



The City of Rapid City invites applications for  
Airport Deputy Director

Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP)  
Rapid City, South Dakota

*EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH*



## Rapid City Regional Airport

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The Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP) is owned by the City of Rapid City and governed by a semi-autonomous board that operates the Airport on behalf of the City. The Board is comprised of six mayoral appointees who are confirmed by the Rapid City Common Council.

The Airport is located in western South Dakota near the beautiful Black Hills, home to Mount Rushmore. RAP is a vital transportation hub for the region, and it has both commercial and general aviation activities. It supports 2,877 jobs and contributes roughly \$456 million to the local economy. RAP is the second largest airport in the State of South Dakota and is recognized by the FAA as a non-hub primary airport. With nonstop service to nine major U.S. airports (some seasonally), Rapid City Regional Airport serves western South Dakota, parts of Wyoming, Nebraska, and Montana.

RAP has five major carriers providing commercial air service and three cargo carriers. FedEx, UPS, and the USPS provide air cargo services to Rapid City with less than daily service. Delta, United, American, Sun Country, and Allegiant combine for approximately 350,000 annual enplanements. Top origin and destination markets for Rapid City include Phoenix, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Denver, Dallas, Chicago, Orlando, Atlanta, Charlotte, and Los Angeles. Of the top ten markets, nine have nonstop service.

In addition to commercial air service, a healthy general aviation community and numerous aeronautical businesses are on the airfield. Westjet Air Center, Inc. provides full-service fixed-base operations.





## Rapid City Community

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Known as the gateway to Mount Rushmore and the City of Presidents, Rapid City is a diverse and vibrant community experiencing tremendous growth and change. The region offers unparalleled amenities that attract new residents and businesses and make existing residents proud to call the area home. Rapid City is the second-largest municipality in the State of South Dakota and the largest community in the region.

The City is located on the eastern edge of the Black Hills range and was originally inhabited by the Sioux Nation (Lakota tribe). The discovery of gold in the Black Hills in the 1870s led to the area's settlement in 1876. The town was officially laid out as a square mile with a six-block business center area and was named after the creek at the heart of it all, Rapid Creek. Originally called Hay Camp, Rapid City was incorporated in 1882 as a town before it was a township.

Throughout the early 20th century, Rapid City benefitted from Black Hills tourism, especially with the construction of nearby Mount Rushmore, which started in 1927 and was completed in 1941. That same year, Rapid City also received notoriety when it was selected as a finalist for the United Nations Headquarters in 1945.

- Rapid City is the fastest growing small market in the United States for economic growth; (up from 110th in 2019).
- South Dakota is the 12th fastest-growing state in the country for in-migration.
- The state ranks #3 in the nation for fiscal stability and has no state income tax.
- Unemployment is under 2%.
- Cost of living is 7% lower than the national average.





## The Community (*continued*)

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Rapid City's economy thrives on diverse industries, contributing to its resilience and stability.

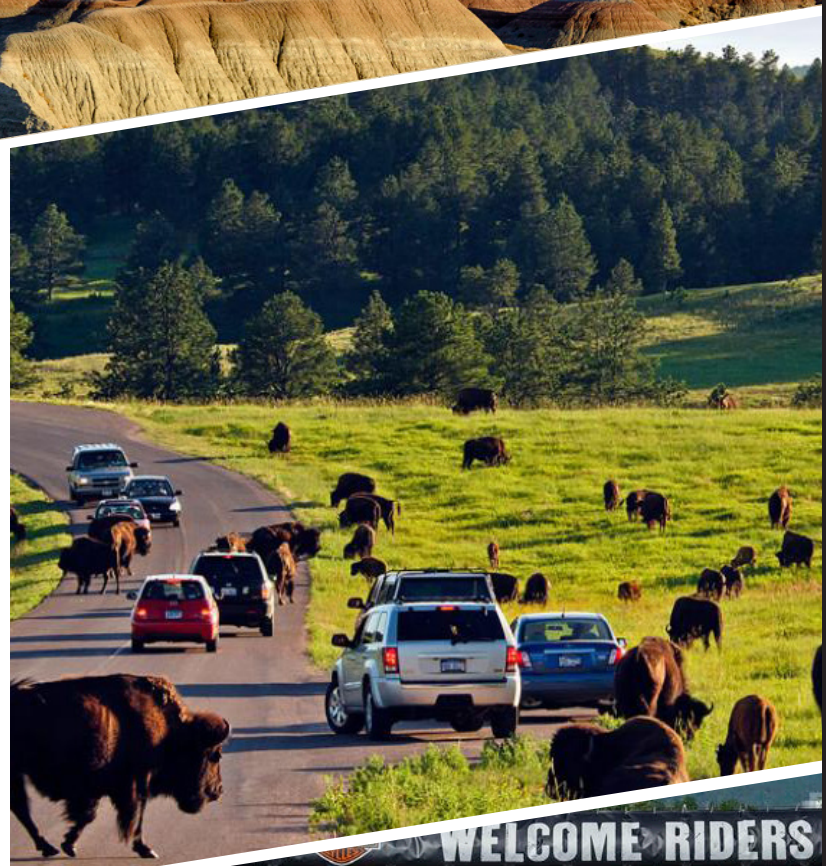
Tourism plays a significant role, with millions drawn annually to its proximity to iconic attractions. This industry contributes \$707 million in economic impact and fuels hospitality, entertainment, and retail businesses.

Additionally, as a regional healthcare hub, Rapid City provides essential services and employment opportunities to residents and neighboring communities, with aeromed services utilizing spaces at the Rapid City Regional Airport.

Situated adjacent to our airfield, Ellsworth Air Force Base holds a central position in the local economy, contributing over \$350 million annually and offering employment to nearly 5,000 airmen and civilian contractors. Notably, it has been chosen as the primary base for the B-21 stealth bomber mission, bringing an unprecedented \$2 billion-plus investment and the creation of numerous job opportunities.

Rapid City also supports a growing technology and manufacturing sector, leveraging its strategic location and skilled workforce. Overall, the city's diverse economic landscape ensures resilience and growth, making it an attractive destination for businesses and residents alike.

Opportunities associated with these industries and the area's high quality of life continue to attract and appeal to many.



## The Community *(continued)*

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Rapid City is the gateway to the Black Hills and the Badlands, and there is no better place to find outdoor adventure.

Living in Rapid City allows outdoor enthusiasts the best of all worlds. Rapid City has over 13 miles of bike trails and an additional 150 miles within a short distance.

Spearfish Canyon is a breathtaking limestone palisade. This creek-carved gorge is more ancient than the Grand Canyon – albeit much closer together. Accessible only by horseback until 1893, Spearfish Canyon’s narrow 1000-foot walls are among the most spectacular scenery in the Black Hills.

Spearfish Canyon is also a great spot for wildlife enthusiasts, as the diverse array of plant life provides a comfortable home for deer, mountain goats, porcupines, and bobcats. The Spearfish region has skiing and hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails for winter sports.

Historic Deadwood, South Dakota, is the wildest town in the West. Watch daily Old West shootouts and reenactments on Main Street, take a historic walking tour, and see the final resting places of Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane, and other notable Deadwood legends. Deadwood also has gaming halls, casinos, and many concerts.

The Black Hills Region is also home to some of the best hunting and fishing in the world! Hunters can enjoy world-renowned pheasant hunting, turkeys, ducks, geese, and other small game animals, along with big game like deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, and mountain lions. Fishermen won’t be disappointed with the Missouri River, many lakes, and great fly fishing creeks, all within about two to three hours of Rapid City.

In early August 2025, Sturgis, South Dakota, will host the 85th Annual Sturgis Rally. If riding a motorcycle is a passion, the Sturgis Rally is the place to be. The Rally attracts approximately 750,000 bikers on an annual basis and is an important event for the region. RAP is currently the only airport in the country that offers a motorcycle rental concession to serve our customers during the Rally.

The region also has many family events and places to visit. Reptile Gardens and Bear Country are two wonderful attractions which allow visitors to see and learn about wildlife. In the spring season, the public is even invited to welcome the baby bear cubs!



## The Position

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Join our dynamic team as the Airport Deputy Director, where you'll oversee all aspects of airport operations, facility management, and maintenance. Your primary responsibilities include ensuring safety, security, and compliance with federal regulations, particularly overseeing the Airport Certification Program under Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 139. Additional responsibilities include:

- Spearhead security programs and liaise with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA).
- Oversee compliance with security directives and plans.
- Manage regulatory plans such as Storm Water Pollution Prevention and Wildlife Hazard Management, ensuring strict adherence.
- Oversee construction and renovations to guarantee compliance with TSA, FAA, and EPA regulations, conducting inspections, and proposing corrective measures when necessary.
- Manage and maintain crucial airport IT systems, ensuring smooth operations of flight information, public advisories, and security camera systems.

Beyond operational duties, you'll play a pivotal role in driving business development opportunities, researching and advising the Executive Director and Board of Directors on airport development issues.

## Preferred Education and Experience:

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- Bachelor's degree in business, public administration, engineering, or aviation management, with a master's degree preferred.
- Active involvement with industry organizations such as AAAE and/or ACI-NA.
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in airport facility maintenance or aviation operations are highly valued.
- Additionally, possessing or obtaining a South Dakota driver's license and security clearances from the TSA are essential.

Join us in shaping the future of our airport and the communities we serve. Apply now to be part of our dynamic team!

For full job description, [click here](#).





## Salary and Benefits

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The salary range for this position is \$121,212 - \$162,899 and is accompanied by a generous compensation and benefits package. A starting salary above mid-range is possible for the exceptional candidate. Relocation assistance will be offered.

For additional information, please [click here](#).

## How To Apply

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To apply online, [click here](#).

**Deadline for applications: April 28, 2024**

The contact for this search is:

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**Please note:** After your application is complete, you will receive an important email from us. Please check your inbox and your junk/spam folder, and if you have not received our email, please notify us at:

[admin@adkexecutivesearch.com](mailto:admin@adkexecutivesearch.com).

The City of Rapid City is an equal opportunity employer.



Photos Courtesy of Travel South Dakota, Visit Rapid City, and Rapid City Regional Airport.