

5.F.2 FARMLANDS

The *Farmland Protection Policy Act* (FPPA) of 1981 was enacted to minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses.¹⁴⁶ Prime farmland is defined as land that possesses the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, without intolerable soil erosion. Unique farmland is considered land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops.

Consultation has been initiated with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to determine if the FPPA applies to the land the proposed action would convert to non-agricultural use, or if an exemption to the FPPA exists. If it is determined that the farmland is protected by the FPPA, formal coordination as provided by 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 658 is required.

A review of existing land use, using the Geographic Information System (GIS) database of the Broward County Office of Urban Planning and Redevelopment, showed no FPPA-regulated farmland in the Detailed Study Area or the Study Area. A field survey, conducted October 2004 did not identify any actively farmed property. However, land currently not being farmed may still be considered prime and unique farmland if the soil types are ideal for farm activity. An evaluation of the Broward County Soil Survey¹⁴⁷ indicated that the Study Area consists of two general types of soils: Dade-Urban land association and Hallandale-Margate association. Dade-Urban land association soils are well-drained, nearly level, and sandy, varying greatly in depth to soft limestone, generally between 20 and 40 inches in width. Most areas of Dade-Urban land association soil have been modified for urban use. Hallandale-Margate association soils are considered poorly-drained, nearly level, sandy, and less than 60 inches deep to hard limestone. The detailed soil types within the Study Area are shown in Table 5.F.2-1, *Study Area Soil Legend*. No actively farmed lands are located in the Detailed Study Area and none of the soil types in the Study Area are considered prime or unique, or generally suitable for agricultural use.

¹⁴⁶ Public Law 97-98, *Farmland Protection Policy Act*, December 22, 1981.

¹⁴⁷ United States Department of Agriculture, *Soil Conservation Service Soil Survey of Broward County Florida, Easter Part*, May 1984.

**Table 5.F.2-1
STUDY AREA SOIL LEGEND
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport**

SYMBOL	SOIL TYPE
Ao	Arents, organic substratum-Urban land complex
Dd	Dade fine sand
Du	Dade-Urban land complex
Ma	Margate fine sand
Ok	Okeeianta muck
Pe	Pennsuco silty clay loam
Ps	Perrine silty clay loam
Pv	Perrine Variant silt loam
Ur	Urban land

Source: Soil Survey of Broward County Florida, Eastern Part, May 1984