



2015



# Individual Airport Summary Report Alton Bay Ice Runway and Seaplane Base



# AVIATION FACILITIES

Alton Bay Ice Runway and Seaplane Base (B18) is a state owned, public-use general aviation airport in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire (NH). It is classified as a Basic Airport within the New Hampshire State Airport System Plan (NHSASP). Located two miles north of Alton, the airport is an ice runway during the winter and a seaplane base in the summer. During the winter, Runway 01/19 is plowed and marked as 100' wide and 2,600' long. A parallel taxiway and aircraft parking apron are also provided. The Bureau of Aeronautics developed a basic Airport Layout Plan for the airport, which provides a guide each year in placing the runway in the proper location on the ice and ensuring adequate clearances can be maintained for the safety of all users on Alton Bay each winter. The volunteer managers of B18 have recently provided a small warming hut for pilots visiting the area to get warm and learn a little about the community.



## AVIATION SERVICES

- CTAF Communications
- Wind Indicator

# AVIATION FORECAST

There are no based aircraft at B18. Operations over the winter months have grown to about 600 operations, fluctuating due to weather conditions and availability of the ice runway. As such, a forecast of aviation activity was not developed for this unique airport. As management of the airport has become more proficient, interest in the airport continues to spread within the aviation community and is anticipated to be a popular destination for winter aviators from across the region and beyond. An interest and need for seaplane parking has recently been determined. Discussions about providing parking to transient aircraft are currently ongoing and would make shore access for pilots available year round.



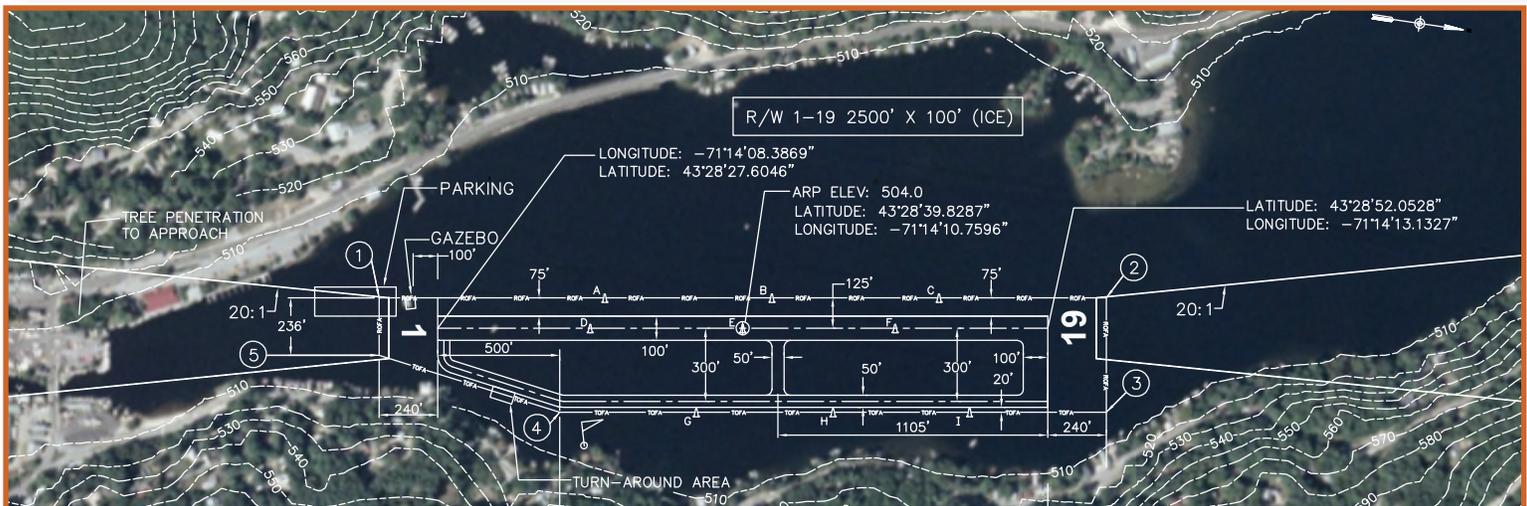
# AIRPORT ROLE & RECOMMENDATIONS



B18 serves the role of a Basic Airport in NH; there are 9 such airports in the airport system. As a Basic Airport, B18 provides vital air access for aviation users in the state by providing essential facilities capable of accommodating many single-engine piston aircraft. Basic airports like B18 provide aircraft access to towns and areas that may be farther away from the larger cities and towns but are still important to economic generation for the state.

B18 is unique among NH airports as it is an ice runway in the winter and a seaplane base during the summer. Volunteers manage the day-to-day operations of the airport and maintain it through the winter season. The beginning of the winter season varies, but is determined when the required ice thickness is achieved to support aircraft and snow-removal operations. Markers are used to define the operational surface of the runway. The runway, parallel taxiway, and the aircraft parking apron are plowed throughout the season, providing a clear ice surface for aircraft to operate. Because of its unique nature, the airport draws pilots from all over New England and beyond who fly to the airport to experience landing on an ice covered lake without the aid of skis. The nearby town

offers a number of restaurants and a general store. The pilots flying into B18 provide a welcome economic boost during the normally slow winter months.

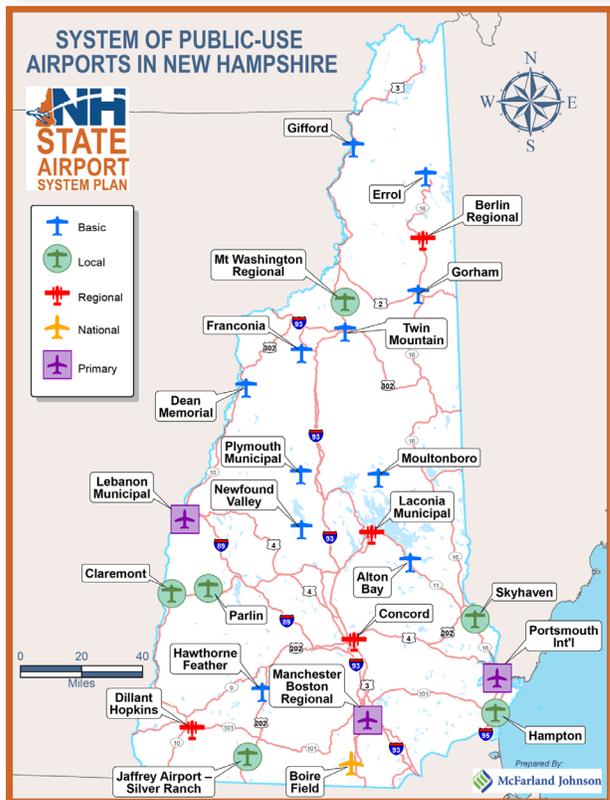


As the ice runway is temporary, no permanent facilities are recommended for the airport during the winter season. The markers and wind cone serve the primary needs of the airport to delineate the active runway surface, but are removed when ice conditions deteriorate or March 31<sup>st</sup>, whichever comes first. As for the seaplane base, building new or modifying current docks should be considered as an option to increase seaplane activity at Alton Bay during the warmer months. Itinerant aircraft traffic year round will help increase the economic activity of the area businesses. Volunteers and donations fund the entire operation of the airport. No funding is provided by the Bureau of Aeronautics, except for approximately \$200 that comes from the Aircraft Operating Fee returns program.

With regard to funding the system of airports of which B18 is a part of, there are additional project costs that may be incurred over the next 20 years, funding for which is not guaranteed by NHDOT. Such costs are related to both capital and non-capital projects identified by the airport managers to help facilitate development at the local level.

**B18 has  
the *only*  
registered ice  
runway in the  
continental  
United States.**

# NEW HAMPSHIRE AIRPORT STATE SYSTEM PLAN



Comprised of 3 commercial service and 22 public-use general aviation airports, the study consists of 25 facilities that serve the air transportation needs of over 1.3 million NH residents, business users, leisure travelers, and military aviation. The system is an important contributor to state and local economies, supporting thousands of jobs and generating millions of dollars in state tax revenue.

The NHSASP provides the guide to maintain and develop the system of airports in NH. Maintaining and improving airport infrastructure and facilities will allow NH to continue to meet future aviation demand and support its communities. However, as market demands and socioeconomic conditions vary for every airport, facility and service needs will also differ. The key components of the system plan and airport specific improvements are highlighted in this brochure.

## AVIATION'S ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO NEW HAMPSHIRE

The total economic contribution of aviation in NH is measured by both the state airport system (NHSAS) and aviation-related manufacturing. These components contributed an estimated 12,954 jobs and \$2.16 billion in revenues for NH businesses, and approximately \$32.19 million in state tax revenue.

In addition to economic benefits, the NHSAS provides numerous critical services and qualitative impacts that enhance the quality of life for those who live and work in NH, including medical transportation and evacuation in rural areas, search and

Overview Economic Contribution to NH			
	Total Employment	Total Output	Total Tax Revenue
NH State Airports	9,283	\$1.16 billion	\$27.96 million
Aviation Related	3,671	\$1 billion	\$4.23 million
<b>TOTAL IMPACT</b>	<b>12,954</b>	<b>\$2.16 billion</b>	<b>\$32.19 million</b>

and rescue operations, wildlife management, law enforcement flights, military exercises, and flight training.

## ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF B18 AIRPORT:

The system plan quantifies the total economic impact of each airport in NH. Using a comprehensive survey process, both the direct economic benefits related to on-airport business and tenants, as well as the indirect benefits associated with off-airport visitor-related expenditures, were determined for each system airport. The multiplier effect of these benefits was then computed to gauge the total airport-related impacts. Thus, the total economic impact of B18 is the sum of all direct, indirect, and multiplier impacts. This economic analysis demonstrates that airports and aviation-related businesses support thousands of jobs and pump billions of dollars into the state economy.

### Economic Contribution of this Airport\*

	Total Employment	Travel Payroll	Total Output	Total Tax Revenue
<b>TOTAL IMPACT</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$240,000</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

\*Totals represent the 13 non-NPIAS Airports in aggregate

For more information visit:

<http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/aerorailtransit/aeronautics/documents.htm>