

## **Bentonville Municipal Airport/Louise M Thaden Field Turf (Grass) Runway 17/35 Operations**

**Purpose:** Establish procedures to safely operate on the Turf/Grass Runway 17/35 at Bentonville Municipal Louise Thaden Municipal Airport (VBT).

**General:** The Turf/Grass Runway 17/35 is a cooperative project between the City of Bentonville Arkansas, Private Parties, and the Tailwind Aviation Foundation, a charitable organization. The vision of the Turf/Grass Runway is to accommodate appropriate GA aircraft and antique aircraft that would normally use turf or grass surfaces and other aircraft to practice soft field landing or takeoff operations. The Turf/Grass Runway may also be used during appropriate emergency situations that may arise such as:

- Gear up landing
- The main landing surface, Runway 18/36, is unavailable or closed due to Foreign Object Damage (FOD) or other emergency situations.

### **Definitions/Terms/Descriptions**

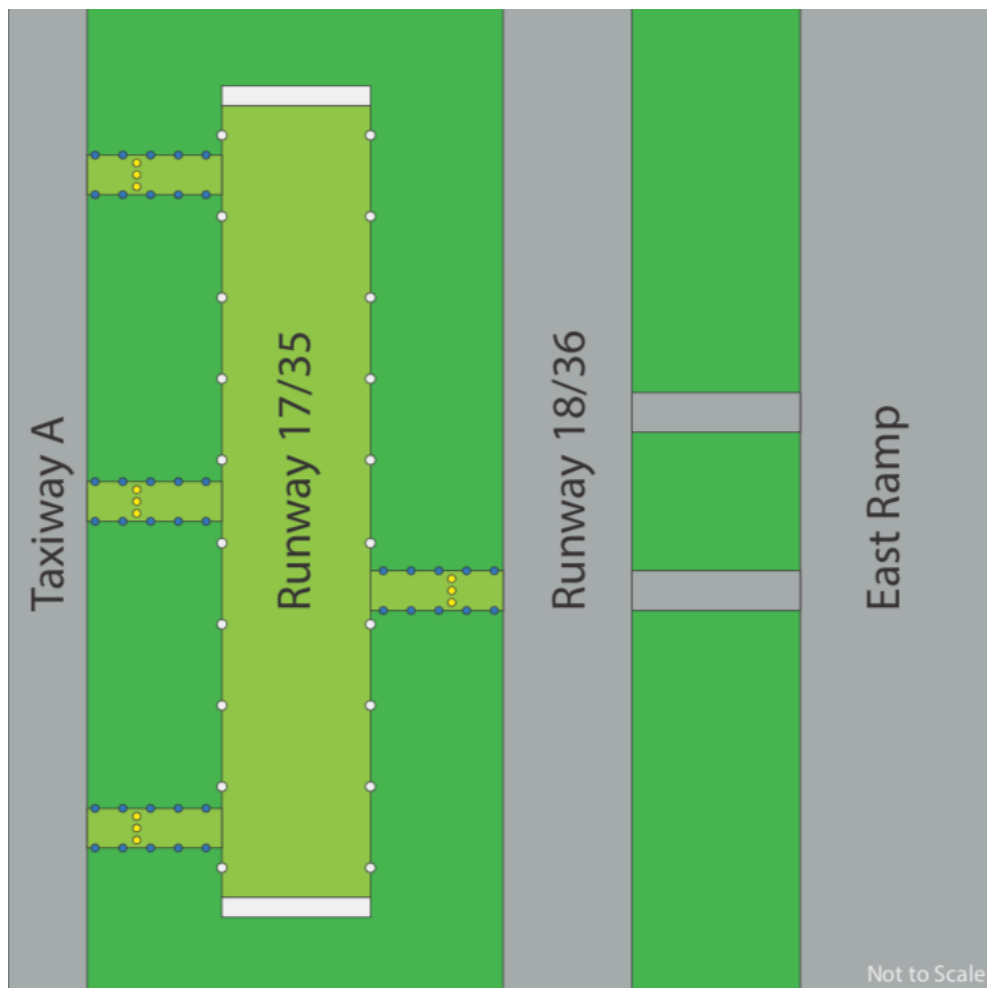
- **Operations:** A *Take Off* or *Landing* of an aircraft to or from a runway
- **Ground Movement:** Activities involving aircraft taxiing on a runway, taxiway, or apron
- **Turf/Grass Runway Edge Markers:** Circular markers used to identify the edge of the turf runway, running North - South, generally spaced 200' apart, size to be approximately 30" diameter and colored white.
- **Turf/Grass Taxiway Edge Markers:** Circular markers used to identify entrance and exit points on the turf runway. Size approximately 10 - 12" diameter and blue in color.
- **Turf/Grass Runway Threshold:** Each end of the turf runway is marked by a concrete threshold. Note: the concrete threshold was not designed for takeoff or landing.
- **Turf/Grass Runway Access:** Access to the turf runway is provided by turf taxiways that have been constructed and maintained with appropriate grade and grass height to allow safe access to the runway.
  - The turf taxiways on the west side of the turf runway provide access to Taxiway A and facilities on the west side of the airport.
  - The turf taxiway on the east side of the turf runway has been constructed to allow access to and from the East Ramp by crossing at the mid-field high-point of Runway 18/36. This was done to enhance runway safety by providing an access point that does not require back-taxiing on Runway 18/36. As taxiways on the east side of airport are constructed, allowing pilots to cross Runway 18/36 without back-taxiing, the continued maintenance and use of this taxiway will be reevaluated, and this document will be updated accordingly.

## Operations

I. Communications: Pilots shall self-announce on the published CTAF frequency, coordinating arrivals and departures on Runways 17/35 and 18/36.

### II. Procedures:

- A. Standard Traffic Pattern is Left Traffic to both runways.
- B. Aircraft shall exit and enter the Turf/Grass Runway only at defined areas. (See diagram)
- C. Use of airstrips:
  1. *No Simultaneous Operations* - When an aircraft/pilot is landing or departing on either runway, no landings or departures are permitted on the adjacent runway.
  2. *Ground Activities* - When an aircraft is landing or departing on one of the two runways, no ground movement is permitted on the opposite runway.
  3. *Day/VFR use only* - No operations permitted at night or during IFR conditions.
- D. Turf/Grass Runway 17 and hard surface Runway 18 are designated as Calm Wind runways.
- E. West side of the airport: Hold short on Taxiway A or Circular Apron at the designated hold short lines for runway operations.
- F. East side of the airport: Hold short on the East Ramp at designated hold short lines for runway operations.



## Education

Educating local and transient pilots about the turf runway has been at the forefront of discussions between the Airport Commission, the City of Bentonville, Summit Aviation, and the Tailwind Aviation Foundation. The following procedures will be implemented to help ensure that pilots are aware of the rules and limitations of the turf runway:

- Educational flyers have been developed (attached) and will be available at the front desk and online.
- Turf runway procedures will be posted on the City of Bentonville, Summit Aviation, and OZ1 flying club web sites.
- An educational email will be sent to everyone on both the Summit Aviation and Tailwind Foundation email lists (currently 1,249 addresses) which will detail the operating procedures and include the educational flyer.
- The Summit Aviation flight school has been briefing instructors for several weeks on the procedures, reinforcing how to communicate them to student pilots and rental customers.
- Current runway conditions and operating limitations are available online at [www.airfield.guide/vbt](http://www.airfield.guide/vbt) and through an on-demand text messaging system.
- The flying club will host membership meetings where flight instructors will discuss turf runway procedures.
- We will work with the Little Rock FSDO to determine the most effective way to disseminate turf runway procedures to pilots registered in the WINGS program.
- A NOTAM will be issued for the airport explaining that IFR, night, and simultaneous use of the runways is not allowed. The NOTAM will read as follows: *“Turf runway 17/35 Day VFR only. Simultaneous operations on 17/35 and 18/36 are not permitted”*
- A note in the South-Central Chart Supplement has been submitted (attached) explaining the procedures for the turf runway. This will trickle down to other publications like [www.airnav.com](http://www.airnav.com), Foreflight, and Garmin Pilot.

## Feedback

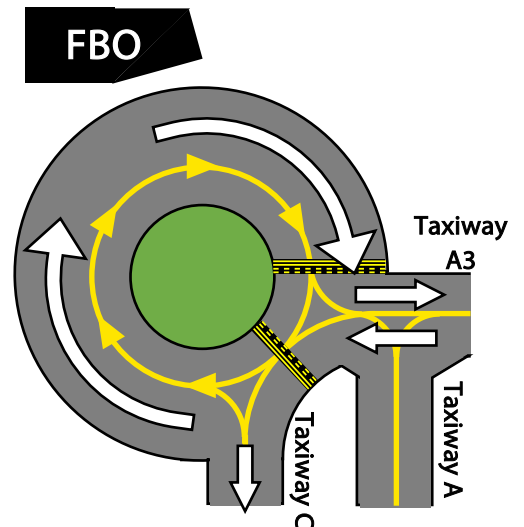
In an effort to gauge the effectiveness of the education program and to implement continuous improvement, surveys will be available online and at the FBO. Using these surveys, we'll be able to better understand what components of our education program are most effective and how to improve.

# Welcome to Bentonville!

To make your time spent flying in Northwest Arkansas an enjoyable one, here are some tips for operating at VBT:

## Fieldhouse Ramp

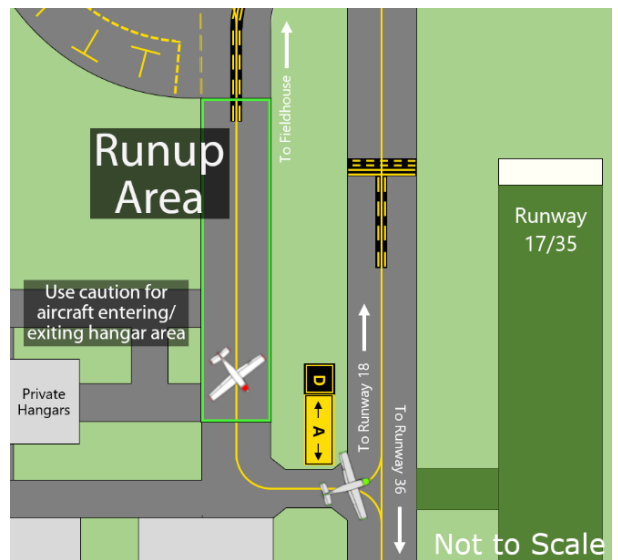
- The flow of traffic is clockwise around the ramp. Please follow the painted arrows clockwise around the ramp when taxiing.
- Be sure to check for aircraft operating on Runway 17/35 (the grass strip) before crossing the 17-APCH hold short lines!



## Runup Area

Please do not perform runups in parking spots.

We have a designated runup area on taxiway C just south of the Fieldhouse ramp, next to the private hangars. Use caution for aircraft that may be entering or exiting the hangar area.

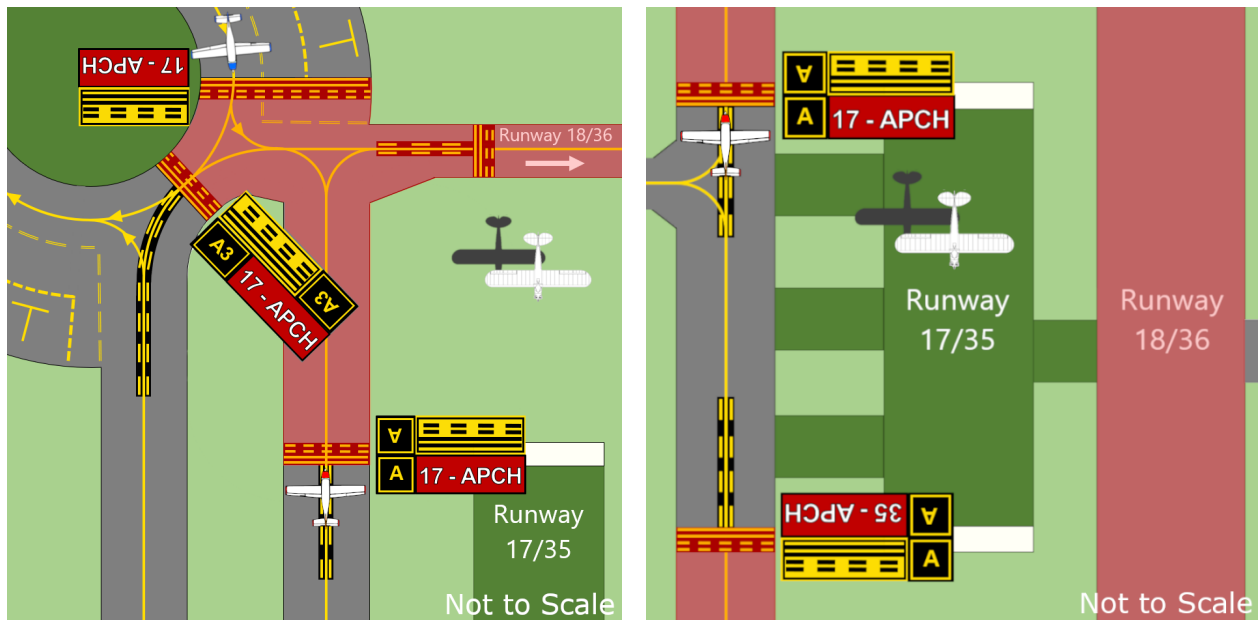


## Departing VBT

- To obtain VFR flight following or an IFR clearance on the ground, contact Razorback Clearance Delivery on 121.05.
- When departing IFR, obtain your clearance prior to entering the runway as ATC may not be able to release you for departure right away. With other IFR traffic in the vicinity of VBT, expect "hold for release" as part of your clearance.

# Turf Runway Procedures

- The turf runway is designated as Runway 17/35. When using the turf runway, please make position calls for Runway 17/35 on the CTAF.
- Runway 18/36 and Runway 17/35 are treated as a single runway – if an aircraft is operating on the grass strip then the paved runway must remain clear, and vice-versa. A single aircraft may operate on either 17/35 or 18/36, but aircraft may not operate on both runways simultaneously.
- The turf runway is usable only during daytime VFR conditions. The strip is closed nightly from sunset to sunrise as well as when VBT is operating under IFR. The runway may also be closed periodically due to wet conditions. Visit [Airfield.Guide/VBT](http://Airfield.Guide/VBT) for the current operating status of the runway.
- Please note the location of the Runway 17/35 hold short markings. When the turf runway is in use, avoid the red shaded areas:



## VBT Frequencies

VBT CTAF	122.8	Razorback CLNC DEL	121.05
AWOS-3PT	134.975	Razorback APP/DEP CON	126.6



## Airport Data Change Receipt: VBT-184914

### ADC Receipt

- Thank you. Your Airport Data Change submission has been received.
- Your submission receipt code is VBT-184914
- [Print This Page](#)

### Contact Information

**Name:** Chip Gibbons

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**Position:**

**Alt Phone Number:**

### Airport Change Details

**Airport Data Change Type:** Public/Private Use

**Airport Location Identifier:** VBT

**Airport Name:** BENTONVILLE MUNI/LOUISE M THADEN FIELD

**Airport Location:** BENTONVILLE, AR

**Authorizing Official:** Chuck Chadwick - Airport Manager

**Reference Document & Page:** Chart Supplement South Central

**Additions:** Runway 17/35 not available for IFR operations.

Runway 17/35 not available for night operations.

Simultaneous use of runways 17/35 and 18/36 is not permitted.

**Deletions:**

**Revisions From:**

**Revisions To:**

### Supporting Documents

None