



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 flooding events.

In addition to flooding problems, dumping yard waste into streams also contributes to water quality degradation. As it decomposes in a stream, yard waste can generate excessive amounts of harmful nutrients that can deprive the stream of oxygen needed by aquatic life. Yard waste dumped along stream embankments can also stifle plant growth whose roots protect the stream bank from erosion.

If you are planning any activity within 100 feet of a pond, stream or possible wetland area you should contact the Devens Enterprise Commission to determine if the activity is regulated.

### **Yard Waste Disposal**

Beginning the first Monday in April through November 30, the DPW will pick up yard waste in residential areas every Monday morning. 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.

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

### **Recycling and Composting Information**

Items may be brought to 99 Buena Vista Street for recycling. (Refer to the Devens Community website for details on the Devens recycling program)

It's easy to compost and the Devens Department of Public Works makes it easier by offering rodent-resistant home composting bins for \$25 (cash, credit, or check). 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 at (978) 772-1864 or [mouellette@massdevelopment.com](mailto:mouellette@massdevelopment.com).

If you observe dumping of yard waste in 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 with this important matter.

Devens Department of Public Works