

Fort Devens Day Narrative

We are hosting the 4-10pm portion of the Fort Devens Day event on Rogers Field, 100 Sherman Avenue, on August 20th (rain date 8/21) from approximately 4-10pm. Please see the categories below for more information.

Fireworks – The main fireworks display will be set off by the Army inside of the fence. The Town of Ayer is considering supplementing the fireworks show with 1-2” shells, set off on the southeastern section of Rogers Field. If this does take place, all parties will work with Atlas (the fireworks vendor), the Fire Department, and the fire marshal to make sure 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 9:30. Atlas has worked with all appropriate public safety entities to get a test shoot set up from the Army’s land for the end of July so we can gauge visibility on Rogers Field before the event takes place.

Food Vendors – all food vendors will provide their temporary or seasonal food permits from NABH and will provide proof of insurance, their W-9, and a signed license agreement. Food vendors will be assigned spots in the yellow portion of the attached map. We currently have 21 food vendors signed up for the event as of 7/14 that are working on getting all of their documentation in. Some food vendors will bring generators, some will use drop cords to plug into the outlets by the trees along the vendor locations.

Community Vendors – all community vendors (like boy scouts, rotary clubs, veteran’s organizations, etc.) will provide a signed release waiver in lieu of proof of insurance. These vendors will also be assigned spots within the yellow vendors area. I currently have 11 community vendors signed up as of 5/5, but I expect a few more to inquire about attending before the event. The Army will also be running a touch-a-truck area. Attendees will be able to view stationary military vehicles and equipment to learn about their functions and when they were used.

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 Bull Spit Brewing, Sterling Street Brewery, and Armory’s Tomb. After having issues with unsupervised children at the Food and Craft Festival, we are requesting that children 12 and under be allowed inside of the alcohol area with their parents (over 21 will have bracelets, children will not). The size and expected attendance of this event mean that unsupervised children would very likely get lost if they are left outside of the area while parents go inside to have a drink.

Music – we will have two bands performing during the event. Etch and the Youngs will be performing from 4-7pm and A Little Bit Shaggy will be performing from 7-10pm. Drop cords will run a few feet from the sound equipment on the concrete pad just outside of the review stand to the outlets inside of the review stand. With the exception of breaks for the performers and announcements, music will be playing throughout the duration of the events.

Inflatables – we are contracting Creative Event Services to provide three inflatables set up in the purple section on the map that will be secured to the ground. The blowers for these will be powered by running drop cords from outlets at the trees in that section to the blowers. This company will also staffing the inflatables to ensure safety and make sure all rules are being followed. The inflatables will be closed in the event of high winds. Requested inflatables are soccer darts, an obstacle course, and a bounce house.

Raffles – Clear Path for Veterans will be doing a raffle for a large blanket made by veterans. This will be held after the fireworks, and you must be present to win. The hopes are that this will postpone some of the traffic that would have left right after the fireworks ended. I have been informed that Clear Path already has a charitable games permit. Some of the community vendors have asked about doing raffles, as well. I instructed them to speak to the DEC about a charitable games permit and will not sanction this until those permits are approved.

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.

1st Aid – The Army Police will be providing a 1st aid tent, which will be staffed by their medic personnel. This will also feature McGruff the Crime Dog and will be used as a fun way to teach kids about safety. EMTs will be called in for any medical attention needed that is more in depth than band aids, ice, or water.

Parking – we plan on utilizing all Devens Recreation parking lots, as well as some parking areas that Devens businesses have agreed that we can use. The Community Center Parking Lot (100 Sherman Avenue) will be reserved for event staff and handicapped parking only. We will have directional signage and parking staff to assist with parking. We currently have an estimated 3,830 parking spots and expect to be able to add to this number the next few weeks by partnering with more Devens businesses and the Town of Ayer. State Police (along with a few members of the Army Police, Ayer Police, Harvard Police, and Shirley Police) will be enforcing road closures throughout the event to maximize traffic pattern safety.

Shuttles – MART will be providing shuttle service from parking areas that are farther away from Rogers Field to a drop off location beside the review stand. Please see the attached Shuttle route map with identified shuttle stops. We expect to have at least 6 shuttles running throughout the event until approximately midnight (or whenever no one else is present that needs a ride to one of the shuttle stops).

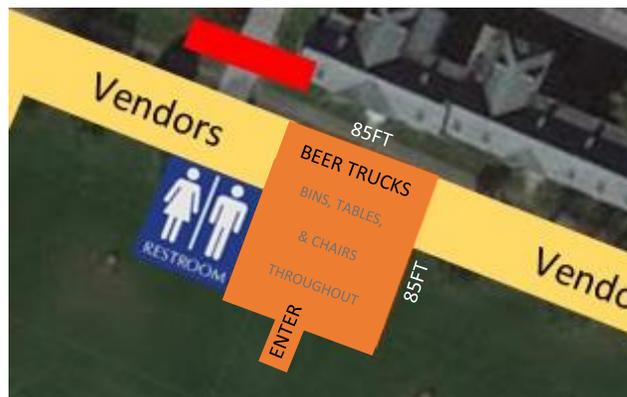
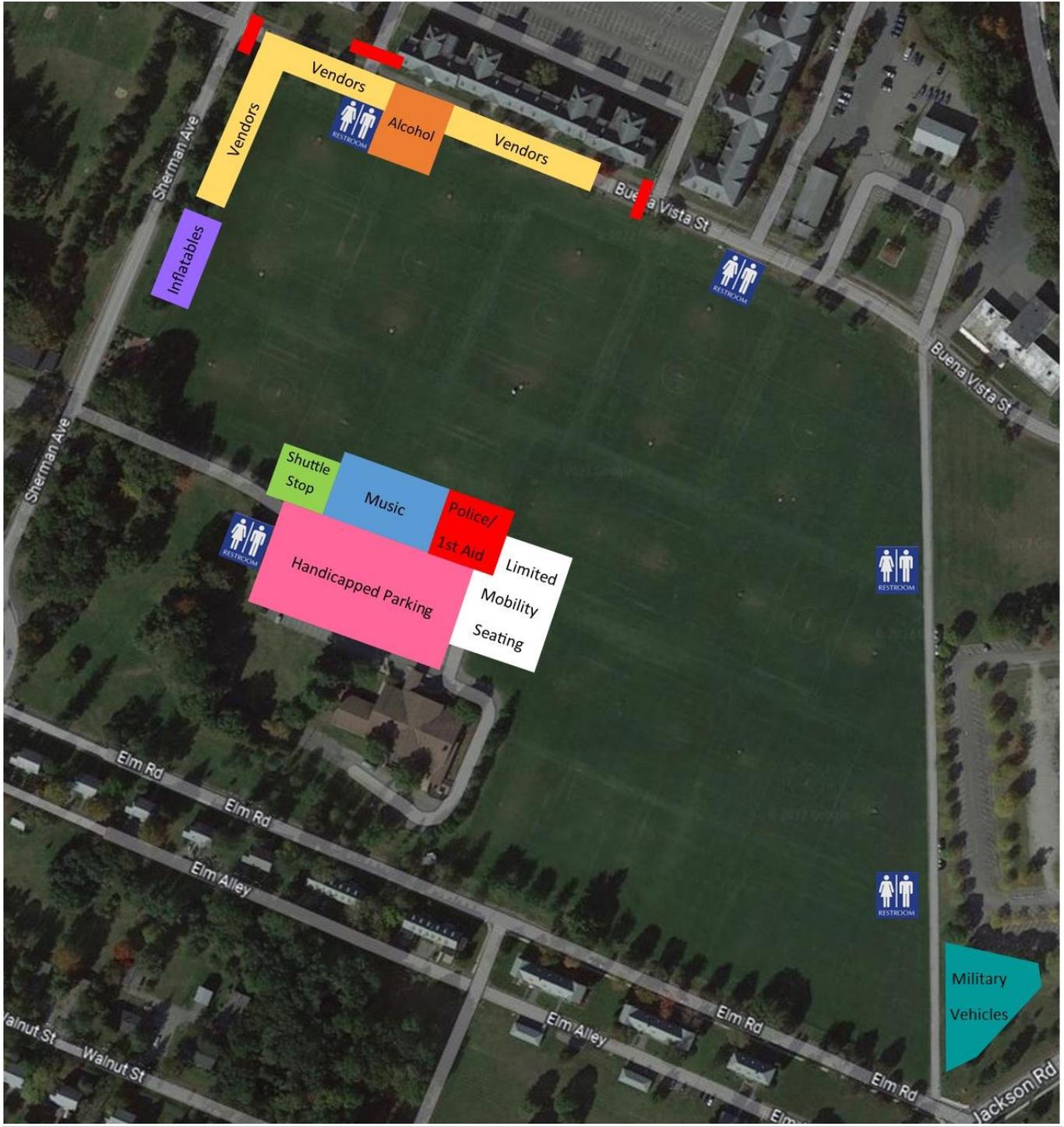
Expected Attendance – as this is the first time we are doing an event of this nature in approximately 25 years, it is difficult to know how many people will attend. We are currently planning for 10,000-15,000 attendees.

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 by golf cart to maintain order and enforce rules.

Other – 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. The quadrants will be labeled 1-4 during the event so that if anyone calls to report an emergency, they can tell dispatch what area the emergency is in, making it easier for emergency personnel to know where to go.

*All generators and drop cords will follow safety guidelines of being clearly visible and will not be near where attendees will be walking.

Fort Devens Day Layout Map



Fort Devens Day Parking Map



Fort Devens Day Shuttle Route Map

