Airport Encroachment and Responsibilities

Land development in the vicinity of airports can be regulated by federal, state, or local municipalities, or it may be unregulated. When land use controls in the airport environs are in place, they are there to protect airports from certain land uses that are not compatible with airport operations or possible expansion needs. The first form of potential encroachment is from structures (either man-made or natural) that, due to their height, may create a hazard for aircraft. Generally, height obstructions most often occur within three miles of an airport.

The second form of possible encroachment is incompatible land development. Incompatible land use may increase public concerns related to environmental and safety issues or heighten the perception of aircraft noise or aircraft accident potential. Tall structures and/or incompatible land use can endanger people on-board aircraft, as well as people on the ground. Local municipalities that fail to take appropriate actions to promote a safe operating environment for airports within their jurisdiction could be exposed to legal liability.

Example FAA 14 CFR Part 77 Surfaces

The size of each airport’s Part 77 Surfaces differ as a result of the number of runways, the length of the runways and the specific approach to each runway end. Further, Part 77 surfaces are three dimensional extending from the sides and ends of each runway at different slopes.
SYSTEM PLAN
IDENTIFICATION OF LOCAL AIRPORT MUNICIPALITIES

As part of the Kansas City Regional Aviation System Plan (System plan), the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) gathered information on current and future land use in the environs of each study airport. This information for Sherman Army Airfield is summarized in this document.

For each airport included in the system plan, a 10-mile area around each airport was identified and all political jurisdictions within this area were mapped. The accompanying map shows those jurisdictions that are within 10 miles of Sherman Army Airfield. In addition, research was also performed to identify each jurisdiction that reports they have: 1) adopted a land use plan for areas near the airport and 2) adopted height restriction zoning that follows guidelines in 14 CFR Part 77.

CURRENT STATUS OF ENCROACHMENT PROTECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>NPIAS Airport</th>
<th>Planning Jurisdiction(s)</th>
<th>Adopted Height Restriction Ordinance</th>
<th>Land use Controls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sherman Army Airfield</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Ft. Leavenworth, KS</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Leavenworth County, KS</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>City of Leavenworth, KS</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Weston, MO</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Platte County, MO</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: USDA, MARC
Date: 30 July 2015
**EXISTING LAND USE**

The current land use designation for Sherman Army Airfield is public/semi-public. The existing land uses within the airport vicinity include public/semi-public, vacant/agricultural, and residential.

**FUTURE LAND USE**

Future land uses planned within the vicinity of the airport include public/semi-public, residential, and parks/open space.
A conversation about land use is incomplete without consideration of undeveloped areas and natural resources. The Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) is a tool available in the Kansas City region to help communities evaluate policy, land use and development decisions in a larger context. The NRI is a Geographic Information Systems database of land cover types, soils, topography, hydrography and other resource information for the Kansas City metropolitan area. More information and downloads are available online at www.marc.org/NRI.

The accompanying map describes the types of land cover around Sherman Army Airfield, both developed and undeveloped. Areas to the south of the airport are primarily developed, while areas to the north, east, and west are undeveloped. As such, there are significant opportunities to protect both natural resources and agricultural lands in the airport vicinity.

For a variety of reasons (general low density of development, lack of significant impervious surfaces, and open areas needed to meet safety guidelines), airports contribute to preserving open space. Conservation of open space and natural areas can contribute to airport land use compatibility and the enhancement of the region’s environmental resources.

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES

Protecting and promoting the transportation resources in MARC’s nine-county planning area is a one of the agency’s primary responsibilities. This includes advocating for compatible land use around general aviation airports.

The responsibility for ensuring height-compatible development rests with all responsible parties, including the airport and all nearby local jurisdictions. If a proposed development near an airport is 200 feet or more above ground level, the FAA must be notified. Part 77 surfaces are complex because they are three-dimensional, and the size of the surface is specific to each runway/airport. FAA’s Central Regional Office (816-329-2605) is the best resource for airports and municipalities to obtain more detailed information on restricting the height of objects in the in airport environs. The FAA can help determine if any of Part 77 surface pose a hazard to aircraft, airspace or navigational aids.