

Aggregate Resource Mapping Program Aggregate Availability









Three factors affect the local availability of construction aggregates

- 1. **DEMAND:** Consumption of aggregate
- 2. SUPPLY: Natural distribution of aggregate resources

3. LAND-USE CONFLICTS:

- Encroachment around existing gravel mining areas
- Development on top of future aggregate resources
- Difficulty of permitting new mines
- Competing land uses such as perpetual conservation easements



DEMAND People use resources in everyday life



Source: Minerals Information Institute, 2006; www.mii.org



Concrete is used to build.....





Asphalt is used for.....









Long-term pattern of aggregate use in MN

25% Roads

DEMAND

(building and maintaining 134,000 miles of public roads and bridges)

25% Public Works

(i.e. sewer/water systems and other infrastructure)

25% Private Residential Construction

25% Commercial Construction

Approximately 50% of aggregate is consumed with public tax dollars

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DEMAND 2009 Market conditions of aggregate use in MN

- 1. Reduced demand for aggregate within the housing and commercial markets
- 2. Expected increased demand of aggregate for publicly funded projects



DEMAND Influences on future demand of aggregates





SUPPLY Geology and Aggregate

Sand and gravel



Aggregate occurs where nature placed it, not where people need it.*

* Langer, W.H, and Glanzman, V.M, 1993, Natural Aggregate, Building America's Future, U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1110

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SUPPLY State distribution of aggregate



- This map is a very generalized assessment of the quantity and quality of aggregate resources across the state
- Minnesota's geologic past has created an unevenly distribution of aggregate throughout the state
- The quality of aggregate resources varies across the state
- Some areas have adequate supply of construction aggregate while other areas have natural scarcities



Not all sand and gravel deposits meet the specifications for road and bridge construction

- Sand and gravel deposits contain different types of rock
- The abundance of deleterious rock types can weaken and shorten the life span of roads







- Supply of aggregate near populated areas can be limited due land use conflicts
 - STERILIZATION: building over a deposits as cities grow into rural areas
 - ENCROACHMENT: building near existing quarries and gravel pits
 - DEPLETION: extracting the resource in existing mines at a higher rate



SUPPLY and DEMAND Transportation



On average, for every 10 to 14 miles of haul distance the cost of aggregate doubles in price

- Aggregate is high bulk, low-value commodities (one ton of aggregate cost around 10 dollars)
- Transportation accounts for a considerable amount of the delivered price
- Finding and accessing aggregate close to the market reduces the cost of publicly and privately funded construction projects



SUPPLY and DEMAND Availability



Having a local supply of aggregate is an important sustainability issue for maintaining and developing communities of all sizes