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Kentucky Invests \$1 Million in New Gallatin County Airport Fueling System to Upgrade Facility's Aircraft Traffic Capacity

The upgrade will boost airport capacity and business activity

SPARTA, KY. (Nov. 17, 2025) – A new \$1 million aircraft fueling system is now available and operational at the Gallatin County Airport (8GK) in Sparta, bolstering the facility's aircraft traffic capacity. The fueling system upgrade will help enhance local business activity, vendor demand, and increase revenue for the county and the commonwealth.

"Investments like this ensure our airports continue to boost economic growth for communities like Gallatin County," said Gov. Andy Beshear. "With modern infrastructure in place, local businesses, flight students and visitors now benefit from enhanced access and convenience, helping drive jobs and tourism across the region and state."

The fuel system project at Kentucky's newest airport is funded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky through the Kentucky Department of Aviation. It began in May 2025 and was completed in October.

More improvements are underway at the airport including the current construction of aircraft hangars and a terminal building, which will also spur an increase in the number of aircraft based at the airport once complete.

The Gallatin County Airport is located in Sparta, Kentucky, near the Interstate 71 corridor, which connects Louisville and Cincinnati. The Gallatin County Airport serves the needs of general aviation, corporate activity and community access.

"This new fuel system is a runway to opportunity for Gallatin County," said Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Jim Gray. "By enhancing refueling services, we strengthen the airport's role in supporting business aviation, flight training activities, and increased connectivity in general aviation across northern Kentucky."

Gallatin County Judge/Executive Ryan Morris, who also serves as manager of the Gallatin County Airport Board, said, “Having a full-service fuel system now means we’re better positioned to serve corporate aircraft, flight training, and visiting pilots. This upgrade will increase airport revenue, help offset operational costs, and support future development of hangars, maintenance services, and more aviation opportunities for our county.”

The Gallatin County Airport was officially opened in the summer of 2023, with expectations of becoming a home base for over 20 aircraft and hosting approximately 13,000 takeoffs annually.

The Kentucky Department of Aviation's mission is to provide a safe and secure air transportation system that ensures mobility, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of our environment and communities. The department remains committed to supporting the maintenance, enhancement, and growth of Kentucky’s 53 general aviation airports, enabling them to serve local economies, connect communities, and support aviation education statewide. For more on this project and future upgrades at Gallatin County Airport, visit transportation.ky.gov/Aviation.

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Editors’ Note: For a photo of the new fueling system, click [here](#).

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