustainable facilities, Atlantic Aviation highlights their plans for electric eVTOL aircraft, positioning Boca Raton for the future of flight.



Fairfield Inn & Suites

Supporting pilots and travelers with upgraded amenities, including a new fitness center, business center, meeting room, and pool, Fairfield Inn & Suites showcases their commitment to comfort and convenience at the Boca Raton Airport.



Boomers

Energizing the community since 1994 with go-karts, mini golf, arcade games, and more, Boomers celebrates their long-standing role in bringing family-friendly fun and vibrancy to the Boca Raton Airport area.



MEET FLORENCE STRAUGH, BRAA BUSINESS MANAGER

We're excited to spotlight Florence Straugh, our Business Manager at the Boca Raton Airport Authority. With a lifelong passion for aviation and years of hands-on airport experience, Florence brings dedication, resilience, and a deep commitment to supporting the daily operations that keep BCT running smoothly.

Below, Florence shares highlights from her journey in aviation, her experiences as a woman in the field, and her advice for those hoping to follow a similar path.

Q & A with Florence Straugh

Can you share a pivotal moment in your career that made you feel you were on the right path?

When I started as a young pilot, I had the opportunity to travel to many places, but it was a challenging time in aviation. Eventually, I shifted my focus to a career in airport operations. Working around aircraft while being able to go home every day suited me far better than flying for a living—though I continued to enjoy flying in my spare time.

Have you ever faced any challenges as a woman in this field?

Certainly, there have been challenges, but you learn to move beyond them. Like anyone in this industry, success comes from hard work, perseverance, and staying focused on your goals. Just as important is maintaining a positive attitude and being personable. Every obstacle is an opportunity to grow, learn, and demonstrate your capabilities.

What advice would you give someone who wants to pursue a career in aviation?

Get involved with professional organizations such as the Florida Airports Council or the American Association of Airport Executives. These groups provide invaluable resources—connecting you with mentors, scholarship opportunities, and internships that can help you launch and grow your career in aviation.

Did you have a mentor as you were coming up in the industry?

When I started, mentorship opportunities were limited. Today, there are so many ways to connect—through webinars, conferences, and industry events. Looking back, I wish I had made a greater effort to stay connected with the incredible women I met in aviation. I believe it's essential to share our experiences with colleagues and to inspire and encourage both young men and women who are passionate about entering this field. Building those connections not only strengthens the industry but also helps shape the future of aviation.



“

...from hard work, perseverance, and staying focused on your goals.



Straugh with students from West Boca High School's Aviation Academy during their tour of the BRAA facility.

QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS



August 2025
Spirit of Giving's Back-to-School Drive



August 2025
Boca Centennial's Follow the Flock



September 2025
Pilot's Meeting



October 2025
Pumpkin Hunt at our Observation Area



November 2025
Boca Raton Mayors Ball



November 2025
Civil Air Patrol's Thanksgiving Food Drive



November 2025
Coast Guard Auxiliary Fly-In Food Truck Fundraiser



December 2025
9th Annual Toy for Tots Drive

OBSERVATION AREA



It has been nearly a year since the Boca Raton Airport Authority opened the Observation Area on January 28, 2025. Since its opening, the Observation Area has become a favorite destination for airport visitors and has hosted multiple events such as the AuxAir Miami Fly-In Food Truck Fundraiser. The Observation Area is a state-of-the-art facility designed to enhance the airport experience for aviation enthusiasts and the general public. The only structure of its kind in Palm Beach County, this circular structure offers an unparalleled viewing experience of aircraft operations at Boca Raton Airport.

Monthly Visitors

Since June there were more than 4,900 visitors at our Observation Area. See the monthly breakdown below.

| Month | Visitors |
|-----------|----------|
| June | 959 |
| July | 663 |
| August | 991 |
| September | 702 |
| October | 986 |
| November | 631 |

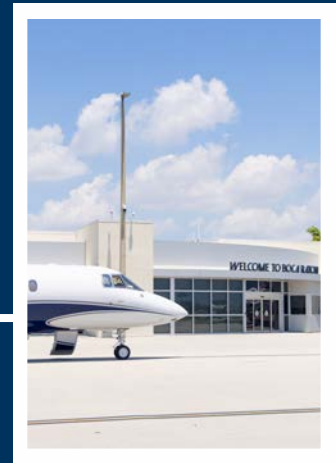


[Learn More About the Observation Area](#)

A QR code with the text "SCAN ME" above it, enclosed in a blue rounded rectangle.

FUN FACT

From 2018 through May 31, 2024, more than 45,000 passengers and crew have passed through BCT Customs, representing over 70 countries. Travelers from the Bahamas, Canada, Turks and Caicos, Mexico, and Costa Rica are just a few of the many who make their way to Boca Raton each year, highlighting the city's growing appeal around the world.



YOUR FEEDBACK IS INVALUABLE

Your feedback is invaluable to us! We encourage all readers to take a moment to complete the survey linked below. Your input will play a crucial role in shaping future Airport plans and ensuring we continue to meet the needs of our community. Thank you for helping us soar to new heights!

Complete Our Feedback Survey

SCAN ME



FOLLOW US



@BocaAirport



@AirportBoca



boca-raton-airport-authority



@BocaRatonAirport6358



BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

EDITION 3 | JAN. 2026