



MANAGEMENT OF ABANDONED AGGREGATE PROPERTIES (MAAP) PROGRAM

Each year, MAAP makes the grass a little greener...the slopes a little safer...the wetlands a little wetter...the wildlife a little warmer...and even gives the cows something to chew on!



The MAAP Program undertakes the rehabilitation and research of pits and quarries that were abandoned prior to January 1, 1990.

Over \$2.5 million has been spent to date on rehabilitation since the program's inception in 1990 and over 200 hectares of land have been rehabilitated to viable agricultural land, natural areas, and recreational space.

MAAP Goals

- Rehabilitate abandoned pits and quarries in areas designated under the *Aggregate Resources Act* in Ontario
- Encourage and support the development of research pertaining to the rehabilitation of abandoned aggregate properties in Ontario
- Evaluate the completed rehabilitation projects

MAAP Objectives

- Rehabilitate abandoned pits and quarries using a variety of reclamation methods and techniques
- Document and evaluate rehabilitation techniques
- Manage research pertaining to pit and quarry rehabilitation
- Encourage partnership development in projects directed by MAAP

MAAP is funded by the aggregate industry through a portion of the annual 11.5-cent per tonne licence levy (up from 6 cents/tonne beginning January 1, 2007), as prescribed in the regulations of the *Aggregate Resources Act*.

The program which was formerly administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources was transferred to the Aggregate Resources Trust when it was created in 1997.

The Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation administers the program.

Rehabilitation to Natural Areas

Approximately one-third to one-half of all abandoned pits and quarries in Ontario are rehabilitating naturally on their own. In these cases, nature is doing a wonderful job revegetating the landscape; however, in some cases nature needs a helping hand.

Each individual site is examined to see what type of rehabilitation may be required. Often the projects simply require leveling and seeding



MAAP transforms abandoned pits and quarries to ecologically productive natural areas

to create an end-use compatible with the surrounding landscape. Other projects require special consideration beyond the physical constraints of a site. When looking at the ecological values, it is a goal of MAAP's work to fit the project into its surroundings.

In Hamilton, for example, MAAP tailored the work on a site to help achieve an oak savanna plant community because of the site's unique ecological values.

Rehabilitation to Agricultural Areas

The vast majority of abandoned pits and quarries in Ontario are found in agricultural areas. While some landowners make use of these abandoned sites to store farm equipment, hay, and even keep beehives, many owners are interested in rehabilitating the land to a more productive use such as pasture or cropland. In the end, the property is safer and is more productive.

Rehabilitation to Recreational Areas

Since the inception of the Abandoned Pit & Quarry Rehabilitation Fund in 1990 over 13 hectares of land have been rehabilitated to recreational areas such as Kerncliff Park in the City of Burlington.

Working with local community groups and politicians, MAAP rehabilitation efforts have helped convert abandoned aggregate pits and quarries to baseball diamonds, soccer fields, track and field facilities, as well as public parks and outdoor educational space.



Site project prior to agricultural rehabilitation



Spreading topsoil on a newly graded pit face



Land is ready for seeding



The completed project is green and productive

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Research Projects

Currently MAAP is undertaking projects at various sites in Ontario to determine the role of aquatic habitat in shaping fish communities and to identify effective options for rehabilitating sites with fisheries potential.

The research involves monitoring the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of aggregate ponds. The process begins with the placement of brush bundles, usually white pine and maple, around the shoreline. These bundles aid in the development of aquatic vegetation, provide food and shelter for fish, and provide a suitable surface for fish to lay their eggs on during spawning.

COMMITTED TO THE REHABILITATION, RESEARCH, AND MONITORING OF ABANDONED AGGREGATE PROPERTIES

The intent of MAAP is to address the environmental, safety, and aesthetic concerns associated with abandoned aggregate pits and quarries by rehabilitating the land to an end-use compatible with the surrounding landscape.

To date, hundreds of hectares have been rehabilitated to viable agricultural land, natural areas and recreational space.



Trees are salvaged from the site to build the shoreline



Habitat enhancement being put into place



For more information, contact:

Management of Abandoned
Aggregate Properties (MAAP)
1001 Champlain Avenue, Suite 103
Burlington, ON L7L 5Z4
Tel: (519) 319-1968 Fax: (519) 319-2467
www.toarc.com

The "About Aggregates" series:

1. Aggregates and the Law
2. Bronze Plaque Award
3. Rehabilitation of Pits and Quarries
4. Being a Good Neighbour
5. Importance of Aggregates
6. Geology and Aggregate Extraction
7. Controlled Blasting at Quarries
8. Water Management in the Aggregate Industry
9. Management of Abandoned Aggregate

About Aggregates #9



Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
365 Brunel Road, Unit 2
Mississauga, ON L4Z 1Z5
Tel: (905) 507-0711 Fax: (905) 507-0717
www.ossga.com
www.theholestory.ca