



The City of Boulder invites applications for  
**Airport Manager**

Boulder Municipal Airport (BDU)  
Boulder, CO

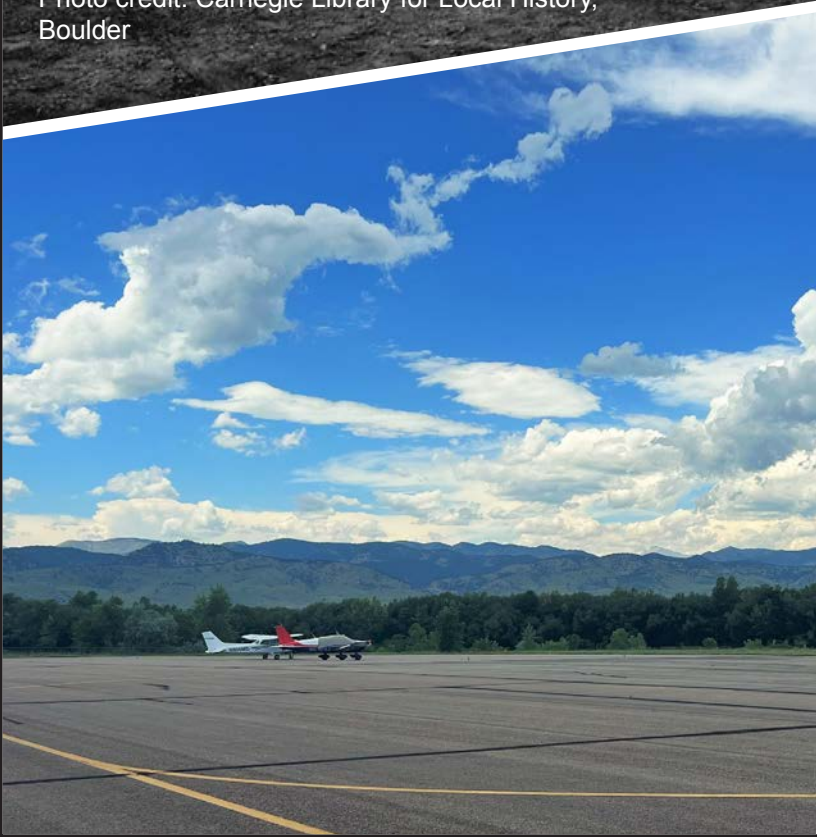
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Photo credit: Rubino Surveying



Photo credit: Carnegie Library for Local History, Boulder



## The Airport

Welcome to the Boulder Municipal Airport: a small general aviation airport nestled in the Rocky Mountain foothills in Boulder, Colorado. Boulder Municipal Airport, also known as BDU, provides or hosts flight training, scientific research, nonprofits, recreational flights, businesses, and emergency and medical flights to the city and surrounding communities. The vision of Boulder Municipal Airport is to provide a safe, self-sufficient, and community-oriented general aviation airport, serving the needs of both business and recreational aviation users.

The airport has provided aviation-related services since its inception in 1928, beginning as a dirt landing strip called Hayden Field. Today, Boulder Municipal Airport includes one runway (08/26) and one grass strip (08G/26G); runway and taxiway lighting; a visual approach slope indicator for runway 26; three underground fuel storage tanks; 130 paved tie-down spaces; 66 glider tie-down spaces; 8 T-hangar buildings and 11 airport-related and/or executive hangar buildings.

For organizations and individuals in aviation, the airport is a business, technology, recreational and community hub. Like many other city facilities, the airport hosts privately organized events open to the public, including the WWII Ball and free flights for youth. The airport currently has about 10 businesses and non-profit groups that call it home.

Operations-wise, there are 171 aircraft at the airport: 40 gliders, 129 fixed-wing aircraft and 2 helicopters. The airport supports 100-200+ daily operations on average, with approximately 60,000 operations in a year. About 69% of these operations were from based aircraft, or aircraft stored at the airport, with 31% from non-based aircraft.



## The Airport (*continued*)

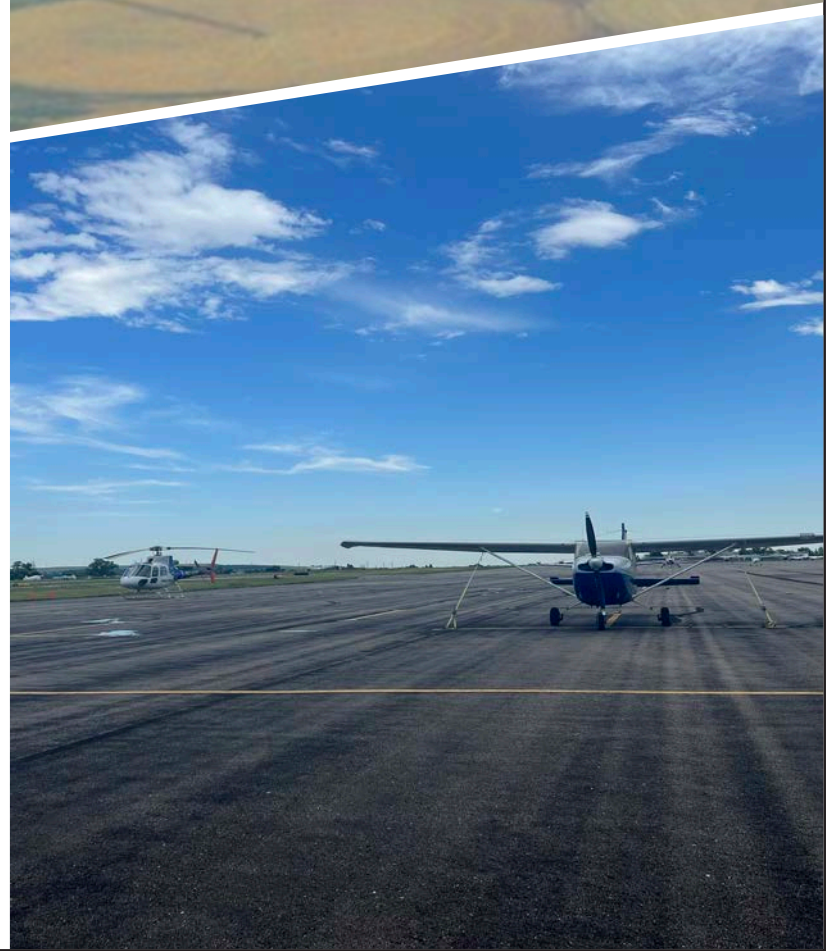
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The airport plays a role in the local economy by contributing jobs and economic vitality. A 2020 Colorado Department of Transportation analysis determined that Boulder Municipal Airport provided approximately 675 jobs, \$24 million in wages and almost \$57 million to the Boulder economy annually.

While in Boulder, you might notice gliders slipping quietly through the sky. In the Rocky Mountain foothills, we often experience mountain waves, creating a natural environment that is ideal for gliders. Boulder-based gliders have set numerous distance and altitude records and are an important part of the local aviation community.

The Boulder Municipal Airport also plays a role in local emergency management coordination. The airport provides access for firefighting and search and rescue helicopter missions and is used as a training ground to prepare for these life-safety operations. The airport was recognized for outstanding collaboration and contribution to search and rescue services by Rocky Mountain Rescue Group with the 2020 Flatiron Award.

The airport also serves the community as an emergency staging area, a place where emergency response resources are directed and based during a crisis. During the September 2013 flood, the National Guard staged emergency operations at the airport, evacuating over 1,200 people from the area by air — at the time, the second-largest humanitarian airlift in the U.S. since Hurricane Katrina.





## The Community

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### **The Boulder, Colorado Community**

Boulder, Colorado, is just 30 minutes northwest of Denver, where the plains meet the Rocky Mountains. Tucked into a picturesque valley below the iconic Flatirons, Boulder has a population of approximately 105,000. The city is a great place to live, work, grow, and play.

Boulder is nationally recognized for its quality of life, thriving tech, research-based economy, and booming real estate market. Boulder is also one of the most educated metropolitan areas in the country. The local public schools are excellent, with Boulder Valley School District consistently ranking among the best in the state. In addition, Boulder is a hub of entrepreneurship, particularly for businesses that value a lifestyle rooted in a love of the outdoors, healthy living, and access to resources.

The University of Colorado at Boulder is currently one of the premier public research institutions in the United States and sits in the heart of Boulder. The University has a strong reputation and is especially known for its engineering and science programs, particularly Earth and Space sciences. There are 17 federally funded science laboratories in Boulder, including the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Enjoyment of the outdoors has always been at the forefront of life in Boulder. The community's open space and mountain parks form a green belt around the city, with over 45,000 acres of preserved and protected land. Boulder has over 300 miles of public hiking and biking trails, and receives well over five million visitors a year. In addition, residents enjoy 1,800 acres of urban parkland and programming through numerous recreation centers and outdoor pools.



## The Community *(continued)*

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Boulder fosters an environment for artists and audiences to be innovative, experimental, creative, and expressive. The city has a large concentration of artists with more than 30 art galleries, four museums, a dozen movie and stage theaters, and a vast variety of cultural performances each year, including the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Colorado Music Festival, and Chautauqua Summer Series. Starting in 2027, Boulder will be the future home of the Sundance Film Festival, the largest independent film festival in the United States.

According to Bon Appétit magazine, Boulder is America's Foodiest City with local restaurants and chefs insistent on quality, innovation, and flavor. In addition, Boulder is consistently ranked as one of the nation's healthiest places to live and is a mecca for natural and organic products. Farms, dairies, ranches, markets, and restaurants embrace the idea of local, seasonal, and artisanal food production and cooking. The Boulder Farmers Market is the largest outdoor market in the state, providing a venue for local agricultural producers to sell their products directly to the public. For those who love beer, wine, and spirits, there are 21 breweries, four distilleries, two wineries, and two cideries in Boulder.

While each of the characteristics, passions, and industries that Boulder is known for today emerged organically over time, it is how they work together that makes Boulder, Boulder.





## Inside the City of Boulder

The City of Boulder believes in a future with equitable access to health, prosperity, and fulfillment, where the community adapts and thrives in response to emerging, sometimes urgent, social, economic, and environmental challenges.

The Sustainability, Equity, and Resilience Framework and Citywide Strategic Plan guide budget and planning processes by providing consistent goals necessary to achieve Boulder's vision of a great community and the actions required to achieve them. Building on a legacy of innovation, Boulder cultivates a creative spirit in order to adapt and thrive in the changing climate.

Boulder continuously works to provide service excellence for an inspired future through our core values:

- **Customer service:** We are dedicated to exceeding the expectations of our community and our co-workers by demonstrating consistent and professional service with a solution-oriented approach.
- **Respect:** We champion diversity and welcome individual perspectives, backgrounds, and opinions. We are open-minded and treat all individuals with respect and dignity.
- **Integrity:** We are stewards of the public's trust and are committed to service that is transparent and consistent with city regulations and policies. We are honorable, follow through on our commitments, and accept responsibility.
- **Collaboration:** We are committed to organizational success and celebrate our shared dedication to public service. We believe community collaboration and the sum of our individual contributions lead to great results.
- **Innovation:** We promote a forward-thinking environment that supports creativity, calculated risks, and continuous improvement. We embrace change and learn from others in order to deliver leading-edge service.

## Position Overview

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The City of Boulder seeks a dynamic and experienced Airport Manager to lead the Boulder Municipal Airport. Reporting to the Director of Transportation and Mobility, this role oversees daily operations, regulatory compliance, financial sustainability, and community engagement. The Airport Manager plays a key role in shaping the airport's future, ensuring safety, and balancing stakeholder interests while maintaining a financially self-sufficient operation.

## About the Role

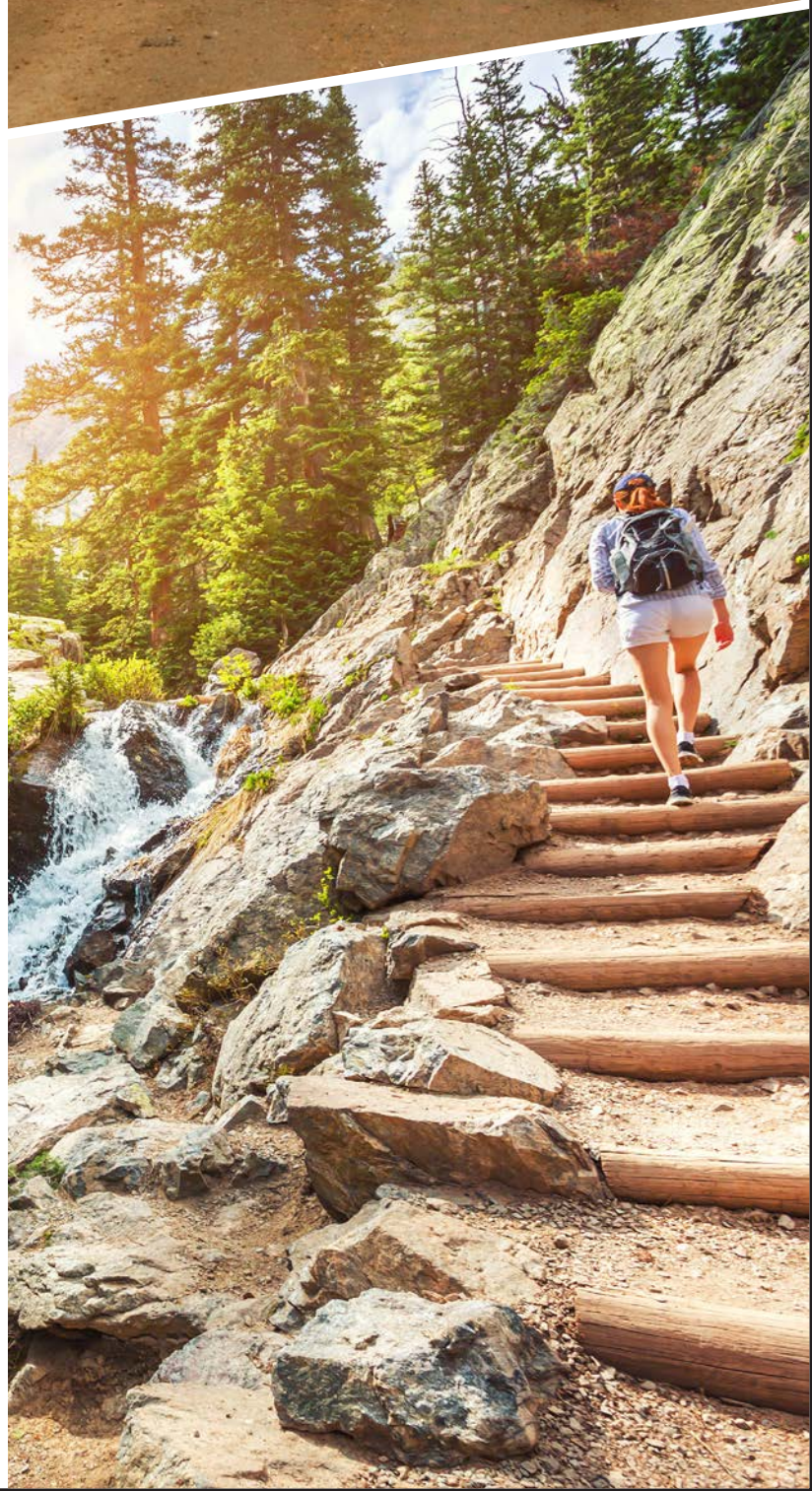
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As a member of the Transportation and Mobility leadership team, the Airport Manager develops and executes strategic plans, ensuring alignment with city goals. This position is responsible for airport operations, tenant relations, grant administration, budgeting, and capital improvement projects. The ideal candidate is an aviation professional with strong leadership, business acumen, and a commitment to community collaboration.

## Key Responsibilities

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- Develop and implement the airport's master plan, strategic initiatives, and annual business plan.
- Ensure compliance with FAA regulations, safety protocols, and security measures.
- Manage airport operations, including maintenance, tenant relations, and emergency response.
- Oversee budgeting, financial planning, and revenue generation to ensure sustainability.
- Administer lease agreements, negotiate contracts, and monitor compliance.
- Pursue and manage FAA and other grants for capital improvements.
- Serve as the city's liaison, fostering relationships with federal, state, and local agencies.
- Lead community outreach, addressing concerns such as noise abatement and sustainability.
- Supervise airport personnel, contractors, and consultants.





## Leadership Qualities and Style

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- Strong decision-making and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent communication and relationship-building abilities.
- Collaborative leader who values teamwork and stakeholder engagement.
- Proactive, adaptable, and strategic thinker.
- Commitment to operational excellence and safety.

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

## Preferred Qualifications

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- Bachelor's degree in Airport Management, Public Administration, or related field.
- Seven (7) years of experience in airport management/operations, including five (5) years in senior leadership.
- Knowledge of FAA regulations, grant administration, airport safety, and financial management.
- Experience with community outreach, noise abatement, and environmental sustainability.
- A.A.E. (Accredited Airport Executive) designation preferred.

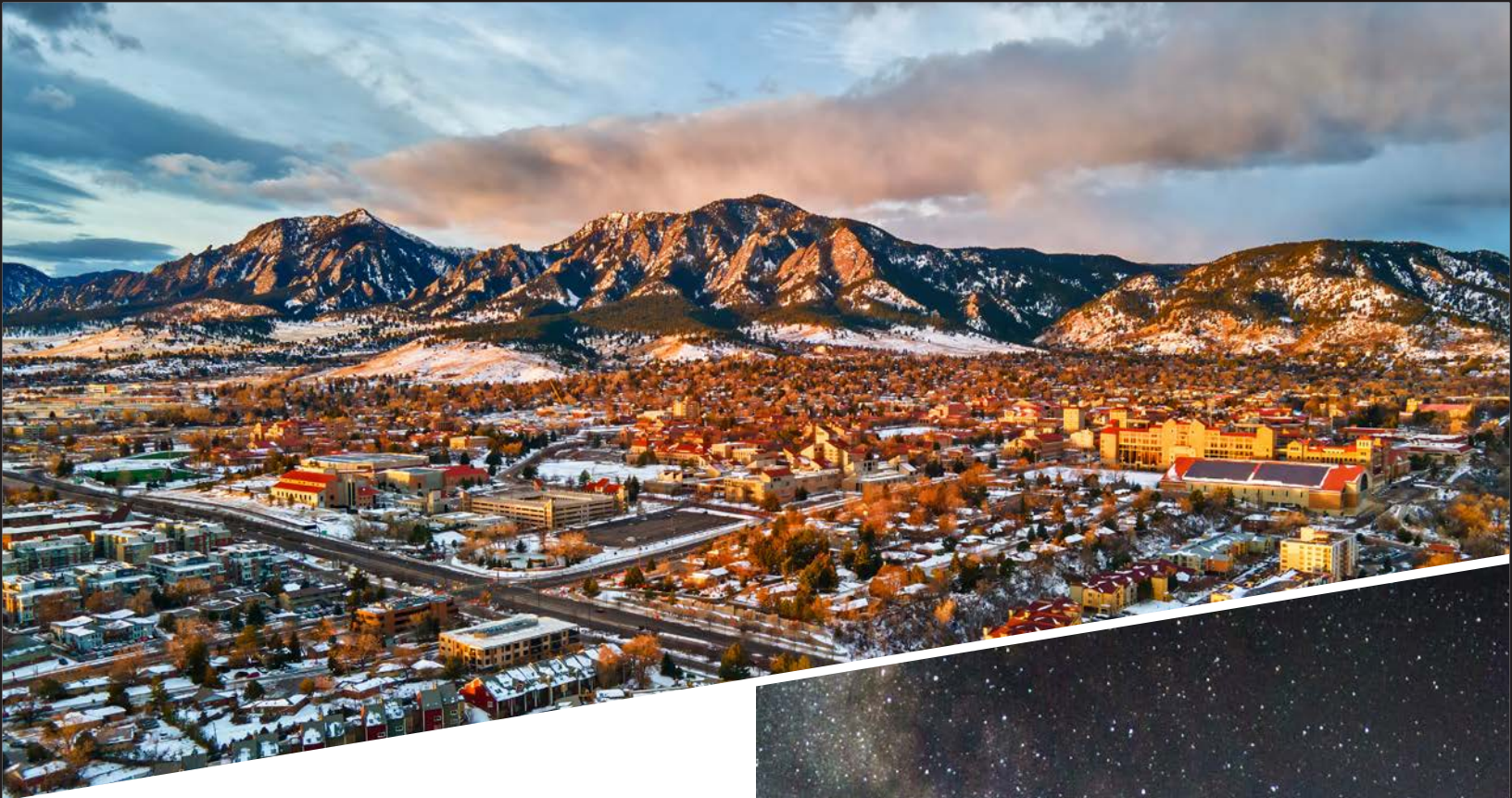
Join us in leading Boulder Municipal Airport into the future with innovation, efficiency, and a commitment to the community.

## Salary and Benefits

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The salary range for this position is \$124,696 - \$187,054. A starting salary above 80% of the salary range (\$174,582) is rare but possible for the exceptional candidate with Executive approval. The City of Boulder offers an attractive benefits package.





## How To Apply

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

**Deadline for applications: May 25, 2025**

The contacts for this search are:

**Dan Sprinkle, A.A.E.**  
[dan@adkexecutivesearch.com](mailto:dan@adkexecutivesearch.com)

**Rod Dinger, A.A.E.**  
[rod@adkexecutivesearch.com](mailto:rod@adkexecutivesearch.com)

**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 Boulder is an equal-opportunity employer. We support diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for employees.

