



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

# Environmental, conservation, and wildlife management program

We take our commitment to supporting local, regional, national, and global sustainable development practices and principles seriously. At the same time, we recognize others define sustainability in terms of its ability to accommodate future social and economic growth.

In this context, applying effective and innovative practices in our daily operations provides the best opportunity for making positive contributions to the aviation industry and minimizing adverse environmental impacts.

To explore and learn more about the latest environmental, conservation, and wildlife scientific advancements, we consult and collaborate with leading academic experts at Purdue University, Indiana University and other institutions.

We partner with local environmental and conservation groups such as the Indianapolis Greenways Foundation, the Indiana Forage Council, the Indiana Landscape Association, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Hendricks County Parks & Recreation Department.

Most importantly, we follow and strive to exceed standards set by a number of state and federal regulatory agencies including:

- U.S. Federal Aviation Administration
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Corps of Engineers (USCOE)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
- Indianapolis Departments of Public Works and Metropolitan Development

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Our success in responsible environmental management is dependent on the cooperation and assistance of more than 100 private companies and business partners who provide essential airport services 365 days a year.

These services range from filling underground fuel tanks, disposing of solid and liquid waste, maintaining and repairing aircraft of all types, shipping tons of commercial goods and cargo, and transporting 8.5 million passengers each year.

Whether it relates to monitoring air and water quality on IAA properties, ensuring proper management of de-icing and other chemicals, or controlling storm water runoff, we have a strategic, systemic approach to stimulate innovative solutions for managing these daily operations.

The program includes:

- Documenting environmental issues, challenges, and successes
- Developing appropriate responses and actions for environmental issues
- Collaborating with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies and business partners responsible for managing environmental impacts
- Monitoring compliance requirements and meeting rigorous performance standards
- Promotion of sustainable building practices such as pursuit of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the new terminal
- Implementing effective solid waste recycling operation at the new terminal

## **CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT**

Protecting and preserving precious natural resources is essential in maintaining central Indiana's ecosystem and wildlife habitat. At its conservation area, IAA has developed an ongoing land, farm, and watershed management program. The site also serves as an outreach facility, regularly providing educational opportunities for local elementary, middle, and high school students to learn about the principles of conservation and stewardship.

- IAA avoids destroying natural wildlife habitats. In 1992, nearly 100 acres of forested and emergent wetlands were recreated to restore a prime foraging and roosting habitat for the federally endangered Indiana bat in order to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act. A comprehensive plan approved by U.S. Fish & Wildlife ensures bat-friendly trees and shrubs are cultivated, trees are not cleared during prime breeding season, unprotected land adjacent to the habitat is purchased when available, and buffers are created along woodlots and mitigation planting areas.
- Trees on airport property are replaced, often by moving and transplanting them to other areas not in direct flight paths or areas essential for aircraft safety. When that is not possible, fallen trees are recycled into landscaping mulch.
- Nearly 1,000 acres of farmable, airport-owned acreage is leased. It provides small-grain foraging opportunities for wildlife and eliminates the need for mowing and noxious weed control.

- A cooperative horse boarding and pasturing program was established so that horse owners can receive full value for animal services in return for barn cleaning, fencing upkeep, and facility maintenance.

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

FAA and military officials estimate that bird and other wildlife strikes annually cause up to \$500 million in damage each year to U.S. civil and military aircraft (see [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet\\_fa\\_notice/fs\\_wsairport.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet_fa_notice/fs_wsairport.html)). These strikes in critical airspace and aircraft operation areas endanger the lives of crew members and passengers.

An important aspect of IAA's wildlife program is to control and relocate wildlife, monitoring migration patterns and routes each season. We implement techniques new to reduce wildlife hazards, engage in professional development for training to learn new management techniques, and collect and analyze data about the numbers of wildlife strikes each year.

To control and manage native wildlife around the airport, IAA:

- Minimizes the use of landscaping plants, trees, and shrubs that attract and sustain wildlife in airside operation areas
- Manages operations to relocate wildlife nesting and foraging areas to other areas on airport property, ensuring the health and biodiversity of plant and animal populations and habitats off the airfield
- Studies local wildlife populations, monitoring seasonal activities with the potential for creating safety issues in and around airport properties, documenting year-round migration and breeding patterns
- Engages in short- and long-term management solutions focusing on nonlethal control methods
- Practices habitat modification, exclusion, control, and relocation when needed

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Join us in our efforts to maintain a clean, safe, and enduring environment to sustain future generations for many years to come! For information about efforts to bring IAA operations, facilities, and activities into harmony with the environment, please contact:

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