



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# COMMUNITY FACT SHEET

## Former Fort Devens Army Installation

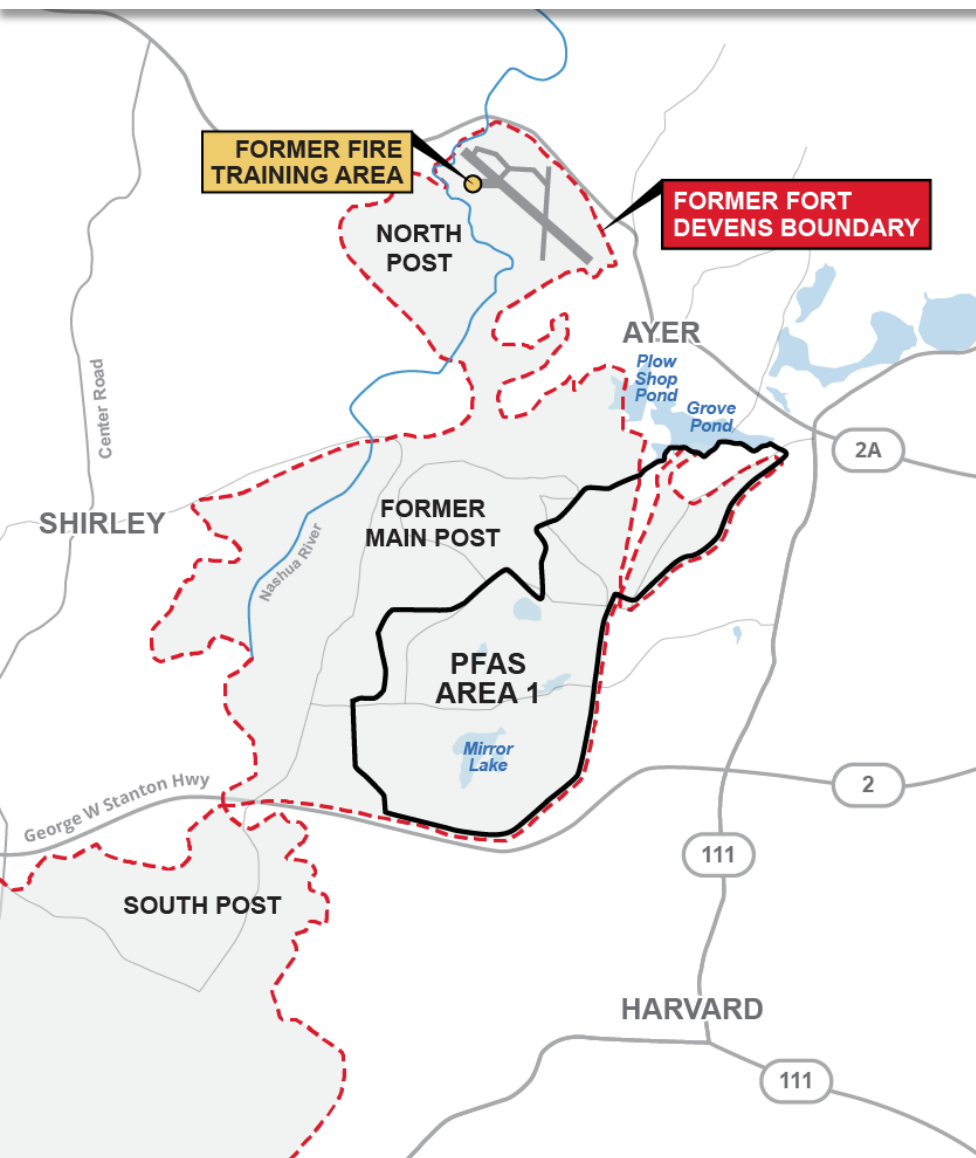


SPRING 2023

### LATEST NEWS FROM FORMER FORT DEVENS

Environmental investigation and cleanup activities continue in several locations at former Fort Devens. This fact sheet highlights the Army's efforts to locate and remediate PFAS compounds, known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

The map below shows two areas in focus this year: the former Fire Training Area at the former Moore Army Airfield within the North Post, and the larger PFAS Area 1 Remedial Investigation within the former Main Post. Although not detailed in this update, work also continues at Shepley's Hill Landfill where engineers are evaluating how best to optimize groundwater treatment, including the use of a safer and more effective method for removing arsenic from groundwater.



### PFAS UPDATE

#### CURRENT CONCERNS

PFAS-related concerns of the Army, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), and the communities surrounding former Fort Devens include:

- Understanding the horizontal and vertical extent of PFAS in soil, surface water, and groundwater
- Identifying the sources of PFAS and the movement of PFAS compounds
- Assessing the potential risks to human health and the environment from PFAS

#### REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

The next phase of the PFAS investigation will begin soon in Area 1 (see map). The Army and regulatory agencies are nearing completion of the Area 1 Phase 2 Remedial Investigation Work Plan that will guide where and how sampling is done.

Field work is expected to begin this summer. Hundreds of soil, surface water, sediment, and groundwater samples will be tested. Crews will install 41 new groundwater monitoring wells, and scientists will conduct an ecological risk screening and human health risk assessment.

Visit the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup Project or EPA PFAS websites:

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

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>

To get involved, join our mailing list, or ask questions, please send an email to: [FormerFortDevensRAB@arcadis.com](mailto:FormerFortDevensRAB@arcadis.com)

## PFAS AT FORMER MOORE ARMY AIRFIELD FIRE TRAINING AREA

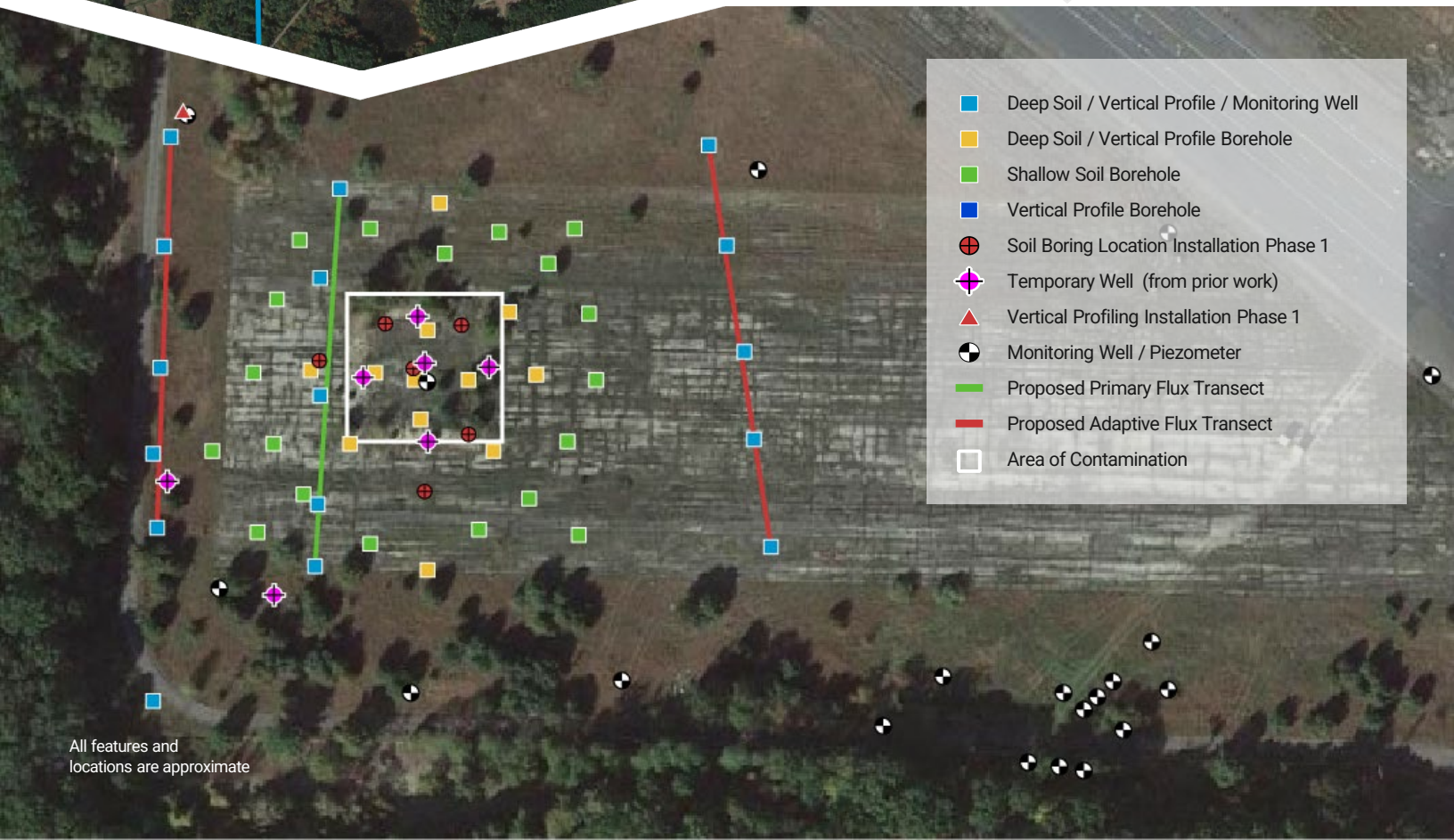
The former Fire Training Area (FFTA) at the former Moore Army Airfield on the North Post is a source of PFAS due to historical use of firefighting foams in the area. The airfield is no longer used for aircraft or fire training. The Nashua River is located downslope and west of the FFTA where PFAS were used. Given the FFTA's history and the concerns expressed by the community that PFAS could enter the river, the Army is moving quickly to investigate soil and groundwater there. One goal of the study is to find out where and how deep the PFAS compounds are today, which will help determine what remedial action may be needed.

In 2022, soil samples were collected from 44 locations at the FFTA, and groundwater samples were collected in 34 locations. A total of 528 soil samples and 256 groundwater samples have been collected to date for analysis. The results of this accelerated study will become part of the larger remedial investigation of the airfield.



As part of this work, the Army also collected soil samples for bench-scale laboratory testing of potential remedial technologies that could be used at Devens to address PFAS. For example, tests will explore the effectiveness of methods to immobilize PFAS in place (known as in-situ stabilization or ISS) or remove PFAS from soil through physical means (known as soil washing).

Shown at left is the FFTA at the end of an old runway and up a steep slope from the Nashua River. Shown below are the dozens of sampling locations being tested to identify where PFAS compounds are, at what depths, and in what amounts.



All features and locations are approximate