



ABOUT THE AIRPORT HISTORY



This year, we're celebrating our 50th Anniversary! The airport opened for service in June of 1961, and since then we've seen a lot of incredible things. Here's a bit of history for you. **Click on a title** to read more.

[The Formative Years: The Asheville & Hendersonville \(A&H\) Airport](#)

1925 – Asheville Seeks Airport

The Asheville Chamber of Commerce appointed an aviation committee to research the feasibility of developing an airport. Land between Asheville and Hendersonville was identified.

1928 – Airport Development Begins

The Asheville Chamber of Commerce and City of Asheville leased land and began developing an airport.

1936 – Regional Governments Make Purchase

The Cities of Asheville and Hendersonville and Henderson County together purchased the 122-acres and unpaved runways in exchange for land and cash totaling a value of \$31,000.

1944 – Wartime Brings Runway Improvements

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers operated the airport from 1943-1947, providing air transportation for their communications and weather headquarters. During this time, federal funds were acquired to build a total of three 4,000 foot paved runways, a control tower and a fire station.

May 14, 1957 – Expansion in the Air

The A&H Airport was limited due to the proximity of mountain ranges surrounding the campus, so a new location and airport was planned by leaders in Asheville. In order to grow the airport to accommodate larger planes used in commercial air travel, a bond issue authorizing the City of Asheville to expend up to \$1.2 million was passed.

1961 – A New Era Begins: Asheville Regional Airport

The First Twenty Years

A Focus on Airport Expansion: The Next Twenty-Five Years

The Most Recent Five Years: Unprecedented Growth & Regional Support

If you have a piece of airport history, whether it's a photo, artifact, story, memory, or other memorabilia, we would love to hear from you. Contact us at pr@flyavl.com.