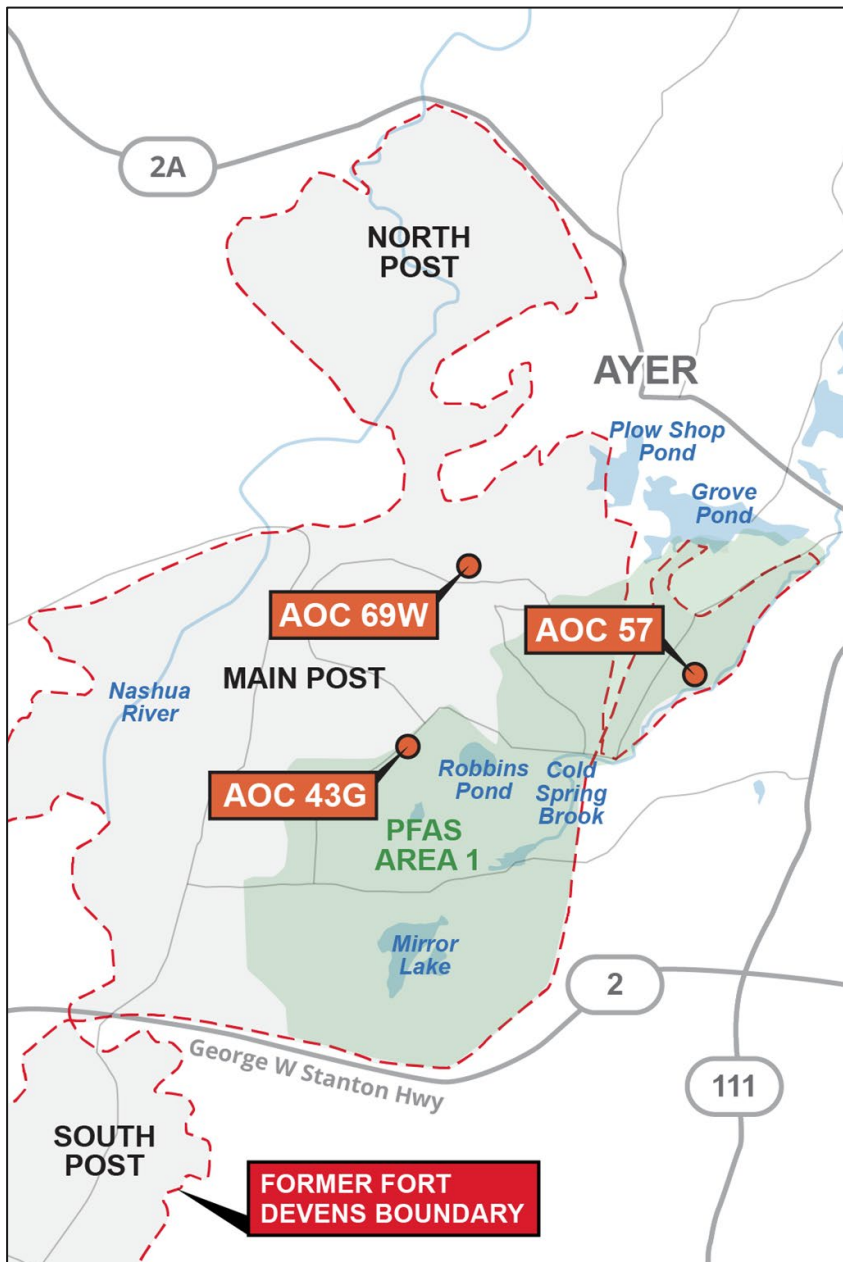




OCTOBER 2024

## LATEST NEWS FROM FORMER FORT DEVENS

Investigation and cleanup activities continue in several locations at former Fort Devens. In this fact sheet, we highlight the history and activities at three areas of contamination (AOCs) impacted by petroleum spills decades ago: AOC 43G, AOC 57, and AOC 69W. We also provide an update on the intensive effort underway to identify per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) within Area 1 of the Main Post.

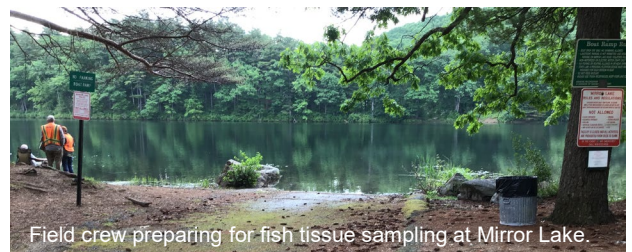


## PFAS INVESTIGATION UPDATE

The Phase 2 remedial investigation (RI) field work in PFAS Area 1 began in April and will continue through 2024. Seismic surveying was conducted to help determine the depth to bedrock and identify the subsurface geology without the need to drill numerous deep borings. Soil boring and vertical aquifer profiling was done in May and June. Fish tissue sampling was completed in August 2024 and included Cold Spring Brook, Cold Spring Brook Pond, Grove Pond, Plow Shop Pond, Mirror Lake, Robbins Pond, and the Nashua River. Installation of several new overburden and bedrock monitoring wells began in June and continued through the summer.

The RI study is extensive across Area 1, with about 250 soil and groundwater samples collected from 65 different locations.

Working closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Army will use the new data to help better define the location and amounts of PFAS within Area 1. The results will also support future cleanup decisions, if needed.



Field crew preparing for fish tissue sampling at Mirror Lake.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to visit the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup Project website.

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

[FormerFortDevensRAB@arcadis.com](mailto:FormerFortDevensRAB@arcadis.com)



## NEW STUDIES TO VERIFY CLEANUP PERFORMANCE AT AOCs 69W, 57, AND 43G

Supplemental studies are underway at three AOCs on the Main Post. As stated in work plans approved in 2023, the purpose of these supplemental remedial investigations is to “confirm groundwater conditions and the current and future protectiveness” of the remedies put in place in the 1990s. Record of Decision cleanup plans were issued by USEPA at that time to address leaking underground storage tanks (USTs) from historical operations. Those remedies have been working as intended for more than 20 years, with progress reported to USEPA and DEP along the way (submitted in annual monitoring reports and performance reports called five-year reviews).

After these supplemental studies are completed this year, reports will be drafted to discuss the results and identify next steps, if any.

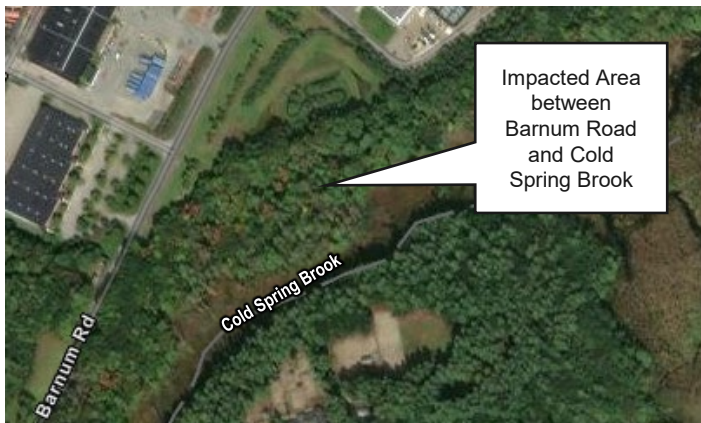
### AOC 69W – Confirm Cleanup of Heating Oil Spill in 1972 and 1978

The petroleum impacts at this location are from accidental releases of heating oil in 1972 and 1978 at the former Devens elementary school property. The interior of the school building was not impacted and remains safe to use. It is now home to the Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School on Antietam Street.

Remedial actions taken since that time include soil removal, an oil recovery system to help cleanup groundwater, and ongoing long-term monitoring and land use controls. Supplemental data being collected this year, which includes three new monitoring wells, will help confirm that the remedy is protective of public health.



### AOC 57 – Confirm Cleanup of Maintenance Yard Fuel Spill in 1977



AOC 57 is an area between Barnum Road and Cold Spring Brook, adjacent to what is now a manufacturing facility. A fuel spill occurred here in 1977, and the area was impacted by stormwater runoff from nearby vehicle maintenance and storage yards (active use of the yards ended in 1998).

Remedial actions taken since that time include soil removal, long-term monitoring, and land use controls. Supplemental data being collected this year includes samples from existing monitoring wells and surface water locations. Plus, two new monitoring wells were installed.

### AOC 43G – Cleanup of WWII-Era Gas Station

Historical Gas Station G fueled military vehicles during World War II and was one of 18 former gas stations at Fort Devens. After additional studies, the AOC was expanded to include the adjacent former Army Air Force Exchange Service location. The area is now used for parking, equipment storage, and a vehicle washing station.

Several USTs were removed in the 1990s. Based on location and a human health risk assessment, the selected remedy was monitored natural attenuation. The addition of three new monitoring wells and quarterly sampling of new and existing wells will help evaluate remedy effectiveness and current conditions.

