

Chapter 8

Mining and Mineral Resources

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RESOURCE HISTORY

As with many rural areas, the Oneida Nation contains a diverse array of active and inactive quarries and pits. These mining operations have been established to extract nonmetallic construction materials such as gravel, sand, clay, topsoil, and other fill materials. Several inactive mines have been converted into ponds. One former mine is the site for a large scale Oneida fishery restoration project.

Exploitation of nonmetallic mineral resources on the Reservation was largely initiated during the time lands were in non-tribal ownership. A number of these gravel pits were largely mined out (no longer economically viable) when purchased by the Tribe. Active mining still occurs on the Reservation in areas where substantial reserves of non-metallic material remain. Because of the way the laws are written, mining companies are not forced to rehabilitate their pits until over 90% of the material has been removed. Oneida has been able to purchase areas used for surface mining relatively inexpensively because most of the minerals had been extracted. The Tribe has passed a Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance to deal with surface mining on the Reservation. Rehabilitation of closed and active sites is a priority as it relates to public safety and land use.



RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

Following is a list of quarries and borrow pits on the Oneida Reservation:

Table 8.1 Quarries and Borrow Pits

Parks Name	Location	Statuses	Description	Size
1. Daanen & Janssen Quarry	Cty. Hwy. EE	Active	Extract gravel and clay fill	Approximately 65 acres; more than 100 ft. deep at deepest point
2. Gersek Pit	Pearl St.	Active	Extracts gravel breaker run and clay fill	Approximately 20 acres and a maximum depth of 50 ft.
3. Nelson Pit	Cty. Y near Pearl St.	Active	Extracts gravel and fill material	Approximately 30 acres and a maximum depth of 25 ft.
4. Former MRK Pit	South end of Van Boxtel Rd.	Inactive	Backfill activities had been noted and addressed previously, especially regarding concerns due to proximity to Oneida Creek.	Approximately 3 acres with a maximum depth of 15 ft.
5. Quarry Park	Cty. Hwy. J and N. Overland Dr.	Reclaimed by Oneida Nation for fishing pond.	Fishing pond	Roughly 5 acres with a maximum depth of 12 ft.
6. Vine Rd.	Vine Rd. and Ranch Rd.	Former stone extraction, converted to pond	Pond	24 acres, depth unknown
7. Tip Rd. Pit	Tip Rd. and Wolf Dr.	Inactive – Backfilled	Former gravel mine	23 acres with a maximum depth of 15 ft.



Gersek Pit, Florist Dr. and S. Pine Tree Rd.

Table 8.1 Quarries and Borrow Pits

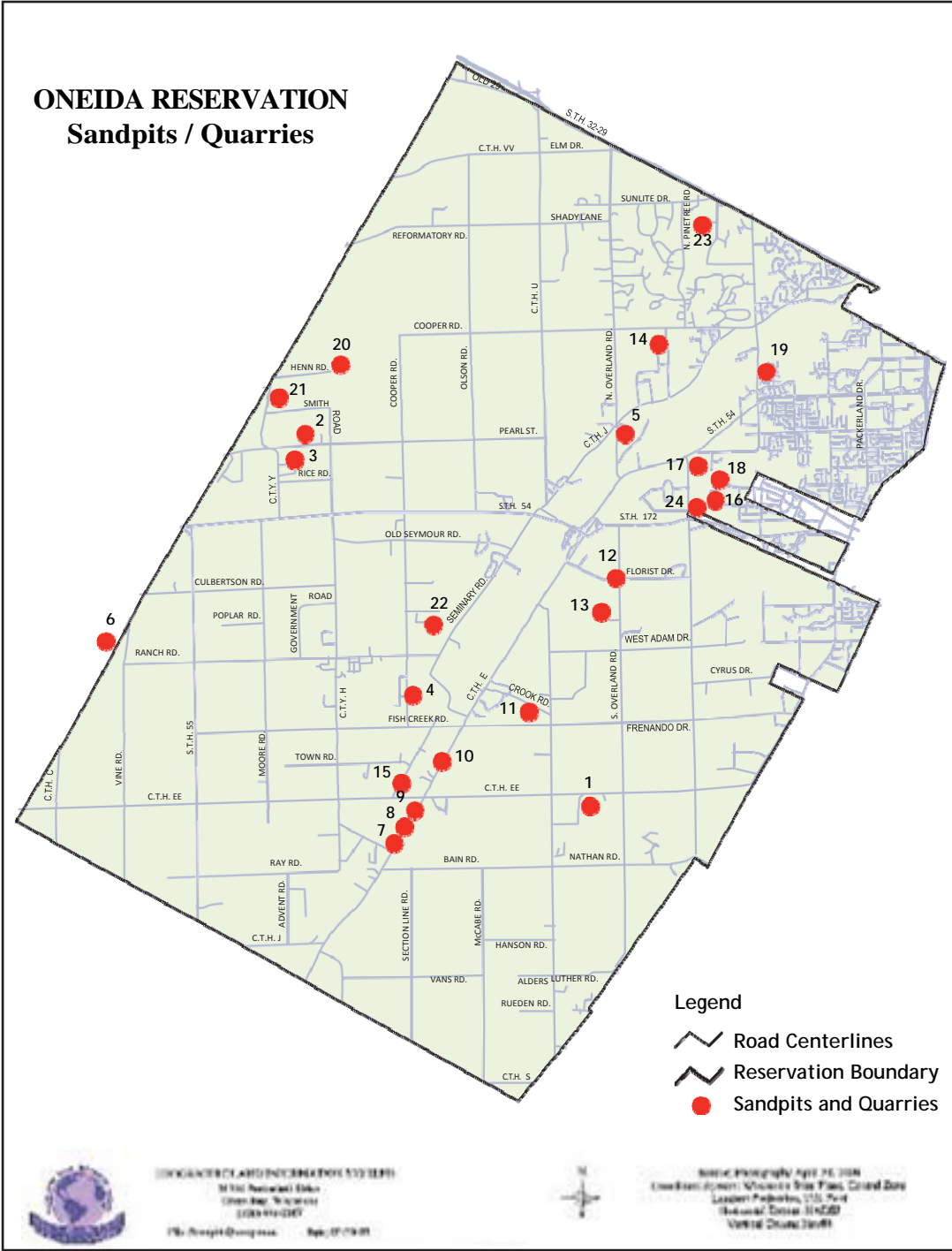
Parks Name	Location	Statuses	Description	Size
8. Swinkle Pit	Freedom Rd.	Active	Sand pit	Approximately 35 acres with a maximum depth of 25 ft.
9. Van's Valley Pit	Freedom Rd.	Inactive – It is partially backfilled with debris and concrete and may be a source of groundwater contamination for Duck Creek.	Formerly extracted sand and clay	Roughly 1 acre with a maximum depth of 10 ft.
10. Chester Smith Pit	Freedom Rd.	Active – Intermittently	Sand extraction	Roughly 6 acres with a maximum depth of 15 ft.
11. Former Valley Excavating Pit	Cty. Hwy. U	Active – Intermittently, owned by Oneida	Topsoil, sand, and clay	Roughly 30 acres with a maximum depth of 30 ft.
12. Dream Lake	Florist Dr.	Inactive – Converted to small lake	Former sand pit converted to small lake with residential lots	8½ acres with a maximum depth of 14 ft.
13. Gersek Pit (Former Hendricks Pit)	Florist Dr. and S. Pine Tree Dr.	Active	Sand and clay. Being planned for pond with residential lots	7 acres with a maximum depth of 15 ft.
14. Nelson Pit	Trout Creek Rd.	Active	Sand	Roughly 5–10 acres with unknown depth
15. Lambie Rd. Pit	Lambie Rd.	Inactive – Currently filling with water	Sand and gravel	3 acres with a maximum depth of 20 ft.



Table 8.1 Quarries and Borrow Pits

Parks Name	Location	Statuses	Description	Size
16. Jonas Circle Pit	Jonas Circle	Inactive – Owned by Oneida	Former sand pit now a neighborhood park.	Previously 20 acres with a maximum depth of 10 ft.
17. Hwy. 54 Pit	SE corner of Hwy. 54 and Pine Tree Rd.	Inactive – Backfilled	Sand	Previously 9 acres with a maximum depth of 10 ft.
18. Unnamed Pit	Haven Rd.	Inactive – Backfilled	Sand	Unknown
19. Hwy. 54 and Hillcrest Dr.	Hwy. 54 and Hillcrest Dr.	Inactive – Backfilled, owned by Oneida	Sand	Not determined
20. Henn Rd. Pit	Henn Rd.	Currently permitting	Planned for sand and gravel excavation	Not determined
21. Smith Rd. Pit	Smith Rd.	Inactive – Owned by Oneida	Former sand pit. Partially filled and functioning as wildlife pond.	3 acre with a maximum depth of 8 ft.
22. Van Boxtel Pit	Mullen Rd.	Inactive – Backfilled for residential lots	Sand and clay pit	Unknown
23. Katers Pit	N. Pine Tree Rd.	Inactive – Owned by Oneida, part of Thornberry Creek Golf Course	Former sand pit	Roughly 6 acres
24. Braun Pit	S. Pine Tree Rd. and Edgar Dr.	Active	Historically sand and clay; currently used for crushing concrete and making compost.	14 acres with a maximum depth of 10 ft.

Figure 8.1 24 Sandpits and Quarries Location on The Oneida Reservation



COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS & FEEDBACK

None documented.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



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- Reclaim old mine sites in order to address any continuing contamination concerns.
- Reclaim old sites for wildlife restoration projects and/or create recreational opportunities for the adjacent community.
- Purchase existing mines as needed to provide Oneida with a ready supply of fill materials.

BENEFITS ASSESSMENT

Environmental

- Site reclamations will provide for environmental protection into the future.

Social

- Provide recreational opportunities when feasible via site reclamation.

Economic

- Available fill materials for development and restoration projects on the Oneida Nation.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Continue to monitor opportunities and issues surrounding mineral management on the Oneida Reservation. Insure compliance with the Oneida Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance for mine operation and rehabilitation when dealing with all sites. Prioritize mining sites based on any public safety or land use concerns for future management actions.

