



Dear Property Owner or Current Resident:

It is important to remember that yard waste, such as leaves, grass clippings, brush and tree branches should not be disposed of in or adjacent to stream beds or wetlands. Even debris left on stream banks can be washed into the stream bed during heavy rains, blocking channels and pipes and leading to flooding. Leaves and yard waste thrown in catch basins and dumped along roadsides can block culverts and pipes causing severe flooding and damage to streets.



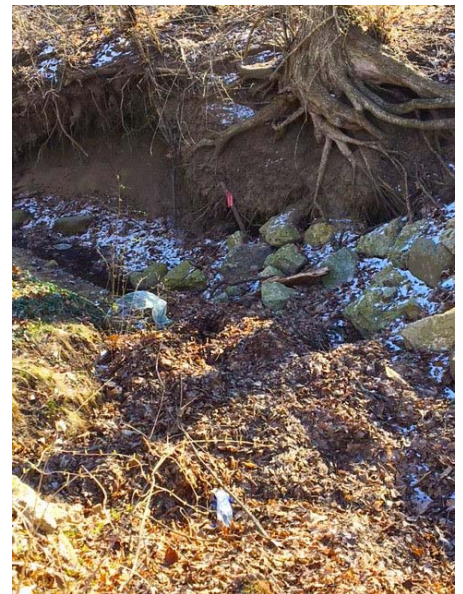
In addition to flooding problems, dumping yard waste into or adjacent to streams and wetlands also contributes to water quality degradation. As it decomposes, yard waste can release excessive amounts of nutrients that can seep into and deprive streams of oxygen needed for aquatic life. Fertilizers in grass clippings can cause algal blooms in streams and ponds. Yard waste dumped along stream

embankments can also provide refuge for rodents and stifle plant growth whose roots protect the stream bank from erosion.

If you are planning any vegetation removal, digging or construction activity within 100 feet of a pond, stream, or possible wetland area you should contact the Devens Enterprise Commission at (978) 772-8831 to determine if the activity is regulated.

If you observe dumping of yard waste or any other materials in storm drains, in wetlands or along streams, please call the Devens Department of Public Works at (978) 772-1864 or the Devens Enterprise Commission at (978) 772-8831.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep the Devens environment clean and healthy.



Devens Engineering Department

Devens Department of Public Works

Devens Enterprise Commission



Devens Yard Waste Disposal and Composting

CURBSIDE PICK-UP

- Beginning the first Monday in April through November 30, the DPW will pick up yard waste in residential areas every Monday morning. In the event a holiday lands on a Monday curbside pickup will be the following Tuesday.
- Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, and tree limbs.
- Yard waste must be placed at the curb in the front of the house with no trash or sand mixed in.
- Leaves and grass clippings must be packaged in biodegradable paper bags.
- Branches and limbs should be cut into lengths of not more than 4 feet and bundled together.

Christmas trees will be picked up the first two Mondays in January.

COMPOSTING AT HOME

It's easy to compost yard waste and food scraps on your own and the Devens Department of Public Works makes it easier by offering rodent-resistant low-cost home composting bins. DPW has a limited supply available at 99 Buena Vista St. in Devens on a first come first serve basis.

To purchase one, please contact:

Melissa Ouellette
(978) 772-1864
mouellette@massdevelopment.com.

Additional information and details on how to compost can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/devenscomposting>

Recycling and Hazardous Waste Disposal Information

Devens Department of Public Works at 99 Buena Vista Street provides a recycling drop off area and also hosts The Devens Regional Household Hazardous Products Collection Center for residents and small commercial businesses in Devens and the surrounding region.

Complete details are available on-line at:

<https://tinyurl.com/devensrecycling>

or by calling Devens Public Works at (978)772-1864.

For more information on these and other topics to help protect and preserve the waters of the Commonwealth refer to <https://www.thinkbluemassachusetts.org/for-residents>