

DJFC Matrix: Open Space and Recreation – Status Quo

At the March 13, 2024 Devens Jurisdictional Framework committee meeting, representatives were presented with a matrix of potential future governance options for Devens and the associated issues that need to be considered. Each disposition scenario will have similar issues that need to be considered, but how each issue is considered may depend on the disposition option and the stakeholder group. This table will allow DJFC members to keep track of potential opportunities, challenges, and questions associated with each issue under each disposition scenario for each stakeholder group. The intent is not to identify solutions for every issue, but to help document issues and what is known vs. unknown, as well as areas of alignment vs. differences between stakeholder groups and disposition scenarios. This will help document and inform the disposition process going forward and provide valuable insight for any consultant(s) selected to assist in future disposition processes and discussions.

DJFC representatives were asked to bring back the “Status Quo” option to their respective boards and focus on the “Open Space and Recreation” item/issue. Current Open Space and Recreation matters in Devens are overseen by both the Devens Enterprise Commission and MassDevelopment:

Open Space and Recreation Status Quo: Devens Enterprise Commission:

- Protect Natural Resources within Devens
- Natural system connectivity (NbS and Green Infrastructure)
- Maintain and enhance natural, historic, and cultural features in Devens
- Local Conservation Commission - Conservation Restriction holder/management
- Manage active and passive open space areas as ID'd in the Reuse Plan, Devens Bylaws and Devens Rules and Regulations, as well as the Devens Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Continue to implement the Multi-Use trail Network.
- Continue to implement Devens Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Collaborate with local, regional and state partners (Town connections, MassAudobon, NRWA, NHESP, MassWildlife, USFWS, etc.)

Status Quo: MassDevelopment*:

- Active recreation coordination (full-time Recreation Director)
- Devens DPW – management and oversight of active recreation areas
- Manage active and passive open space areas as ID'd in the Reuse Plan, Devens Bylaws and Devens Rules and Regulations, as well as the Devens Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Trail system operations and maintenance
- Mirror Lake Recreation oversight (implement Mirror Lake Master Plan)
- Devens Open Space and Recreation Plan implementation (regional recreation resources)
- Collaboration with other CR holders (Trustees of Reservations, New England Forestry Foundation)
- Seasonal community recreation and social events

**This is a general listing of roles and responsibilities of MassDevelopment as they pertain to open space and recreation issues on Devens. This list has not been vetted or reviewed by MassDevelopment. It is important that their input be included in this process to ensure a more complete matrix.*