Staff Report

Devens Enterprise Commission

Date: April 22, 2025

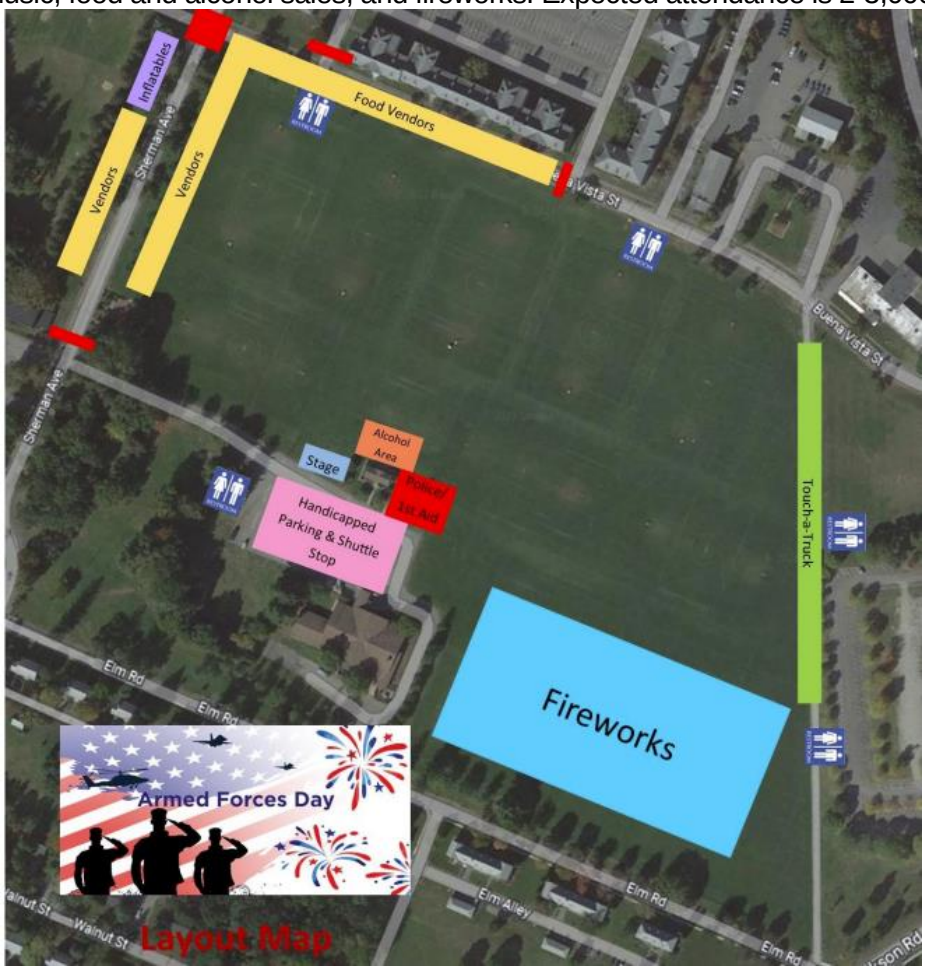
To: **Devens Enterprise Commission**

From: Neil Angus, Director

RE: **Nashoba Valley Celebration of Service (Armed Forces Services Day) Event Permit and One-Day License to sell beer and wine.**

Applicant: MassDevelopment/Devens Recreation
Owner: MassDevelopment
Location: Rogers Field and Buena Vista Street Right-Of-Way
Zoning: Open Space and Recreation and Zone II Water Res. Protection Overlay.

Event Overview:
MassDevelopment will host the ***Armed Forces Day*** event on May 17, 2025 from 4PM to 10PM (rain date May 18, 2025), which will mimic the Nashoba Valley Celebration of Service event held in 2023 on Rogers Field and portions of Sherman Ave and Buena Vista Street and include similar activities, including live music, food and alcohol sales, and fireworks. Expected attendance is 2-3,000 attendees.



One Day License Request:
MassDevelopment is hosting the 4-10pm event on Rogers Field, 100 Sherman Avenue, on May 17, 2025 (rain date May 18, 2025) and seeking a one-day wine and/or malt beverage license to serve beer and wine in a fenced off area adjacent to the review stand on Rogers Field in front of the Bob Eisengrein Community Center, approximately 85' x85' as shown of the map on the previous page. The serving of alcohol is proposed for 4-9pm only. Beer and wine vendors are Thirsty Robot Brewing and Sterling Street Brewery (both on the most recent ABBC's list of approved wholesalers dated 4/18/25). Galvanized steel, interlocking barricades will be used to fence the area off, identification cards will be checked on the way in with bracelets being given to adults that are over 21. Identification cards will be checked at the bars inside as well. All servers will be TIPS certified and the vendors staff will monitor crowd size and limit capacity inside the beer garden. A State Police detail trooper will be hired to be always inside the fenced area while alcohol is being served. There will be tables with seating, as well as trash and recycling barrels inside of this area.

MassDevelopment is requesting that the DEC allow minors within the fenced area if they are accompanied by an adult. Those over 21 will have bracelets, minors would not. The size and expected attendance of this event could result in lost children if parents leave their children outside of the area unsupervised while parents go inside to have a drink. The DEC allowed this conditionally in the past on a trial basis and no concerns have arisen. The DEC reserves the right to discontinue allowing underage people in the licensed area in the future.

Event Activities:
The main fireworks display will be set off by Atlas on the west side of Rogers field, as shown on the map. Atlas (the fireworks vendor), the Devens Fire Department, and the State Fire Marshal will ensure all safety procedures are followed. The DPW would also use snow fence to block off the necessary space to keep spectators out of this area. Fireworks are expected to begin around 9:15pm.

The event will also have 10-12 food vendors (licensed by the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health) and 30 community vendors (like boy scouts, rotary clubs, veteran's organizations, etc.). There will also be a touch-a-truck area. Attendees will be able to view stationary military and public safety vehicles and equipment to learn about their functions. The touch-a-truck area will be staffed by the entities providing the vehicles (Army, Devens DPW, Devens Fire, State Police, etc.) There are also plans for 1-2 inflatables for children's entertainment. These will all be staffed throughout the event to ensure safety and will be staked in place and closed down in the event of high winds. All generators and drop cords will follow Devens generator safety guidelines and be clearly visible and not near where attendees will be walking.

Performances are planned to include a military band, a drill team, military reenactors, and a fly over or fast rope demo. Devens Recreation will fill any time slots that aren't filled by Devens RFTA with band performances. Devens RFTA has secured a flatbed truck to use as a stage and Devens Recreation will be reaching out to audio visual companies to get sound and lighting equipment on the stage. All equipment will be powered by generators that follow the guidelines on the DEC's website. Music will be playing throughout the duration of the event. Staff has requested that efforts be made to reduce potential nuisance conditions, including keeping amplified music to a minimum and directing speakers away from residential areas.

Restrooms/Trash/Recycling:
Devens Recreation will provide at least 32 portable toilets, located at the restroom icons as shown on the on the event map on page 1. Trash and recycling barrels will be spread throughout the event area. A DPW staff member will be responsible for removing bags as they get full and putting them in Recreation trash or recycling dumpsters.

First Aid/Safety:
Portions of Sherman Avenue and Buena Vista Street will be temporarily closed and barricaded to provide additional area for the public and vendors – keeping the event activities away from the fireworks area and keeping high foot traffic areas on the pavement to help preserve Rogers Field grass areas for people to sit and enjoy the festivities. State police will assist Devens DPW with traffic control and signage will be installed to re-direct traffic around these areas. A first aid tent will be available next to the review stand. EMTs will be called in for any medical attention needed that is more in depth than band aids, ice, or water.

No pets, outside alcohol, backpacks, large bags, or coolers. Rules will be on the marketing flyer and will be posted at the entrance to the event. State Police will be patrolling Rogers Field on foot and by golf cart to maintain order and enforce rules. Rogers Field will have two lanes painted on the grass dividing the field into 4 quadrants. Golf carts will be continually coming through to keep people from sitting in the lanes. These lanes will make it easier to empty trash/recycling barrels and will allow quicker access, should emergency personnel need to get to a specific part of the field.

MassDevelopment has been meeting regularly with the State Police, Devens Public Safety, Military, and police and fire from surrounding towns,and DEC Staff for the past several months to ensure a coordinated and safe event. MassDevelopment carries their own general liability insurance for events however the DEC should be named as an additional insured.

Parking:
The maps below show the Devens parking lots available for the event and the shuttle route from additional lots at the Ayer-Shirley Middle School, Shirley Meadows, and the Ayer Parking Garage. 2-3000 people are expected throughout the day/evening. Due to the anticipated crowd size, all Devens Recreation parking lots will be utilized, as well as some additional parking areas (2,300 parking spots available with 885 spots that can be opened for overflow parking). The Community Center Parking Lot (100 Sherman Avenue) will be reserved for event staff, sponsors, and handicapped parking only. There will be directional signage and parking staff to assist with parking. State Police (along with a few members of the Ayer Police, Harvard Police, and Shirley Police) will be enforcing road closures throughout the event to maximize traffic pattern safety. Montachusett Area Regional Transit will be providing shuttle service from parking areas that are farther away from Rogers Field to a drop off location at Rogers Field.

Nashoba Valley Celebration of Service Parking Map

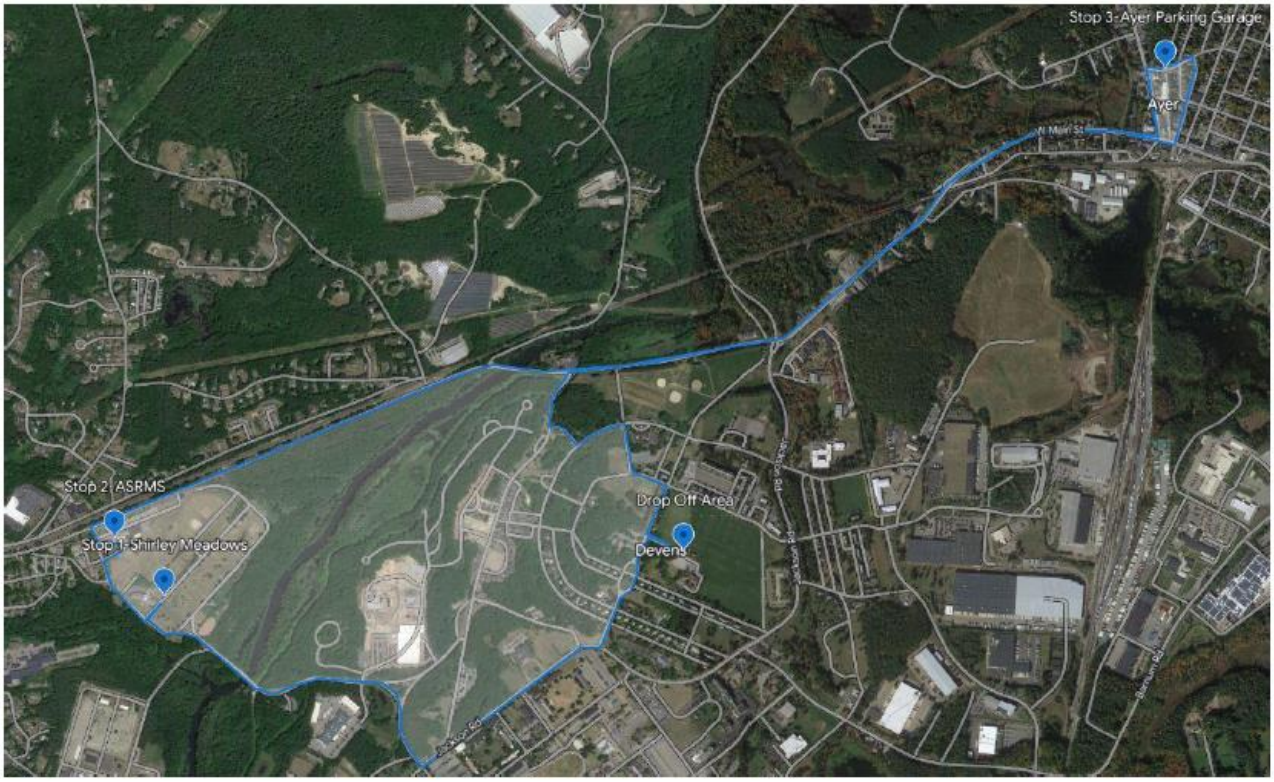
Green – Attendee parking

Orange – Handicapped/sponsor parking

Red – Optional overflow parking

Blue – Shuttle parking

Nashoba Valley Celebration of Service Shuttle Route Map



Recommended Action:

Devens Recreation and DPW have a great deal of experience running large events and all issues appear to be adequately addressed. Legal notice was published, and all abutters were notified by certified mail. No comments were received. If the Commission is satisfied that all concerns have been addressed, Staff would recommend approval of the event permit and One Day License to sell beer and wine, subject to the following conditions:

1. The One-Day License to sell beer and wine is valid on May 17, 2025 (rain date May 18, 2025) from 4:00 PM to 9:00PM only.
2. The serving and consumption of alcohol is limited to the approximately 85' x85' fenced in area on Rogers Field as shown on the event layout plan. A police officer shall be always inside the fenced area while alcohol is being served/consumed.
3. The Applicant is an individual, as the responsible manager for the organization and shall control the dispensing of alcohol to persons not under the age of twenty-one (21) and shall not serve alcohol to individuals who are or "appear to be" under the influence of alcohol. All servers will be TIPS certified and the vendors staff will monitor crowd size and limit capacity inside the beer garden.
4. Identification cards will be checked at the entrance to the fenced in area as well as the bars inside as well. Patrons 21 and older will be provided bracelets. Minors will be allowed into the fenced area if they are accompanied by an adult.

5. The Licensee must purchase alcoholic beverages from an authorized source. Licensees CANNOT purchase from a package store and CANNOT accept donations from anyone.
6. All waste must be contained on-site and properly disposed of. Recycling is mandatory.
7. Prior to the event, the Applicant shall provide proof of general liability insurance for the event, naming the Devens Enterprise Commission as an additional insured.

In order to ensure the event permit complies with 974 CMR 8.00 (Public Health and Safety) Regulations, Staff would recommend the following conditions be added to the event permit:

1. All vendors shall be licensed through the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health and Devens Fire Department, as may be required.
2. The Applicant shall obtain tent permits for any tents larger than 10'x 12' being used for the event.
3. The Applicant and all vendors shall comply with the DEC's Guidelines for emergency generators & fryolators: https://devensec.com/forms/Elec_Generator_and_Fryolator_Guidelines_2024.pdf .
4. The Applicant shall coordinate all traffic and safety with the State Police and the Devens Public Safety Officer. Access for Devens residents and businesses shall be maintained and advance notice shall be provided to the Devens residents and businesses. Efforts shall be made to reduce potential nuisance conditions, including keeping amplified music to a minimum and directing speakers away from residential areas.
5. Any excavation or ground disturbance must be approved by Devens Recreation. Personnel conducting this work must complete the required UXO training through the Devens Fire Department prior to any activity. Prior to any excavation, the Applicant shall also contact Dig Safe. All disturbed areas shall be re-stabilized to their original condition to prevent erosion and soil exposure.
6. The inflatables must be registered with the Office of Public Safety and Inspections and the rental company must be on the state list of Companies Licensed for Amusement and Small Inflatables Facilities https://www.mass.gov/info-details/companies-licensed-for-amusement-and-small-inflatables-facilities. In the event of high winds, inflatables shall be shut down.