

Devens Intersections of Communities & Cultures

Making It Public for Municipalities
PROJECT LOCATION & CONTEXT

Devens Intersections of Communities & Cultures is a public art project supported by a grant from New England Foundation for the Arts and Metropolitan Area Planning Council. The temporary art installation will be located at the intersection of paths west of Sherman Avenue at Willard Field. The project goals are to attract visitors to notice the space and reflect on Devens' cultural and community identity, engage with the piece and the space, and to support local artists.

Project Location

GPS Coordinates 42.55093, -71.61134 and map link

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/K6KxswzuCmdxga538>



The location is underutilized but has the potential for high visitation.

Residents walk, bike, scoot, and roll in the paths and the Sherman Road cutoff.

There will be inconspicuous wayfinding indicators so spectators of the large recreational events, the playground, and festivals in the area will be invited to visit the installation.

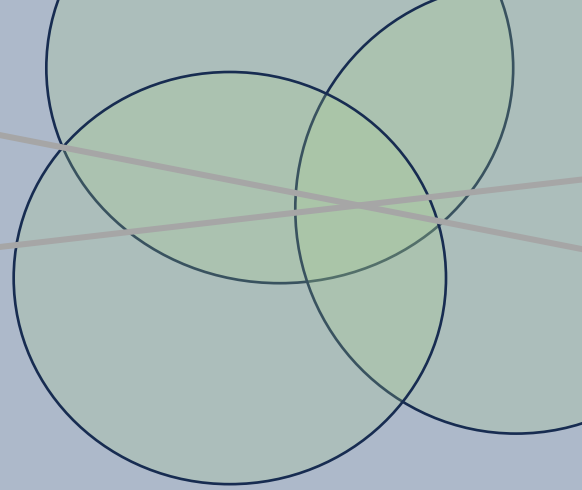
Location Details and Activities

Willard Field hosts large recreational activities (soccer, lacrosse, softball, field hockey, ultimate frisbee, and cross country) and is adjacent to the Verbeck Field Complex which hosts festivals and is the home of the Devens Playground and is the future location of a Pocket Forest (dense forest planting for community resiliency). For more info: climateresilient.wixsite.com/ayerdevens

Significant non-profit partners, the United Native American Cultural Center www.unacc.org/ and Clear Path for Veterans www.clearpathne.org/, are nearby and host community events.

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The project is located at the physical intersection of paths within a recreational complex on a historic Army base. The intersection theme relates to other aspects of the community, such as -

- Devens is an intersection of cultures with diversity among the residents past and present and a strong network of cultural institutions and support services.
- This point in time is an intersection of history and the future. Over twenty years after most of the military base activities ceased and Devens' identity changed significantly, the community now features cutting-edge biomedical, manufacturing, and clean energy technology and industry.
- Devens is an intersection of three communities. The three original towns (Ayer, Harvard, and Shirley) that comprised the Military base still have jurisdiction on decision making for redevelopment zoning. The future management and jurisdiction of the area is being planned but uncertain.
- While geographically comprised of the original three communities, there is certainly a sense of Devens as a community itself. Devens residents live in a combination of historic former military homes and modern livability and sustainability-focused neighborhoods.

For more information on the public art project and to see the Call for Artists, please visit <https://www.devensec.com/publicart.html>.

Other Devens Information

Devens: Work, Live, Play, Stay

<https://www.devenscommunity.com/>

Devens Enterprise Commission News and Events Page

<https://www.devensec.com/news.html>

MassDevelopment Devens Annual Report

www.devenscommunity.com/assets/about/pdfs/Devens-Annual-Report-2023.pdf

Devens Enterprise Commission Quarterly Report

www.devensec.com/meetings/Quarterly_Devens_Project_Report.pdf

Devens Historical Monuments

<https://devensec.com/maps/monuments.pdf>

Sustainable Devens Tour Guide

www.devensec.com/maps/Tour_of_Devens_2023.pdf

