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Gary/Chicago International Airport to Serve as Staging Grounds for 2026 Chicago Air & Water Show

Residents Invited to Watch Aircraft Takeoffs and Landings – August 15th – 16th

GARY, IN (August, 12th, 2026) — On Saturday, August 15th and Sunday, August 16th, the [Gary/Chicago International Airport \(GCIAG\)](#) will once again serve as the staging area for the aerial performers participating in the annual [Chicago Air & Water Show](#). The airport's role supports one of the country's largest free air exhibitions, which attracts hundreds of thousands of spectators to Chicago's Lakefront each summer.

GCIAG, located at 6001 Airport Road, will host the public viewing event between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on both days, allowing residents and visitors alike will have the opportunity to experience the excitement up close as participating aircraft take off and return to GCIAG throughout the weekend. Public viewing areas are available in designated airport parking areas each day, and parking is available for \$20 per carload, and food vendors will be on-site.

"The Chicago Air & Water Show is one of the Midwest's most anticipated summer traditions, and GCIAG offers a very unique way to view it," **said Dan Vicari, Executive Director of GCIAG**. "For aviation enthusiasts, families and photographers, there really is no better place to watch the planes participating in the air show while allowing us to demonstrate the importance of GCIAG in Chicago's aviation system."

The 2026 Chicago Air & Water Show will feature the [U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds as the headline attraction](#), along with military demonstrations including the USAF F-22 Raptor and C-17, the USMCF-35B Lightning II, [U.S Army Golden Knight parachute team](#), civilian acrobatic performers and a variety of historic and modern military aircraft. The airport's viewing area offers spectators a chance to observe participating aircraft on the ground and in flight, providing a unique behind-the-scenes perspective on the operations that make the annual event possible.

What Visitors Can Expect at GCIAG



- **Up-close views of** participating aircraft as they take off and land throughout the day
- **Convenient alternative to Chicago Lakefront**, offering aviation enthusiasts a behind-the-scenes perspective on how the airshow is staged and operated
- **Public viewing areas** between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday
- **Parking for \$20 per carload**, allowing families to enjoy the experience together
- **Food trucks and concessions on site** throughout each day

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About Gary/Chicago International Airport

Located minutes from downtown Chicago and serving as a critical transportation asset for Northwest Indiana, Gary/Chicago International Airport supports corporate aviation, cargo activity and economic development initiatives throughout the greater Chicago region. For more information, visit FlyGYY.com.