

maximum density of 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres and seasonal agriculture<sup>2</sup> may be considered for approval in this area, in keeping with the Northwest Wellfield Protection Plan (Board of County Commissioners Resolution R-1541-85) and Chapters 24 and 33 of the Miami-Dade County Code, and wetland protection requirements. Uses that could compromise groundwater quality shall not occur in this area. In furtherance of Board of County Commissioners Resolution R-1098-88, the creation of a State Protection Area in this subarea is also supported.

**Open Land Subarea 3 (Tamiami-Bird Canal Basins).** This subarea is bounded on its north by hypothetical NW 12 Street and SW 8 Street, on the east by the year 2020 UDB, on the south by the year 2020 UDB and hypothetical SW 56 Street, and on the west by SW/NW 147 Avenue and Levee 31N. The subarea includes the eastern portion of the North Trail basin and the Bird Drive Everglades basin. Uses that can be considered for approval in this subarea include rural residences at a maximum density of 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres, compatible institutional uses, public facilities, utility and communications facilities, seasonal agricultural use, recreational use, or limestone quarrying and ancillary uses.

Uses that could compromise groundwater quality shall not occur in this area. Any land alteration and development in the Bird Drive or North Trail basins shall conform to the wetland basin plans adopted for those basins pursuant to policies of the CDMF.

**Open Land Subarea 4 (East Everglades Residential Areas).** This subarea is bounded on the north, west and southwest by Everglades National Park, on the east by Levee 31N, and on the south by SW 168 Street. Uses which may be considered for approval in this area are agriculture production and raising of livestock<sup>3</sup> and rural residences at a density of 1 dwelling unit per 40 acres, or 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres if ancillary to an established agricultural operation, or 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres, after such time as drainage facilities become available to protect this area from a one-in-ten-year flood event in keeping with the adopted East Everglades zoning overlay regulation (Section 33B, Code of Miami-Dade County) and compatible and necessary utility facilities. Uses that could compromise groundwater quality shall not occur in this area.

**Open Land Subarea 5 (South Miami-Dade).** This Open Land subarea lies south and east of Homestead and Florida City. It is bounded on the north and west by the Agriculture area, and on the south and east by Environmental Protection areas. Future uses which may be considered for approval in this area include seasonal agriculture, limestone quarrying and ancillary uses, compatible institutional uses, public facilities, utility facilities, and communications facilities, recreational uses and rural residences at a maximum density of 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres. Uses that could compromise groundwater quality shall not occur within three miles of Biscayne Bay.

## **Environmental Protection**

The Environmental Protection designation applies to those areas in the County most environmentally significant, most susceptible to environmental degradation and where such degradation would adversely affect the supply of potable fresh water or environmental systems of County, regional, State or national importance.

<sup>2</sup> For purposes of this chapter, seasonal agriculture means those agricultural activities which occur during the months November through April on land at natural elevation, or which occur during the months May through October on land that is, or has been bedded or filled to an elevation at or above Miami-Dade County flood criteria, and given that no additional off-site drainage will occur.

<sup>3</sup> Miami-Dade County shall formulate and adopt amendments to Miami-Dade County Code Section 33B Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Article II. - East Everglades, and adopt land development regulations applicable to land designated Open Land Subarea 4 (East Everglades Residential Areas) to specifically address the type of agriculture production uses and the limited raising of livestock uses that may be allowed: that considers water quality and that there is no flood protection provided in this Subarea.

These lands are characteristically high-quality marshes, swamps and wet prairies, and are not suited for urban or agricultural development. However, some high-quality uplands such as tropical hammocks and pinelands on the State Conservation And Recreation Lands (CARL), Florida Forever and Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) acquisition lists are also included. Most of the CARL and Florida Forever projects are designated on the future Land Use Plan (LUP) Map, but some are not because of their small size. EEL projects that are acquired and are large enough to be depicted at the Plan Map scale are also designated on the Future Land Use Plan Map. It is the policy of this Plan that all land areas identified on the State CARL and Florida Forever, Miami-Dade County EEL, and South Florida Water Management Save Our Rivers (SOR) acquisition lists shall have equally high priority for public acquisition as those land areas designated Environmental Protection on the Future LUP Map. Uses permitted within these areas must be compatible with the area's environment and the objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and shall not adversely affect the long-term viability, form or function of these ecosystems. Residential development in this area shall be limited to a maximum density of one unit per five acres, and in some parts of this area lower densities are required to protect the fresh water supply and the integrity of the ecosystems. Public and private wetland mitigation banks and restoration programs may also be approved in Environmental Protection areas where beneficial to county ecological systems.

Because of the importance of maintaining the natural form and function of these areas, many of these areas have been slated for purchase by State or federal agencies. Miami-Dade County will encourage the acquisition of these areas by public or private institutions that will manage these areas toward this objective. However, so long as these lands remain in private ownership, some compatible use of this land will be permitted by Miami-Dade County consistent with the goals, objectives and policies of this Plan and the objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. All proposed uses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for compliance with environmental regulations and consistency with this Plan and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The following provides an indication of the uses and residential densities that may be considered for approval subject to conformity with the pertinent goals, objectives and policies of this Plan. The precise boundary of the entire Environmental Protection area is depicted on the LUP map. The map titled "Environmental Protection Subareas" (Figure 7) and the following text indicate the boundaries between subareas of the Environmental Protection Area.

**Environmental Protection Subarea A (State Water Conservation Area).** This subarea contains the land and water areas within the authorized boundaries of Water Conservation Area No. 3 of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The westernmost portion of this subarea contains a portion of the Big Cypress National Preserve and the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport. Most of the land in this subarea is under ownership of the National Park Service or the SFWMD, and acquisition of the remainder is currently being pursued. Miami-Dade County encourages full acquisition of these areas, with the understanding that revenue obtained from the purchase of the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport will be used to acquire another acceptable site to accommodate the long-term growth of commercial aviation activity traditionally accommodated by Miami International Airport.

Land uses and activities, which may occur in the Big Cypress National Preserve, are outlined in management plans prepared and adopted by the National Park Service. In addition, any development, which might be contemplated for non-federal lands in the Big Cypress area, is also limited by this Plan and by provisions of the Miami-Dade County Code to uses that are consistent with Florida Rules governing the Big Cypress Areas of Critical State Concern (Chapter 28-25, Part III, F.A.C.). Land uses and activities in Water Conservation Area 3 are

governed by the SFWMD. Miami-Dade County supports the implementation of land use and management policies and programs established by the SFWMD.

Miami-Dade County supports the implementation of those agencies management policies and programs. Accordingly, until acquisition has been completed, uses permitted in the Big Cypress Preserve area by Miami-Dade County will be limited to rural residential use at a maximum density of one dwelling unit per five acres and utility and communication facilities with limited ground coverage, provided that the site can be designed and accessed in a manner consistent with the goals, objectives and policies of this Plan, all prevailing environmental regulations and the referenced State Rules governing the Big Cypress Critical Area, whichever are most protective. In Water Conservation Area No. 3, Miami-Dade County will support the use policies established by the South Florida Water Management District and will consider approval of no use in excess of one dwelling unit per forty acres.

**Environmental Protection Subarea B (Miami-Dade-Broward Levee Basin).** This subarea is bounded on the west and north by Levee 30, on the east by the Dade-Broward Levee and on the South by the Tamiami Canal (C-4). The majority of the subarea (north of hypothetical NW 12 Street) is addressed by the adopted Northwest Wellfield Protection Plan (Board of County Commissioners Resolution R-1541-85). The subarea is wetland and all land use and site alteration proposals will be closely evaluated on a case-by-case basis by federal, State, regional and County agencies for conformity with all prevailing environmental regulations and compatibility with objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The South Florida Water Management District has listed this area as an acquisition proposal in its 5-year Save Our Rivers acquisition program.

Until these lands are acquired, land uses that may be considered for approval include rural residences at a maximum density of one dwelling unit per five acres, communications facilities with limited ground coverage, recreational facilities, and necessary, compatible public facilities including water management facilities. Existing permitted uses, including seasonal agricultural uses, may be continued until they can be acquired. Within the Northwest Wellfield Protection area, uses will be closely regulated to ensure the protection of water quality.

**Environmental Protection Subarea C (Canal-111 Wetlands).** This subarea contains the southern portion of the East Everglades, south of Florida City. The subarea is bounded on the west and south by Everglades National Park, on the east by US Highway 1, and on the north by the Agriculture area and Open Land Subarea 5. The area is traversed by Canal-111 and is the subject of a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan project seeking to remedy degraded hydrological and biotic conditions in this portion of the Everglades. Most of this area is under the ownership of the South Florida Water Management District and most of the remainder is proposed for acquisition under the State's Save Our Rivers program. The lands that are not yet slated for public acquisition should be studied to determine whether public acquisition would be mutually beneficial to public and private interests in the area. These areas are wetlands and subject to case-by-case evaluation of use or site-alteration proposals by federal, State, regional and County agencies. Moreover, most of this land is also included in the area governed by the East Everglades Resource Management program (Chapter 33-B, Code of Miami-Dade County).

Land uses that may be considered for approval on land governed by the referenced East Everglades Resource Management Program include rural residences at a maximum density of one dwelling unit per 40 acres, or one dwelling unit per parcel fronting US Highway 1 in accordance with provisions of the referenced East Everglades program. Rural residences at a maximum density of up to one dwelling unit per five acres may be considered for approval on

those parcels not governed by the East Everglades regulation. Approval of any use and its access should be conditioned on its demonstrated consistency with the adopted goals, objectives and policies of the CDMP, and conformity with all prevailing environmental regulations and compatibility with objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Existing uses may continue until acquired, but no improvements or expansions involving further filling or drainage of wetlands should be permitted.

**Environmental Protection Subarea D (Southeast Wetlands).** This Environmental Protection subarea is bounded on the west by US Highway 1 on the north by Open Land Subarea 5, on the east by Levee 31E and on the south by a hypothetical line extending between the point at which Card Sound Road meets Levee 31E, and the intersection of US Highway 1 and Canal-111. The area is low lying, poorly drained, flood prone, and is characterized predominantly by high-quality wetland communities. Accordingly, any land use or site alteration proposal will be carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis by federal, State, regional, and County agencies for conformity with all prevailing environmental regulations and compatibility with objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

Because of the importance of maintaining the biotic and hydrologic functions provided by this area, the southeast wetlands should be studied to determine whether public acquisition would be mutually beneficial to public and private interests in the area. Uses which could be considered for approval include rural residential use at a maximum density of one dwelling unit per five acres or communications, utility or recreation facilities with limited ground coverage. Approval of any use and its access roads or easements should be conditioned on its demonstrated consistency with the adopted goals, objectives and policies of this plan, and conformity with all prevailing environmental regulations.

**Environmental Protection Subarea E (Coastal Wetlands and Hammocks).** This subarea includes all coastal wetlands designated as Environmental Protection Area on the LUP map, which are not within the authorized boundaries of Biscayne or Everglades National Parks. These areas are low-lying, flood prone and characterized predominantly by coastal wetland communities. Accordingly, all land use or site alteration proposals will be carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis by federal, State, regional, and County agencies.

Because of the importance of maintaining biologic and hydrologic functions provided by these areas, the coastal wetlands should be managed toward these ends and acquired whenever possible. However, until these lands are acquired for natural resource management uses which could be considered for approval include residential use at a density not to exceed one dwelling unit per five acres, water-dependant uses, or necessary compatible public, water related facilities consistent with the Conservation, Aquifer Recharge and Drainage Element and the Coastal Management Element of this Plan. In addition, necessary electrical generation and transmission facilities are also permitted in this area. The approval of any new use, and the replacement or expansion of any existing use will be conditioned upon its demonstrated consistency with the adopted goals, objectives and policies of this plan, conformity with all prevailing environmental regulations and compatibility with objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

