Armed Forces Day Narrative

We are hosting the Nashoba Valley Celebration of Service event (replacing "Nashoba Valley Celebration of Service" from 2023) from 4-10pm May 17th (rain date 5/18) in the vicinity of Rogers Field. Please see the categories below for more information.

Fireworks – The fireworks will be set off by Atlas on Rogers Field (layout map attached). Atlas, the Fire Department, and the fire marshal will work together to make sure all safety procedures are followed. The DPW will 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.

Food Vendors – the Chamber of Commerce is managing vendor registration for the event again this year. All food vendors will provide their temporary or seasonal food permits from NABH, a certificate of insurance, sign a hold harmless agreement, and will pass a safety inspection with the Devens Fire Department (if required based on setup). Food vendors will be assigned spots in the yellow portion of the attached map. We hope to have 10-12 food vendors registered before the event. Vendors requiring electricity will bring generators that follow the guidelines on the DEC's website.

Community/Other Vendors – all other vendors (like boy scouts, rotary clubs, veteran's organizations, etc.) will sign a hold harmless waiver in lieu of proof of insurance. These vendors will also be assigned spots within the yellow areas. We hope to have 30 community/other vendors registered before the event. We will also be running a touch-a-truck area. Attendees will be able to view stationary touch-a-truck vehicles and equipment to learn about their functions. We are currently working on securing vehicles for this from the military, trash companies, tow companies, MSP, Fire Departments, and DOT. The groups bringing a truck will staff it throughout the event to make sure kids stay safe while looking at the vehicles.

Beer/Wine Vendors – alcohol vendors will provide their documentation and will be located inside an 85x85 foot fenced in area. Galvanized steel, interlocking barricades will be used to fence the area off, ID's will be checked on the way in with bracelets being given to adults that are over 21, and a State Police detail trooper will be hired to monitor the alcohol area while alcohol is being sold. There will be tables with seating, as well as trash and recycling barrels inside of this area. Alcohol vendors are Sterling Street Brewery and Thirsty Robot Brewing. We would like to request that children 12 and under be allowed inside the alcohol area with a guardian that is over 21 years old (over 21 will have bracelets, children will not) again this year since that worked well the last two times we ran this event. The size and expected attendance of this event mean that unsupervised children could get lost if they are left outside of the area while parents go inside.

Entertainment – we are currently waiting on confirmation from Devens RFTA on what types of entertainment they will be able to secure. They have requested 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.

Inflatables – Devens RFTA has secured 1-2 inflatables for the event. Inflatables will be staffed throughout the event to ensure safety. Inflatables will be staked down at all times and will be closed during high winds.

Restrooms – we will provide at least 32 portable toilets, located at the restroom icons on the attached map.

Trash and Recycling – 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 – There will be a first aid tent beside the review stand on Rogers Field. EMTs will be called in for any medical attention needed that is more in depth than band aids, ice, or water.

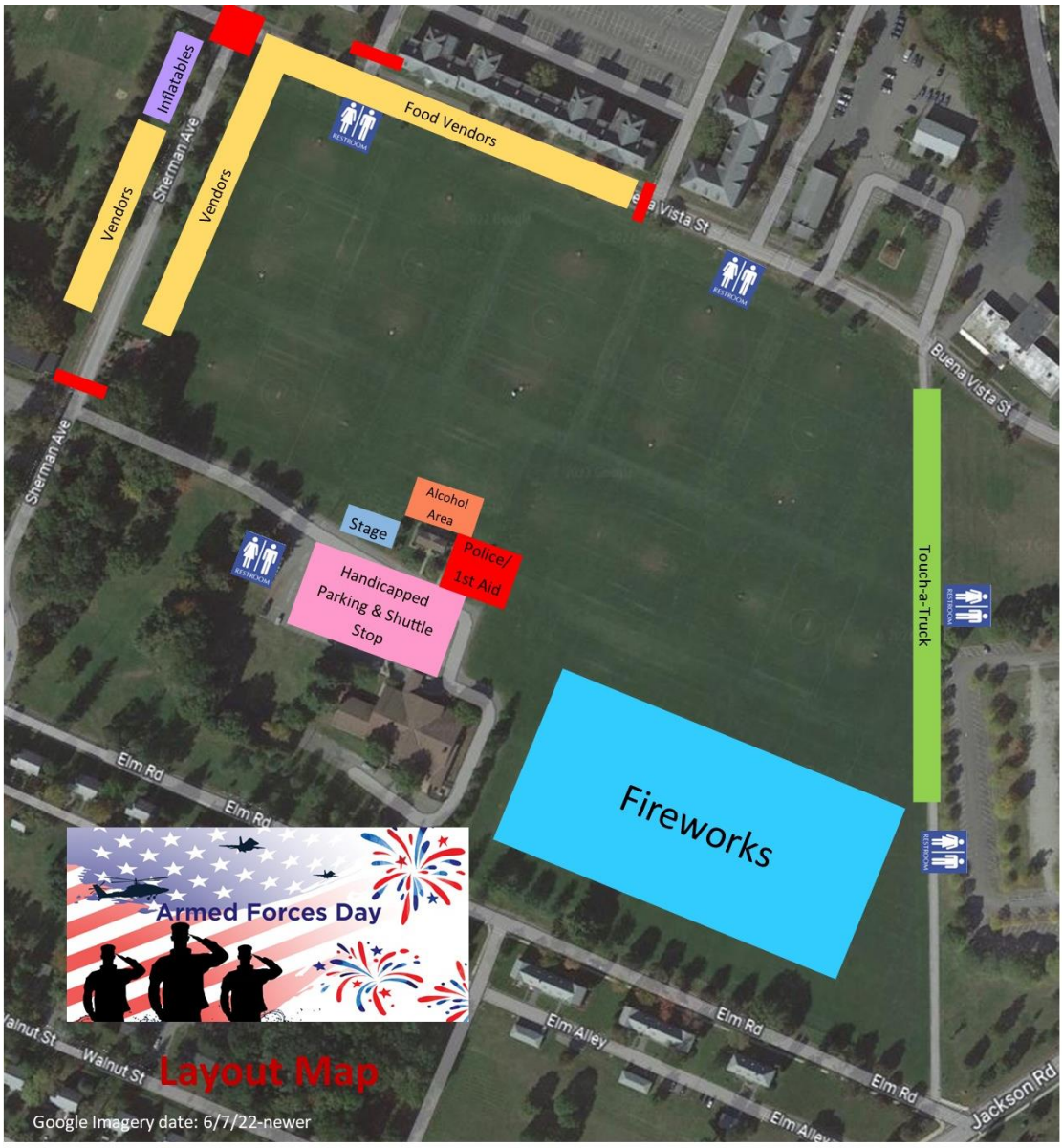
Parking/Shuttles – we plan on utilizing all Devens Recreation parking lots, as well as a few lots that will have shuttle service provided by MART (shuttle lots are Ayer Shirley Middle School, Shirley Meadows, and Ayer Parking garage). The Community Center Parking Lot (100 Sherman Avenue will be reserved for handicapped parking only. We will have directional signage to assist with parking and a staff member to manage parking at the lot reserved for handicapped parking. We currently have an estimated 2,300 parking spots with approximately 885 spots that can be opened as overflow, if needed. State Police will be providing traffic support and enforcing road closures throughout the event to maximize traffic pattern safety.

Expected Attendance – with previous years' attendance being around 2,000-3,000, we expect similar interest this year.

Rules for Attendees – 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 the perimeter of the field by MSP cruisers to maintain order and enforce rules.

*All generators and drop cords will follow the DEC's safety guidelines, including being clearly visible and will not be near where attendees will be walking.

Nashoba Valley Celebration of Service Layout Map



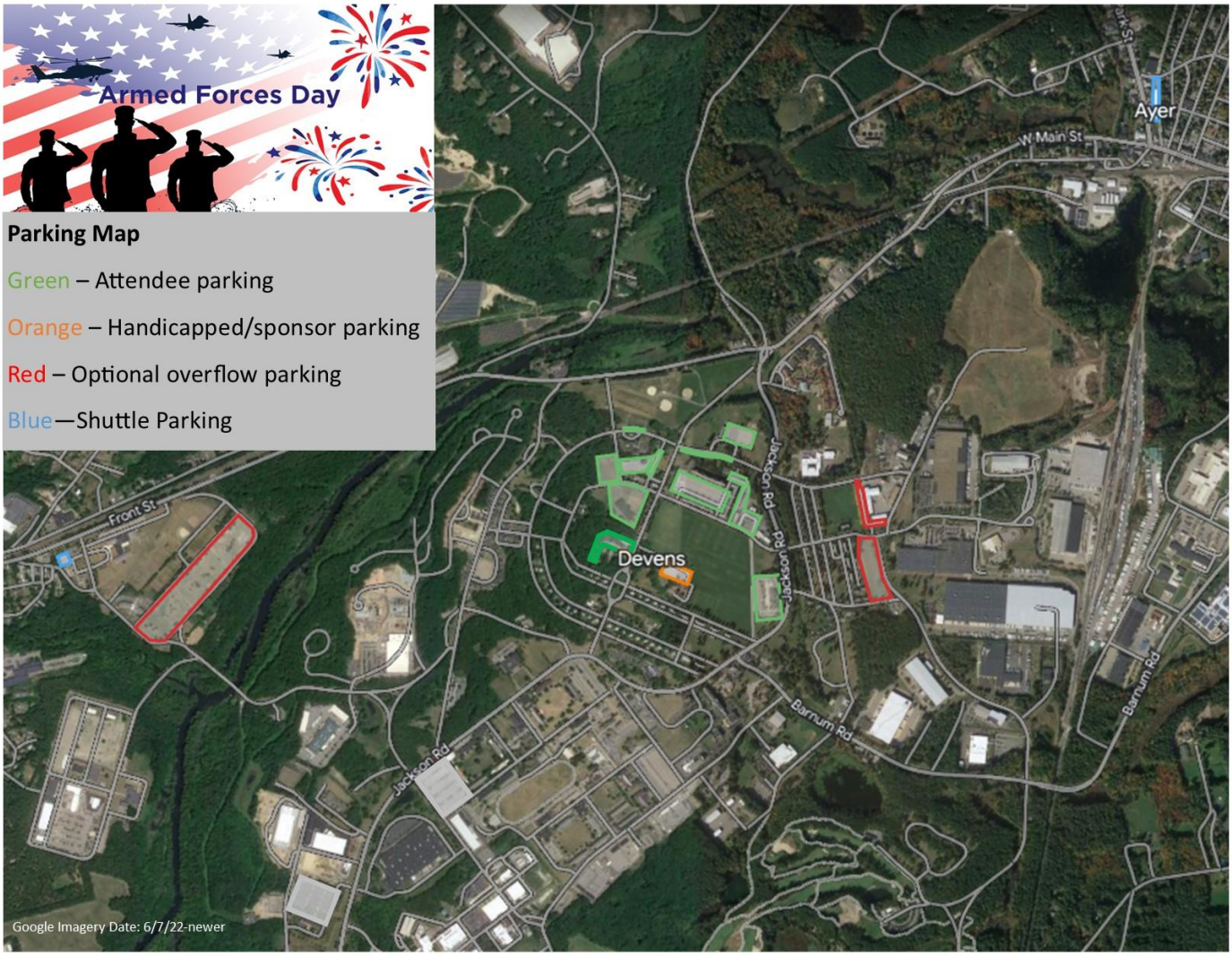
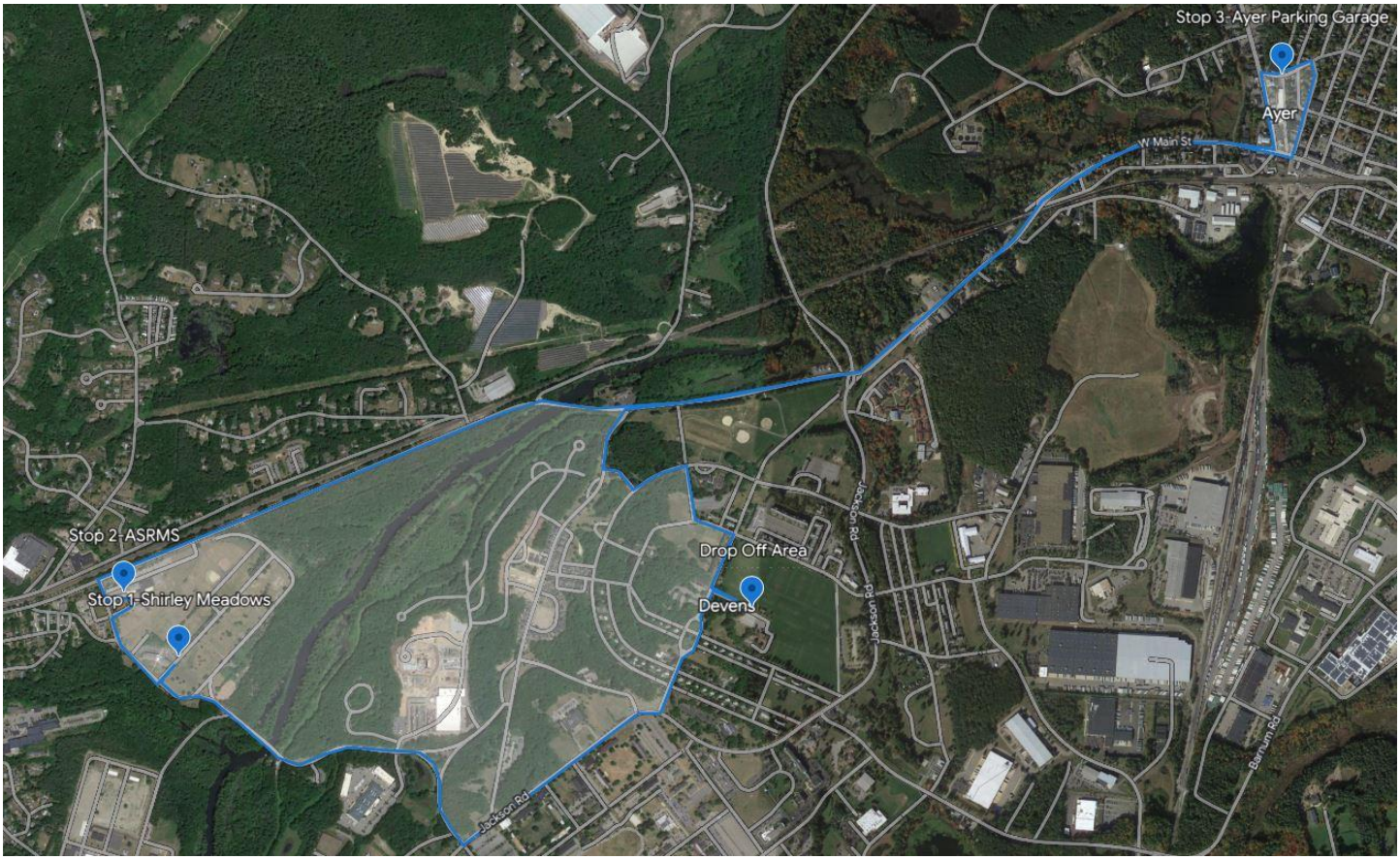
Nashoba Valley Celebration of Service Parking Map

Green – Attendee parking

Orange – Handicapped/sponsor parking

Red – Optional overflow parking

Blue – Shuttle parking



Nashoba Valley Celebration of Service Shuttle Route Map