

Memo

Devens
Enterprise
Commission

Date: November, 2020

To: General Public

From: Neil Angus, AICP CEP, LEED AP

RE: **Devens Conservation Restrictions – Protected Public Open Space**

You may have recently noticed small signs labelled: “Devens Conservation Restriction” posted in some wooded areas in Devens (pictured adjacent). These markers delineate the boundaries of certain public open space lands in Devens that have been set aside for stormwater management, natural resource protection, as well as passive recreation to further the goals of the Devens Reuse Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan.

These lands are open to the general public to enjoy for activities such as walking, hiking, wildlife viewing, and other low-impact activities that do not disturb any ground cover. Preserving these lands in their natural state provides many co-benefits to the Devens region, including stormwater management (reducing runoff and flooding), enhancing local air quality (naturally filtering harmful pollutants), and reducing noise, to name a few. These open spaces also support active lifestyles, encourage social interaction and promote mental health and wellness. Learn more about the multiple health benefits of these green spaces [here](#).

The purpose of this memo is to raise awareness of these protected open spaces and ensure they remain in their natural state. You can help us ensure this by:

- Not dumping yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, brush, etc.) or any other materials in these areas. These materials disrupt natural plant growth and attract rodents and small mammals that can become a neighborhood nuisance. Devens Public Works collects yard waste curbside and also sells compost bins for proper disposal of yard waste (more information at: <https://bit.ly/Devensyardwaste>).
- Carrying out what you carry-in: respect the natural environment by ensuring you do not dispose of any waste when enjoying these properties. If you are hiking or picnicking, please be sure to take your trash and everything you brought in, back out with you when you leave and properly dispose of it.
- Not disturbing any soils, ground cover, or vegetation. The roots of natural vegetation stabilize the soils, reduce erosion, and minimize dust.
- Not using any motorized vehicles in these spaces.

We appreciate your help in ensuring these areas remain in a natural state for the benefit of all. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 978.772.8831.



DEVENS ENTERPRISE COMMISSION

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