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LATEST NEWS FROM FORMER FORT DEVENS

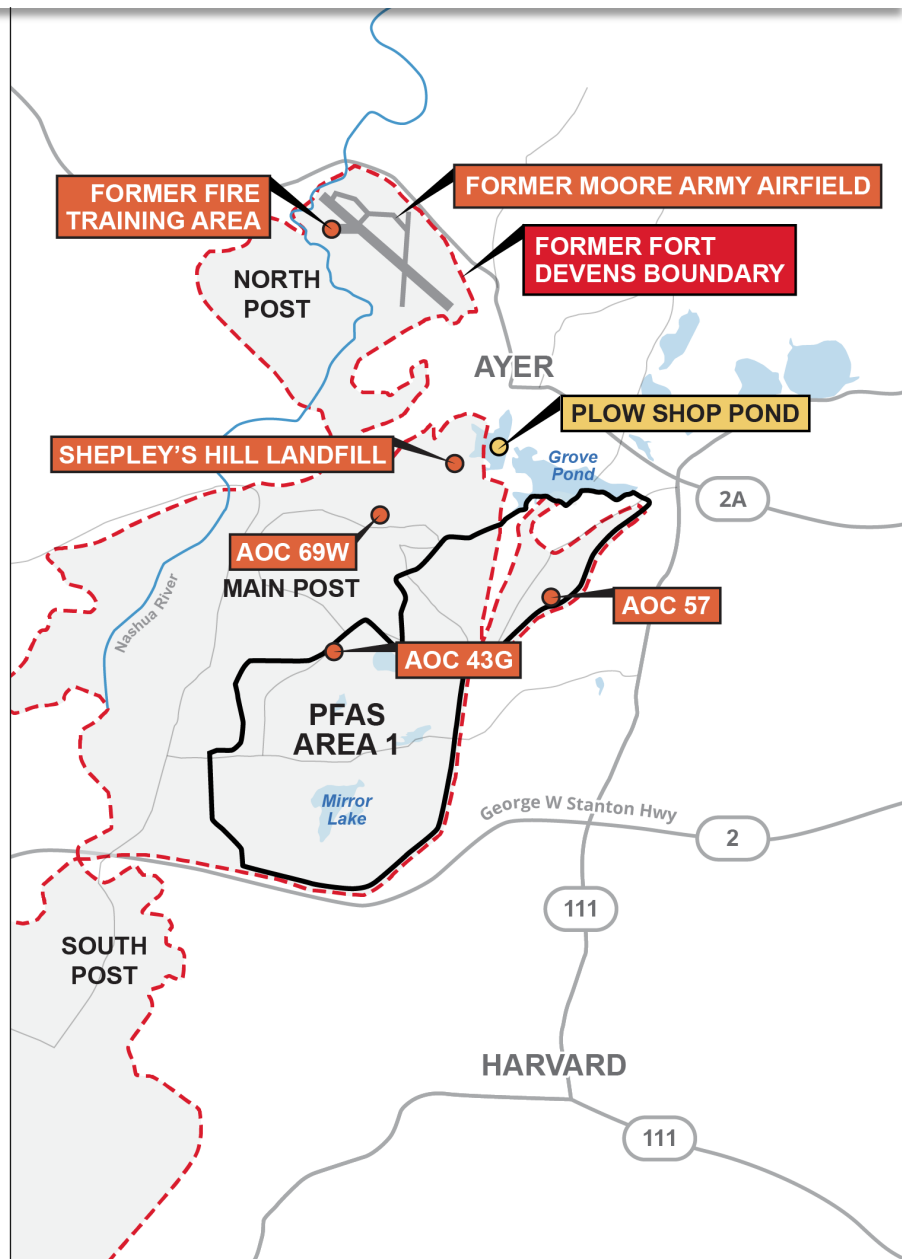
Environmental investigation and cleanup activities continue in several locations at former Fort Devens. In this fact sheet, we highlight the Army's efforts to confirm that the groundwater barrier wall along the east side of Shepley's Hill Landfill is performing as designed to help protect Plow Shop Pond and manage arsenic in groundwater. Work also continues at former Moore Army Airfield and in PFAS Area 1 on the former Main Post.

Phase 2 of the remedial investigation at PFAS Area 1 is continuing as the Army works to assess the extent of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in soil, surface water, and groundwater at the former Main Post area and what the next steps will be to remediate and manage PFAS. The Army expects work plans to be approved soon so that sampling can begin in earnest.

The Army is also investigating PFAS at the former Moore Army Airfield former Fire Training Area to accelerate the understanding of where PFAS are, the amount that is present, and how stationary or mobile they may be. Results will help guide a formal remedial investigation and determine other next steps.

Other work at former Fort Devens includes evaluating the performance of existing remedies.

- The groundwater treatment remedy at Shepley's Hill Landfill is being reviewed to see if it is still the best way to manage arsenic and if the cleanup goals at the landfill can be met with the current treatment system. Alternative treatment options are being considered through a focused feasibility study.
- Other investigations include a fresh look at past petroleum cleanup remedies at Areas of Concern (AOCs) 69W, 57, and 43G to see if the groundwater remedies remain protective of human health and the environment. The Army is installing monitoring wells and sampling groundwater and surface water this year as part of supplemental remedial investigations.



Visit the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup Project website for more details:

www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup

If you want to get involved, join our mailing list, or have questions, please send an email to:

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UPDATE ON PROTECTION OF PLOW SHOP POND

Shepley's Hill Landfill at the former Main Post was used by the Army for about 70 years (until 1992) to dispose of operational materials and wastes. Past environmental studies found arsenic in groundwater beneath the landfill and in the sediment of Red Cove within Plow Shop Pond. Those studies show that the arsenic is from both natural sources (within the native soil and bedrock) and landfill sources (from arsenic-containing waste).

In recent years, the Army implemented multiple remedial actions to effectively manage arsenic in groundwater and sediment in this area. Shepley's Hill Landfill was capped, arsenic-containing sediments from Red Cove were removed, and a deep barrier wall was installed along the east side of the landfill. The photos below show installation of the barrier wall in 2012 and the removal of about 3,000 cubic yards of sediment from Red Cove.

The purpose of the barrier wall is to help direct groundwater toward the treatment system north of the landfill instead of flowing to the east toward Plow Shop Pond (see map below). As groundwater flows northward, it is captured by several extraction wells that pump the water to the Army's existing arsenic treatment plant. The plant then removes the arsenic, along with iron and manganese.

To further protect Plow Shop Pond and manage arsenic in groundwater under the landfill, the Army is installing an additional extraction well at Shepley's Hill Landfill. The Army is also working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate the effectiveness of the barrier wall and confirm it continues to perform as designed. That effort includes new sampling this year of soil, sediment, surface water, pore water, and groundwater in and around Red Cove.



Above: Installation of the barrier wall in between Plow Shop Pond and Shepley's Hill Landfill. The barrier is about 40 feet deep and helps direct groundwater toward the arsenic treatment plant.

Below: Dredging in 2012 to remove about 3,000 cubic yards of arsenic-containing sediment from Plow Shop Pond.

Right: Map of the area to show the location of Shepley's Hill Landfill, Plow Shop Pond, the groundwater barrier wall, and the Army's existing arsenic treatment plant. Extraction wells capture groundwater that is then pumped to the plant to remove arsenic.

