



Community Land & Water Coalition

www.communitylandandwater.org

Sand Mining:

Defending People & the Environment

United Nations: Global Sand Observatory Institute



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Global Sand Observatory Initiative

The Global Sand Observatory is a new concept proposal which follows consultations with countries aiming for the future creation of a knowledge hub on sand for supporting decision making on the sustainability issue of sand extraction and use.

Sand resource governance is one of the greatest sustainability challenges of the 21st century.

Sand, gravels and aggregates are the second most-exploited natural resources in the world after water. The use of these materials has tripled over the last two decades reaching between 40-50 billion metric tons/year. This trend is expected to continue as demand is still growing due to urbanisation, population growth and infrastructure development trends. It is increasingly difficult to source sand and gravel close to urban and industrial centres because of access issues, social acceptance and other factors. As a result, extraction locations are shifting to more fragile environments such as rivers, coastlines, and oceans - which coupled with the increased demand - is severely impacting these ecosystems. Practices like these are happening all over the world causing environmental and social sustainability problems on both a local and global scale.

A number of international organisations, governments, journalists, civil society groups, research centres and companies around the world have been placing this previously unaddressed topic on the environmental political agenda in recent years. As a result, there is a growing call for improved sustainability practices in sand extraction within major use sectors, such as cement production, construction and land reclamation.

Progress on this agenda cannot be secured without some basic reliable data and statistics on where, how and for what purpose sand and gravel is being extracted. Advancing this fundamental knowledge is our main focus in the first phase of the Global Sand Observatory initiative.

“Sand resource governance is one of the greatest sustainability challenges of the 21st century.”

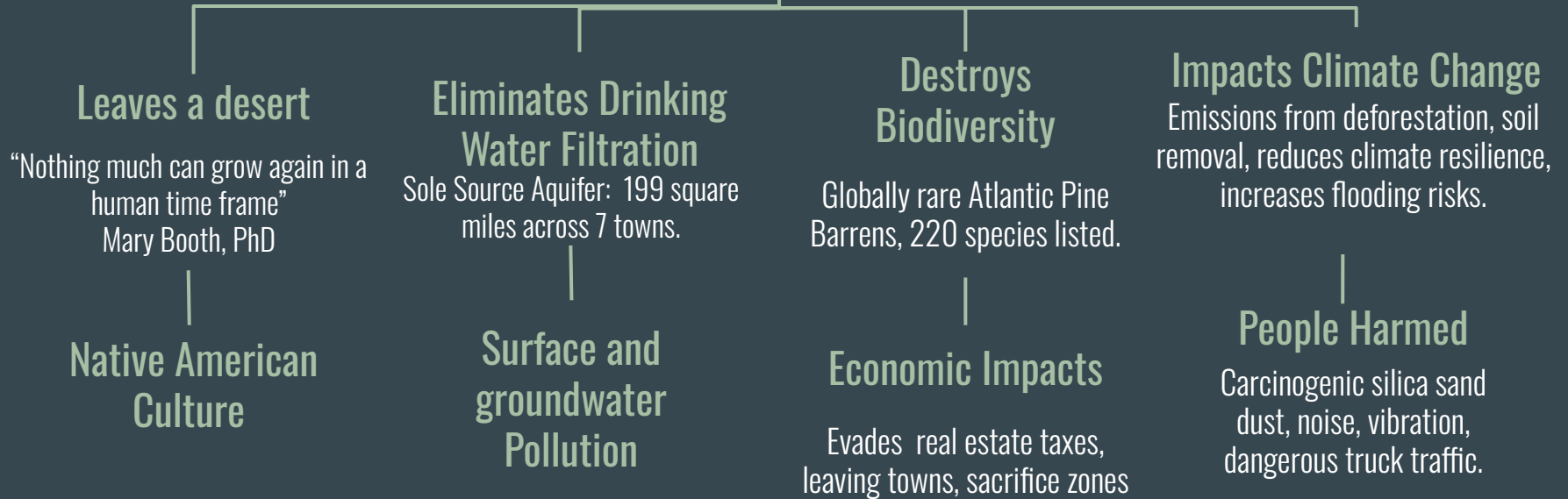


Sand Wars In Cranberry Country

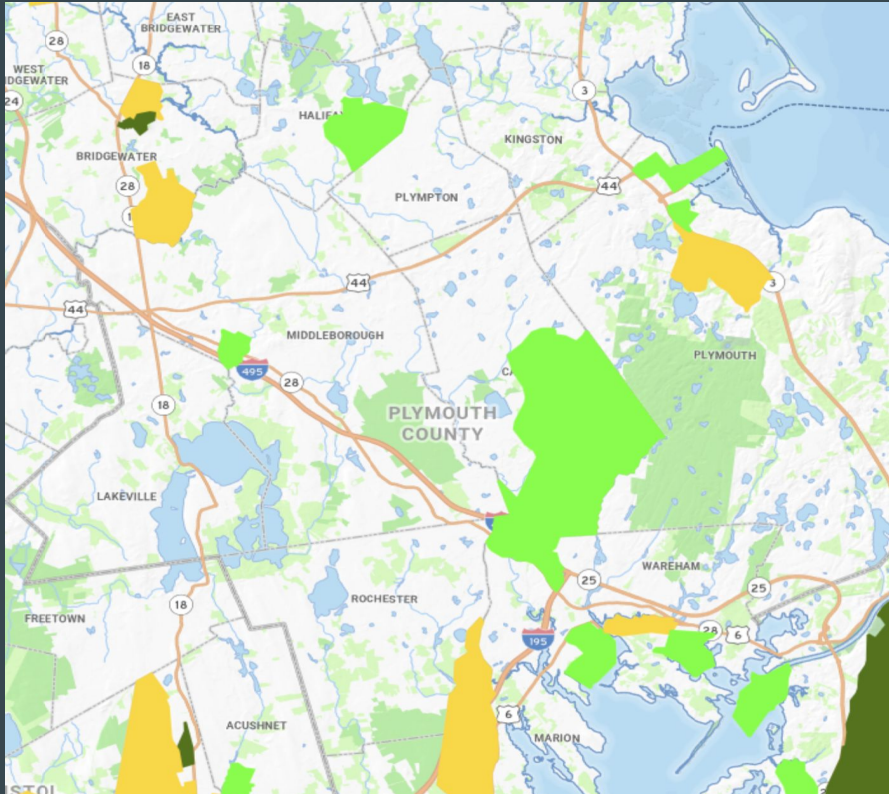
An investigation into the money, politics and corruption
behind sand mining and the silent environmental crisis in
Southeastern Massachusetts, USA.



Exposing The Hidden Costs & Harms of Sand Mining

Takes away the land: levels hills, removes forests, topsoil, entire ecosystems










Environmental Justice



  [Census 2020 Environmental Justice Populations](#)

Layer from map

-  Minority
-  Income
-  English Isolation
-  Minority and Income
-  Minority and English Isolation
-  Income and English Isolation
-  Minority, Income and English Isolation

NO

- Environmental impact study
- Archaeological assessment
- Air pollution control
- Protection from excessive noise and vibration
- Safety precautions from truck traffic
- Consideration climate impacts



Carver SLT Spring Street Pit Massive Deforestation in Just a Week

“NO PROBLEM”

Governor Healey

-August 2023, August 2024

Why no action by:

MassDEP

MassWildlife

Mass Historical Commission (archeology)

Mass Dept. of Agriculture

DCR

MEPA

An aerial photograph of a large sand quarry. The quarry is filled with numerous large, conical piles of sand and gravel, some of which are being processed by machinery. A multi-lane highway runs horizontally across the upper portion of the image, with several cars visible. In the background, there are trees and some industrial buildings. The foreground is dominated by a dense forest of evergreen trees.

Connect The Dots

Supply Chain — where does the sand come from?



Industrial sand mine, Franklin Marsh Cranberry, Plymouth/Carver, 2023

Sand for...“Green
roofs”
golf courses, beach
“nourishment” and
armoring....& more

AD Makepeace Cranberry Co./Read Custom Soils LLC,
Route 495,
July 2024





Plymouth Beach Sand Project: A Folly?

Jul 3, 2024 | Aaron Keaton | AD Makepeace

Plymouth's \$2.9 million beach nourishment project uses sand mined through the destruction of Carver's forests and leveling of hills



**Example 1: Plymouth MA
\$2.9 million “beach nourishment” project, 2023**

Example 2: Salisbury MA

\$600,000 beach plan ...+ \$2 million more coming

After \$600,000 of sand washed away in days, a new plan arises for Salisbury Beach: Add more sand

By [Ava Berger](#) Globe Correspondent, Updated May 17, 2024, 4:33 p.m.



Salisbury to spend nearly \$2 million on sand



TRAVEL

State comes through with \$2 million for erosion repairs at Salisbury Beach

The one-time expenditure will help place roughly 30,000 tons of sand along the dunes starting in September.



Erosion is visible on Salisbury Beach in this photo from March. *Suzanne Kreiter/Globe staff*

Plymouth: Just say NO to proposed sand mine on Cedarville Conservation Area

Aug 26, 2024 | CLwpBS |

*Region's major sand mining operator, **EJ Pontiff proposes 33 acre mine to level one of the last remaining hills in Cedarville area of south Plymouth***

*Plymouth Foundation, **an IRS 501(c)(3)** runs sand and gravel mine on Hedge's Pond Road, now involved in sale of land to Pontiff for mining*

Another
proposed mine
in Plymouth:
Corruption?

Blog post:
communitylandandwater.org

In The Press: August 20, 2024

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NEWS

Sand, gravel mining in southeastern MA draws activists. Report points to cranberry growers


Alison Kuznitz State House News Service
Published 5:05 a.m. ET Aug. 23, 2024 | Updated 5:05 a.m. ET Aug. 23, 2024

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BOSTON – Activists seeking a moratorium on sand and gravel mining operations in southeastern Massachusetts delivered a [petition](#) to Beacon Hill leaders Tuesday demanding action from Gov. Maura Healey and state environmental protection officials.

The [Community Land and Water Coalition](#), in Plymouth, which says its mission is to protect the land and waters of southeastern Massachusetts, says widespread mining has harmed local ecosystems, drinking water sources and public health. Meanwhile, state officials say they have not identified any violations in their review of the issue.

SHNS
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE




Environment

Activists Draw Attention To Southeastern Mass. Sand Mining

Alison Kuznitz 4 hrs ago

The Community Land and Water Coalition, which says its mission is to protect the land and waters of southeastern Massachusetts, says widespread sand mining has negatively impacted local ecosystems, drinking water sources and public health. Meanwhile, state officials say they have not identified any violations in their review of the issue.



Plymouth, MA, June 2022. AD Makepeace Cranberry Co. 130-acre mine underway.

Globally rare Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens forest, Sole Source Aquifer.

Take Action

[Sign Petition for Moratorium on Sand Mining](#)

Join, Subscribe to Newsletter, Donate:
www.communitylandandwater.org

Thank You!

Questions or comments? Get in touch!

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communitylandandwater.org

SandWars.org



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@landwaterplymoutharea



@savepinebarrens



Save the Pine Barrens Southeastern Massachusetts