

# Sand & Gravel and Crushed Stone Potential YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY, MN

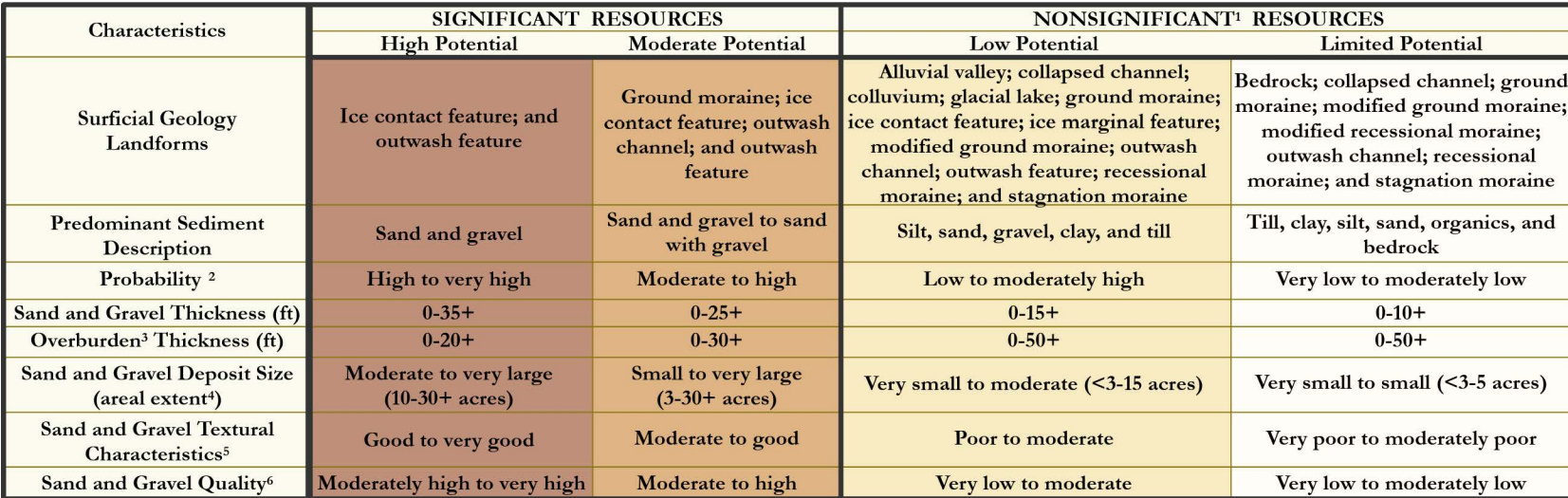


**ENVIRONMENT  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
TRUST FUND**

The purpose of this project is to identify and classify potential construction aggregate resources—such as sand, gravel, and crushed stone—in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota. This map was produced in accordance with the Minnesota Statute Section 84.94, which directs the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in cooperation with the Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), to provide information to local governments to help plan for and protect future aggregate supplies.

Aggregate materials are high-bulk, low-value commodities, meaning transportation costs account for a considerable amount of the delivered price. Lower construction costs for both public and private projects can be achieved by accessing local aggregate supplies. In addition to transportation costs, land use conflicts can affect the availability, usability, and supply of aggregate. Cities expanding into adjacent rural areas, aggregate resource deposits being covered by new developments, zoning restrictions, and land use designations that exclude aggregate mining are becoming more common across the state. As demand continues for the construction of roads and bridges require higher quality aggregate, which may be available only in limited and specific areas. As demand continues to rise near economic centers, permitted sources continue to be depleted. This leads to longer hauling distances, reduced availability, and ultimately, higher costs for both consumers and taxpayers.

**Data Gathering:** To obtain a basic understanding of the regional geology, literature reviews and data searches were conducted. The information collected included, but was not limited to, aerial photographs, topographic maps, digital elevation models (Figure 1), shaded relief maps, subsurface data, gravel pit and quarry data, existing surficial and bedrock geology maps, published papers and reports, and land use data. Several background datasets—such as roads, railroads, Public Land Survey (PLS), township, range, and section boundaries were also used to support the mapping process.



*Location of  
Yellow Medicine  
County  
Grants*

**NonSignificant:** Aggregate resources that do not meet the criteria for high or moderate aggregate potential according to the characteristics listed in Table 1. This is a relative classification that changes from one mapping region to another.

**Potential:** The degree of certainty that aggregate exists within a map unit largely defined by the amount of available information. Many gravel pits verify the certainty for many map units classified as high potential.

**Overburden:** The material that lies above the sand and gravel that must be removed to access a deposit.

**Local Extent:** The size, horizontal extent, or distribution of a unit (e.g., near a river). This attribute describes the size of a deposit found within a given polygon.

**Textural Characteristics:** Particle size distribution, defined as the percentage of gravel or sand vs. silt or clay (e.g., sieve analysis).

**Quality:** The physical characteristics of the material, such as soundness (e.g., magnesium sulfate test), durability (L. A. Rattler test), and percent of deleterious rock types such as iron oxides, disintegrating rock, or unsound chert. Field observations supplement historic data.

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The digital elevation model (DEM) of Yellow Medicine County displays the general slope from the high-elevation Coteau Des Prairies (A) in the west to the lower-elevation Minnesota River Valley (B) in the east. The general flow direction of the Des Moines Lobe is toward the southeast. A shear zone developed at the base of the Coteau. This marks the approximate threshold where ice flow began ascending the upland surface. The blue arrows represent general ice flow and the dotted blue line represents the approximate shear zone placement.

**SIGNIFICANT CRUSHED STONE POTENTIAL:** Includes high and moderate potential map units. The following bedrock lithologic types are interpreted to have significant potential for crushed stone: granite and granitic gneiss. These bedrock types generally have physical characteristics suitable for producing Class A aggregates, inferred to be thick (greater than 100 feet), and covered by less than 25 feet of overburden. Most of the quarries located within the county are active or inactive dimension-stone or crushed-stone projects. Dimension-stone quarries are located within rock types that are also suitable for crushed stone aggregate and, for the purpose of this project, are considered as identified crushed-stone resources.

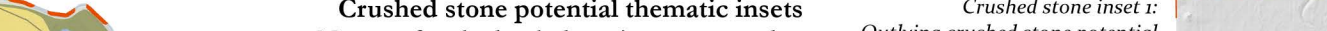
**NONSIGNIFICANT CRUSHED STONE POTENTIAL:** Includes low and limited potential map units. Nonsignificant is a term used in this assessment to define mapped areas that contain any of the following conditions: lower quality bedrock units, high quality bedrock units with thick overburden (>25 feet), or areas where higher potential may exist but cannot be verified due to a lack of substantiating data which facilitate a lower probability rating. Lower quality bedrock units include gneiss and schist. These rock types do not have physical characteristics suitable for producing Class A aggregates. No quarries exist within these rock types.

*Depth to Bedrock and Overburden:* For the purpose of aggregate resource mapping, depth to bedrock is defined as the depth to competent—unweathered and solid—bedrock. Weathered bedrock and associated kaolin clay are considered part of the overburden and are excluded from the mapped aggregate thickness.

- High Crushed-Stone Potential: Includes granite and/or granitic gneiss, exposed at the land surface or buried by less than 10 feet of overburden.
- Moderate Crushed-Stone Potential: Includes granite and/or granitic gneiss buried beneath 10 to 25 feet of overburden.
- Low Crushed-Stone Potential: Includes granite and/or granitic gneiss buried by 25 to 50 feet of overburden or gneiss and/or schist buried by 0 to 15 feet of overburden. Low potential also includes areas with little supporting data to substantiate a higher potential classification.

**Crushed stone potential thematic insets**  
Near-surface bedrock deposits are mapped at 1:100,000 scale. Areas of resource potential are shown on the Minnesota River Valley breakout map below, along with three outlying locations depicted individually at varying scales, right.

*Crushed stone inset 1:  
Outlying crushed stone potential  
Omro Township  
Twp. 84.5R  
124,000*



Crushed stone inset 2:

Posen Township  
T113 R30 S29  
1:100,000

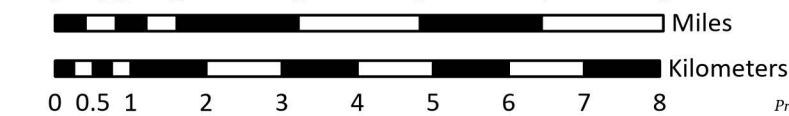
Crushed stone inset:  
Outlying crushed stone potential  
Echo Township

0 0.5 1      2      3      4

## County of ...

Aggregate Potential maps are based on a 1:50,000 scale MN DNR resource assessment

0   0.5   1   2   3   4   5



Anderson, H.E., 2003, Aggregate Resources, Sand and Gravel Resources, Renville County, Minnesota. Report 363, Plate A. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands and Minerals, Scale 1:100,000 with digital data. [https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/lands/minors/er\\_plateA.pdf](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/lands/minors/er_plateA.pdf)

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