

7/16/21

To ensure development continues to further the goals and objectives of Chapter 498 and the Reuse Plan, and to build back stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic as we look ahead to the next 5 years (2021-2025), the DEC will focus its efforts on the following:

1. Collaborate with Towns, educational institutions and other organizations in the region and beyond on areas of mutual interest that advance the goals of the Devens ReUse Plan and the Devens Forward Climate Action and Resilience Plan.
  - Collaborate around shared infrastructure, educational and service projects with Tufts, green walls with BMS; and eco-industrial development and net zero energy building.
2. Continue to prioritize and support the sustainable redevelopment of Devens.
  - Continue our support of the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center as a value added feature for business and industry locating at Devens.
  - Implement the Devens Forward Climate Action and Resilience Plan.
  - Revise existing green building and renewable incentive programs in support of the Devens Forward Climate Action and Resilience Plan.
  - Continue tracking sustainable development indicators.
  - Implement Apple Country Natural Climate Solutions project and continue to implement green infrastructure whenever the opportunity presents itself, including, but not limited to pocket forests and street tree planting and replacement programs.
  - Conduct Circular Economy educational events in support of regional economic development
3. Expand on our past successes to support diverse and equitable transportation opportunities for the Devens region, its employees and residents.
  - Continue to explore areas to collaborate around transportation issues such as the Nashoba Regional Greenway Coalition; the Devens Shuttle; updating the Complete Streets Policy to include a Green Streets component and creating a pilot project based on the revised policy;
  - Continue supporting connecting Devens to the Fitchburg Line and the Devens Shuttle through enhanced marketing and outreach.
  - Continue improving safety, accessibility, and connectivity in Devens, the surrounding communities and region through new trails, sidewalks, bike lanes and Transportation Demand Management strategies.
  - Support the continued use of freight rail in the Rail Industrial and Trade Related Uses (RIT) zoning district
4. Upgrade the operations of the Commission
  - Update the DEC website.
  - Continue to manage Conservation Restrictions held by the Commission and to integrate public health considerations into all of our decisions.
  - File management.
  - Hire additional staff to better manage existing and future workloads.
5. Remain focused on the end point of Chapter 498 and the process to reach it. Continue dialog with Devens residents, businesses, surrounding communities and MassDevelopment.
6. Maintain Fiscal independence.

The Commission is clear that its primary job remains overseeing the expedited permitting process that has become Devens' signature. Maintaining a supportive and consistent regulatory environment remains a high priority of the Commission. Toward that end the DEC will continue to review and assess its regulations, policies, guidelines and incentives to ensure they provide a streamlined and comprehensive process that is easy for Applicants to navigate but that still upholds the key values and intention of the Reuse Plan and Bylaws.