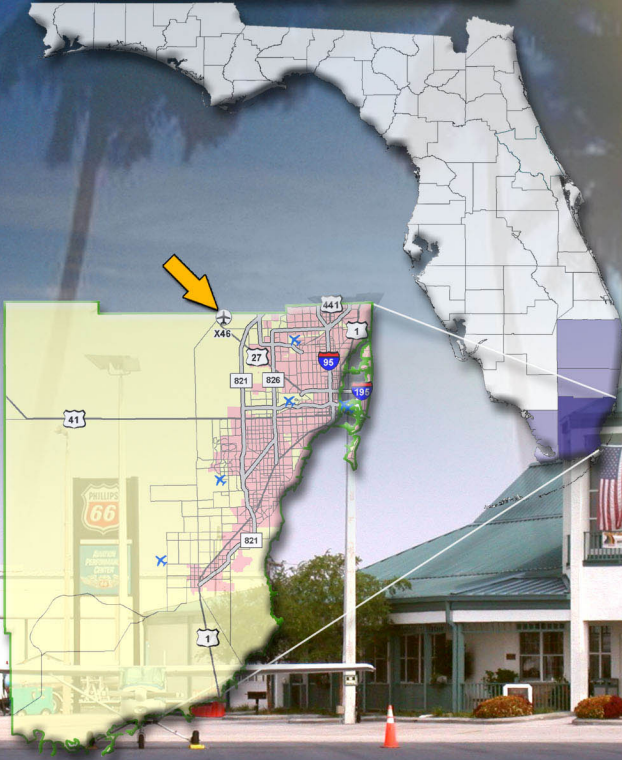


# OPA-LOCKA WEST AIRPORT



## AIRPORT LOCATION

Opa-locka West Airport is located in the northwestern portion of Dade County in southeast Florida. The Airport sits approximately 12 miles to the northwest of Miami.



## Existing Facilities

Opa-locka West Airport has two runways, 09/27 and 18/36. Both runways are 3,000 feet by 60 feet wide and constructed of asphalt in good condition. There are no other facilities at the field. The top projects identified by management as being needed in the near term are:

1. Runway lighting and lighting vault – Equipment Project
2. Parallel taxiways– Capital Project

*NOTE: In 2004, Florida experienced a record number of hurricanes, with many airports in Florida sustaining various amounts of damage. Since this report was in print at the time, facilities and based aircraft identified in this report do not reflect damage to infrastructure that may have occurred as a result of those hurricanes. Future reports will identify the impact of storm damage.*

## Current and Forecast Demand

### GENERAL AVIATION

Opa-locka West Airport serves the general aviation needs of the local community. The largest aircraft that use Opa-locka West Airport regularly are light twin-engine aircraft such as Cessna 310s. The current Airport Reference Code (ARC) as defined by the FAA Circular 150/5300-13 for Opa-locka West Airport is B-II. There are no based aircraft and no storage facilities at the airport.

Opa-locka West Airport has limits to growth because of the presence of wetlands on the property. However, the Aviation Department is planning to enhance the facility with an electrical vault and parallel taxiway to Runway 9/27 in anticipation of future landside development for FBO and flight school activity. Currently, the airport does not have a master plan.

Opa-locka West Airport accommodates high training activity and limited military activity. Historic and forecast FDOT aviation activity information on file for the airport are as follows:

Opa-locka West Airport	2002	2007	2012	2022
Based Aircraft	0	0	0	0
General Aviation Operations	12,100	12,406	12,719	13,369
Commercial Operations	0	0	0	0
Enplanements	0	0	0	0
Demand/Capacity Ratio	6.6%	6.7%	6.9%	7.3%

Source: Airport records and FASP 2004.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

In their current role, Opa-locka West Airport serves the general aviation needs of the local community. There are no buildings or facilities, and there is no public access to the airfield by land. The airport serves as a remote area for training flights to practice “touch-and-goes,” easing the burden of these flights on Opa-locka Airport and other nearby general aviation airports in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.

## OTHER AIRPORT CHARACTERISTICS

The airport was opened in 1970 with the primary purpose of relieving flight congestion of nearby Opa-locka Airport. In the late 1960's the airport was one of the busiest civilian airports in the world due to flight training activity. Opa-locka West was designed specifically for "touch and go" training and consisted of two 3,000-foot runways with turnarounds at the ends and a small ramp area to park or check your aircraft. Limited landside access and a lack of airside facilities for based aircraft are a result of the airport's designed function.

## CURRENT AND FUTURE SYSTEM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

The airport exists only as a reliever for Opa-locka Airport, to remove touch-and-go training flights from that airport's airspace. It provides Flight Training services. The airport plans to continue to fulfill this role. The analysis indicates that a scarcity of local funding makes this airport most valuable for Recreation/Sport and Tourism (CA) services. However, it is obvious that it will continue to provide Flight Training services in the future.

Based on the infrastructure planning analysis for Opa-locka West Airport, the following chart illustrates the airport's current levels of service as well as the types and levels of service that the airport will likely be required to accommodate by the year 2030:

COMMERCIAL SERVICE ROLE	<u>Current Service</u>	<u>Future Service</u>
Tourism		
Business		
Air Cargo		
International		
COMMUNITY AIRPORT ROLE		
Flight Training	X	X
Corporate		
Tourism		
Recreational / Sport		
Business / Recreational		