

In fall of 2011, a public hearing was held, the Devens Enterprise Commission (www.devensec.com) granted a Unified Permit to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to build a "Visitor Contact Station" at the Oxbow Wildlife Refuge on Hospital Road, Devens, MA. The architectural company hired to develop the design was Oak Point Associates, and the general construction contract was awarded to the Nadeau Corporation. Additionally, the Service received a Public Lands Highway Discretionary grant to expand the visitor opportunities and access to this section of the refuge. We utilized designs developed by Oak Point Associates to continue into a Phase II of construction.

The current status of the Hospital Road visitor contact station and Nashua River access: Work is still continuing at this site on the Oxbow NWR. Refuge staff are working with contractors and MassDevelopment in the river access area to install guardrails along the parking lot, improve drainage, and install an accessible dock. The upper parking area will be opened this summer once a cleaning contract is issued for the restrooms and regulatory signage is installed. We will provide updates as progress occurs via the refuge website. In the meantime, we ask people to please be patient and stay out of the project sites until it is officially opened by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

The Friends of the Oxbow NWR have been working on establishing new trail connections west of Jackson Road. A big thank you to our Friends Group on all their hard work on preparing these trails.

If you have any questions about this project please contact Susan J. Russo at 978.443.4661 x34 or Susan_J_Russo@fws.gov