



Sustainable Landscaping Education

Action: Proactively educate residents and developers on sustainable landscaping best practices that minimize water and chemical use and maximize native species.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	Launch an educational campaign to residents, business owners, and developers in Devens and surrounding towns, on sustainable landscaping best practices that minimize water and chemical use and maximize native species and reduce invasive species.
CHAMPION	Devens Enterprise Commission

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS	PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS	
	Timeframe ¹	Key Partners
Establish a baseline assessment of residential and commercial landscaping at Devens and compile a list of sustainable landscape best practices and resources, as well as invasive species identification and management through interviews with experts in the field	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local landscaping companies Nurseries Devens Public Works Housing developments Northeast Organic Farming Association Ecological Landscape Alliance MassAudubon Nashua River Watershed Association Devens businesses Developers DEC Peer Review Landscape Architects and Engineers International Living Future Institute (Living Building and Living Community Challenge) Green Roofs for Healthy Cities Boston Society of Landscape Architects US Fish and Wildlife Service MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Host a series of public events with guest speakers who can speak to implementable design, installation, and maintenance principles for sustainable landscaping and invasive species management	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Public Works Experts listed above

¹ Short = less than 1 year; Medium = 1-3 years; Long = 4-5years

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING EDUCATION (CONT.)

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS	PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS	
	Timeframe	Key Partners
Expand upon the Devens Green Infrastructure Guidelines to develop sustainable landscape guidelines and invasive species management for residential and commercial projects	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nashua River Watershed Association • MassAudubon
Expand distribution of new and existing sustainable landscaping and invasive species resources through social media, hosting public landscaping work parties, tabling at existing events, and partnering with local businesses and organizations	Short/ Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local businesses • Schools • Neighboring communities • Housing developments • Developers • Public Works Departments • Nashua River Watershed Association • MassAudobon • US Fish and Wildlife Service • MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife • Friends of the Oxbow

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING EDUCATION (CONT.)

<p>FUNDING RESOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant • Toxic Use Reduction Institute Grants 	<p>TECHNICAL RESOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Society of Landscape Architects – Sustainable Landscapes • Sustainable SITES Initiative/ SITES rating system • Devens Green Infrastructure Guidelines • UMASS Extension, Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Program • DEC Peer Review Landscape Architects and Engineers • International Living Future Institute (Living Building and Living Community Challenge) • Green Roofs for Healthy Cities • MA DEP Stormwater Management Standards • Sustainable Concord Landscaping Handbook • EPA Water Sense Program (irrigation) • Invasive Plant Atlas of New England • Shifting Planting Zones (USDA Forest Service)
<p>LINKS TO OTHER PLANS & ACTIONS</p> <p>How does this action connect to other Devens goals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reuse Plan goal to maintain and enhance natural resources • Promotion of green infrastructure and street trees • Relevant STAR Objectives: Water Efficiency, Biodiversity & Invasive Species, Natural Resource Protection • Relevant LEED Credits: Green Spaces, Natural Resources Conservation and Restoration, Water Performance, Smart Water Systems 	<p>EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS</p> <p>How can the community incorporate equity into the implementation of this action?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure communications are reaching a diverse audience • Take affordability into account: “Sustainable landscapes on a budget”
<p>MEASURING SUCCESS</p> <p>How can we measure the progress and success of this action?</p> <p>Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive resource that combines and expands on Devens existing green infrastructure guidelines <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of native species planted • Maintained or improved water quality • Improved biodiversity and habitat health • Reduced chemical levels tested in soils • Reduced outdoor water use 	<p>ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY</p> <p>How can we engage the populations that benefit from implementing this action?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with housing developments and local businesses to host educational events and demonstrations • Roundtables through the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center • Collaborate with neighboring towns to reach a broader audience • Partner with Public Works to ensure these principles are being used on DEC-operated land and Department of Public Works networks in other towns • Partner with schools to include sustainable landscapes and invasive species as part of climate change and sustainability curriculum

