



## Bringing New Life to Old Places

### Managing Ontario's Abandoned Aggregate Properties (MAAP)

Turning abandoned aggregate sites across the province into productive landscapes is an important task being driven by the Ontario aggregates industry, through the MAAP program. Long before rehabilitation was required, many pits and quarries were simply abandoned once the aggregate resources had been depleted. The main objective when rehabilitating abandoned pits and quarries is to make them safer, more productive and more aesthetically appealing. Rehabilitation therefore can mean a variety of things, from creating productive agricultural land, community recreational facilities or natural areas with habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic species. This is all done at no charge to the landowner.

### Rehabilitation Today

Aggregate extraction is considered an interim land use. The land that contains a pit or quarry has had a long history prior to extraction, and will have a long history once the site is rehabilitated. Operational sites now undergo a process called **progressive rehabilitation**. This means that rehabilitation begins not after a pit or quarry has been depleted of aggregate, but while extraction is still taking place. Soil material removed from an area being prepared for extraction is placed directly onto the area being rehabilitated. The rehabilitated area is then seeded and planted with seedlings of native trees and shrubs.

### Restoring the Landscape

New landforms are created, soils are replaced and vegetation is established.

### Before





### **After**

The former pit area now blends in nicely with the rolling landscape that is predominant in that area.



### **Tour an Aggregate Site with your Students!**

Dig into the importance of sand, gravel and stone with a visit to an operational or rehabilitated aggregate site. The Aggregate Producers Association of Ontario can assist in organizing a visit to a pit or quarry in your region.

For more information contact:

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