FIELD GUIDE

Landscape Feature Classification Guide

A Word reference derived from the “LANDSCAPE features” slide deck

PURPOSE	Quickly identify and distinguish the landscape surface and ground-cover classes shown in the source deck.
COVERAGE	11 feature classes across surface classification and ground-cover types.
SOURCE DATE	Source deck reviewed 3 October 2026; the original deck is view-only in the connected session.

Source presentation: LANDSCAPE features — Google Slides

This guide reorganizes the slide text for reading and retains representative slide images. The source deck remains unchanged.

CLASSIFICATION SET

SURFACE · Unpaved · Asphalt · Concrete · Gravel

GROUND COVER · OSD · Mulch bed · Hedge · Tree ring · Wild grass · Exposed bedrock · Compacted surface

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- At-a-glance reference
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How to use this guide

Start with the at-a-glance table, then compare the feature definition and visual example. The source deck contains extra example slides; selected additional images are reproduced in Appendix A. Where a source note is context-specific or ambiguous, it is identified as such rather than treated as a universal rule.

At-a-glance reference

Group	Class	Quick recognition cue
Surface	Unpaved	Dirt or soil road with no hard surface.
Surface	Asphalt	Road covered with asphalt pavement; source notes gray/black appearance and irregular cracks in an example.
Surface	Concrete	Road made of concrete or cement.
Surface	Gravel	Road surface covered with small loose stones.
Ground cover	Open space developed (OSD)	Maintained open land, such as a park, playground, landscaped area, or grass sports ground.
Ground cover	Mulch bed	Area covered with wood chips, bark, or other mulch; exclude trees and hedges.
Ground cover	Hedge	Closely planted row of shrubs or bushes used as a boundary or decoration.
Ground cover	Tree ring	Circular landscaped area around a tree or group of plants.
Ground cover	Wild grass	Naturally growing grass that is not regularly maintained or landscaped.
Ground cover	Exposed bedrock	Natural rock visible at the ground surface with little or no soil cover.
Ground cover	Compacted surface	Ground compressed and hardened by traffic or machinery, usually dirt, rock, or mixed material.

Surface classification

The source deck groups four road-surface classes: unpaved, asphalt, concrete, and gravel. Use the material visible at the road surface as the primary distinction.

Unpaved

Definition. A road made of dirt or soil, without a hard surface.

Recognition cues. The defining cue is the absence of a hard pavement layer.

UNPAVED

road made of dirt or soil, without a hard surface.

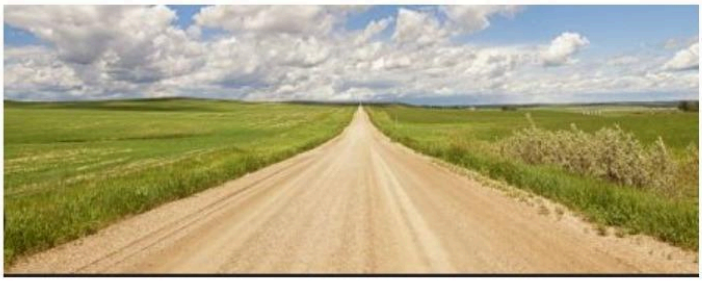




Illustration from source slide 3.

Asphalt

Definition. A road covered with black asphalt pavement.

Recognition cues. The source lists gray and black as associated colors; one sample slide calls out irregular cracks. Color is a supporting cue, not a standalone test.

Use with care. Do not classify by color alone; rely on the visible paved surface material.

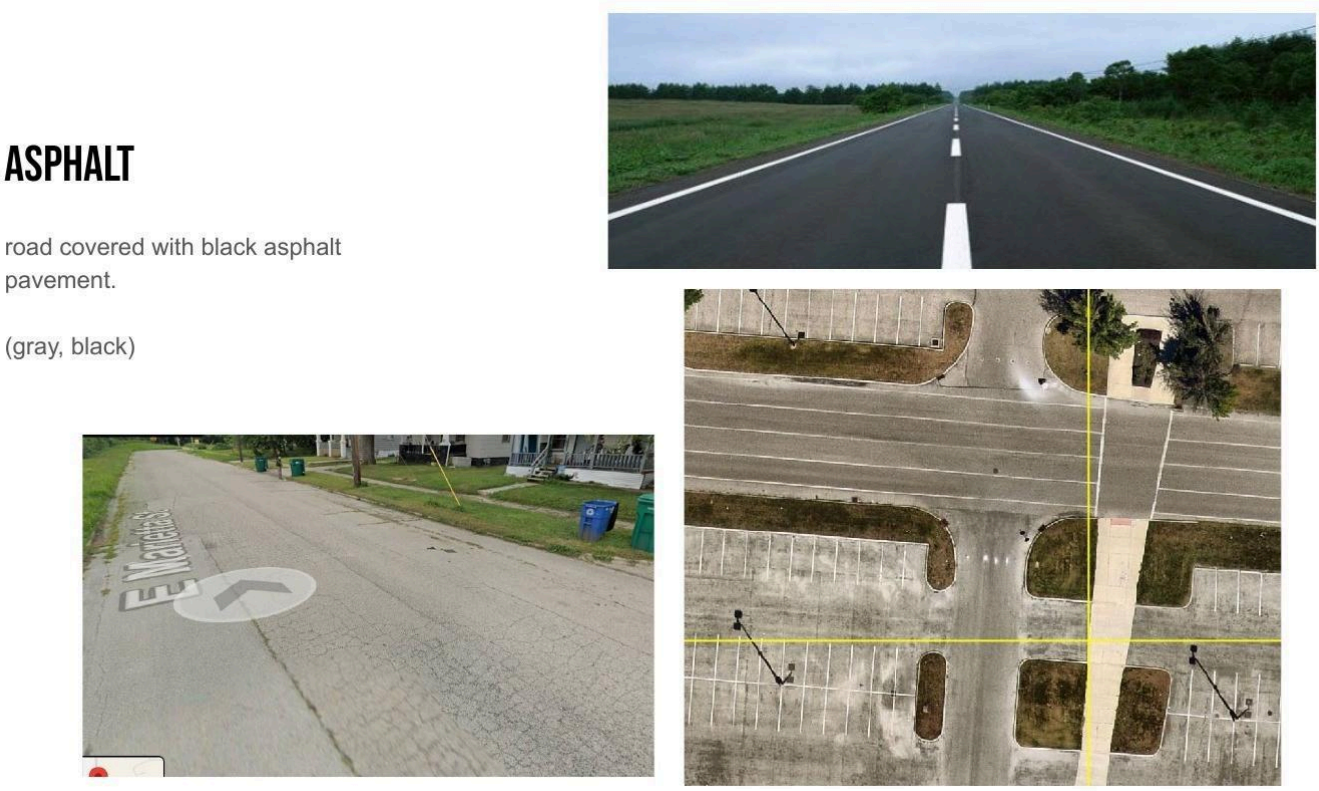


Illustration from source slide 4. Supplemental examples: slide 5.

Concrete

Definition. A road made of concrete or cement.

Recognition cues. Look for a continuous rigid concrete/cement surface.



Illustration from source slide 6. Supplemental examples: slide 7.

Gravel

Definition. A road surface covered with small loose stones.

Recognition cues. Loose stone aggregate is the defining surface cue.

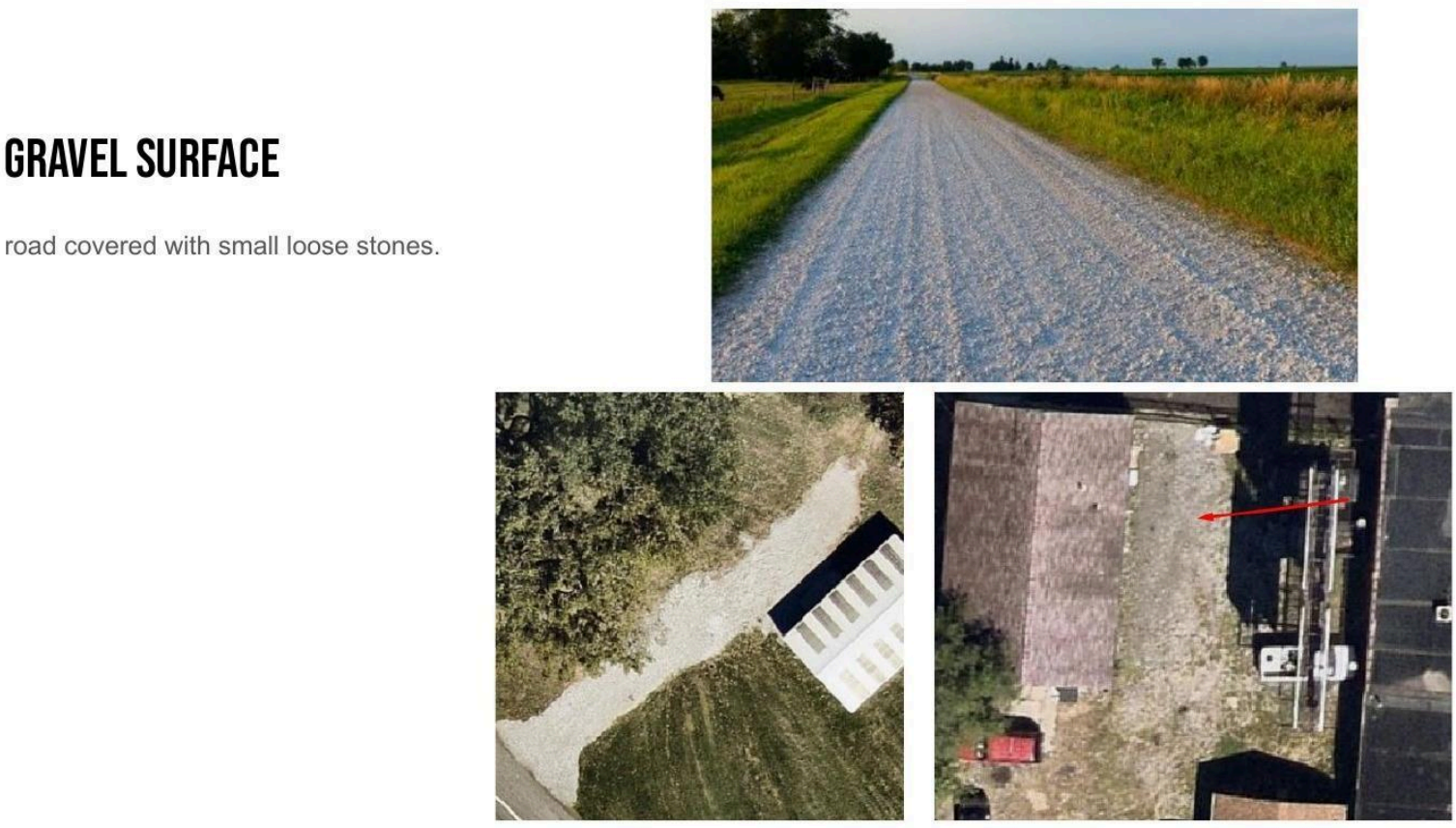


Illustration from source slide 8. Supplemental examples: slides 9–10.

Ground cover types

These classes describe maintained open land and distinct vegetation, landscape treatments, or exposed ground materials.

Open space developed (OSD)

Definition. Maintained open land, such as parks, playgrounds, or landscaped areas.

Recognition cues. The source also associates OSD with green or light-green flat grass, grass sports grounds, and open land near urban impermeable surfaces such as houses, roads, and parking lots.

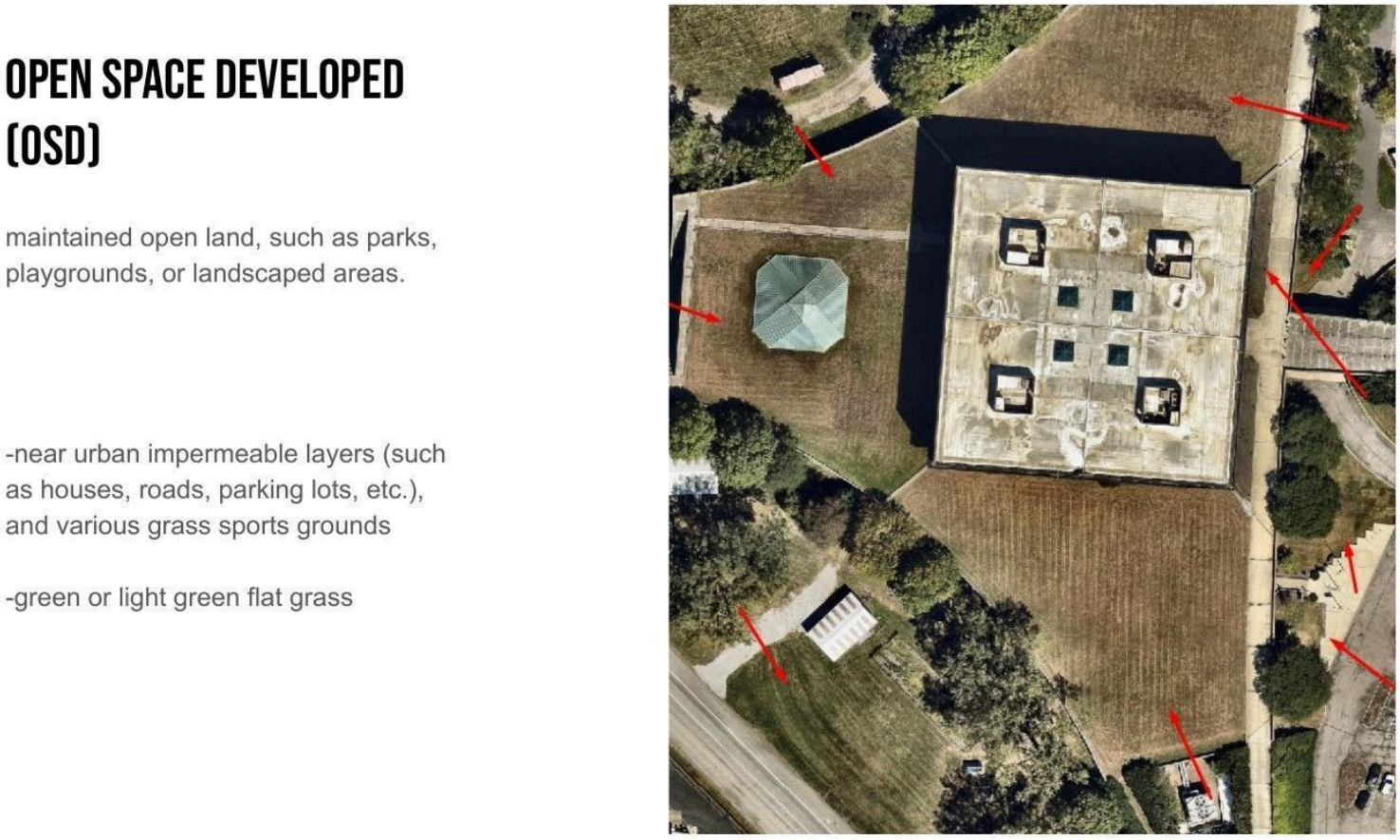


Illustration from source slide 12. Supplemental examples: slide 13.

Mulch bed

Definition. An area covered with wood chips, bark, or other mulch material.

Recognition cues. The source describes typical colors as reddish-brown to dark-brown.



Illustration from source slide 14. Supplemental examples: slide 15.

Hedge

Definition. A row of closely planted shrubs or bushes used as a boundary or decoration.

Recognition cues. Look for a continuous or near-continuous linear planting rather than a broad ground-cover patch.



Illustration from source slide 16.

Tree ring

Definition. A circular landscaped area surrounding a tree or group of plants.

Recognition cues. The circular landscaped form around the tree or planting is the key cue.

TREE RING

a circular landscaped area surrounding
a tree or group of plants.



Illustration from source slide 17.

Wild grass

Definition. Naturally growing grass that is not regularly maintained or landscaped.

Recognition cues. Distinguish it from maintained, flat grass described under OSD.



Illustration from source slide 18. Supplemental examples: slide 19.

Exposed bedrock

Definition. Natural rock visible on the ground surface, with little or no soil covering it.

Recognition cues. The rock itself should be exposed at the surface.

Use with care. The source adds that exposed bedrock occurs only around a river. Treat this as a dataset-specific observation from the deck, not a general geographic rule.



Illustration from source slide 20. Supplemental examples: slide 21.

Compacted surface

Definition. Ground that has been compressed and hardened by traffic or machinery, usually made of dirt, rock, or mixed materials.

Recognition cues. Use the visible hardened/compacted ground condition as the main cue.

Use with care. The source also suggests this class when other listed types do not fit but human activity is present. Human activity alone is not a clear physical definition; use the category cautiously and document uncertain cases.



Illustration from source slide 22. Supplemental examples: slide 23.

Source notes and decision guidance

Practical reading order

- For a road, compare the visible surface material: soil/dirt, asphalt pavement, concrete/cement, or loose gravel.
- For non-road ground cover, identify whether the area is maintained open space, a mulch bed, hedge, tree ring, wild grass, exposed rock, or compacted ground.
- Apply the explicit exclusion in the source: mulch beds should exclude trees and hedges.
- If multiple classes appear in one mapped area or the evidence is unclear, consult the original slide examples and record the ambiguity; the deck does not define a complete mixed-class priority rule.

Source-specific notes retained

- Asphalt: the deck mentions gray/black tones and irregular cracks in sample imagery.
- OSD: the deck describes maintained open land and notes flat green/light-green grass, sports grounds, and nearby urban impermeable surfaces.
- Exposed bedrock: the “only exists around river” note is retained as a source-specific observation, not a universal rule.
- Compacted surface: the human-activity fallback note is ambiguous; this guide flags it for cautious use rather than expanding it into a broad rule.

Appendix A — Additional source examples

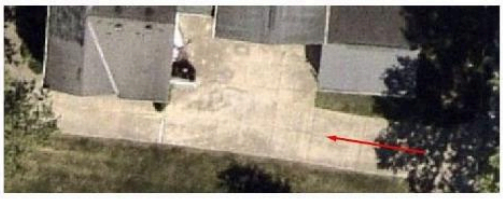
These images reproduce the source deck's supplemental sample slides. They provide extra visual examples beyond the representative feature slides shown in the main guide.

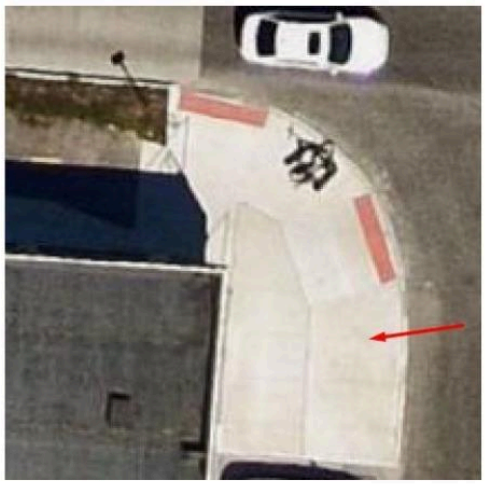


MORE SAMPLES FOR CONCRETE

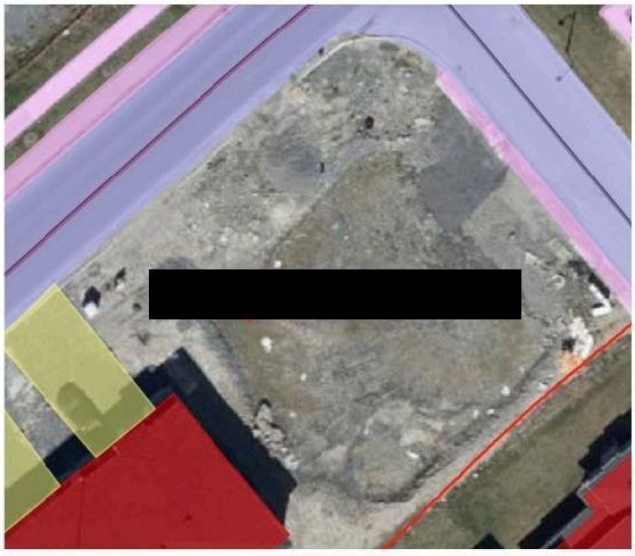






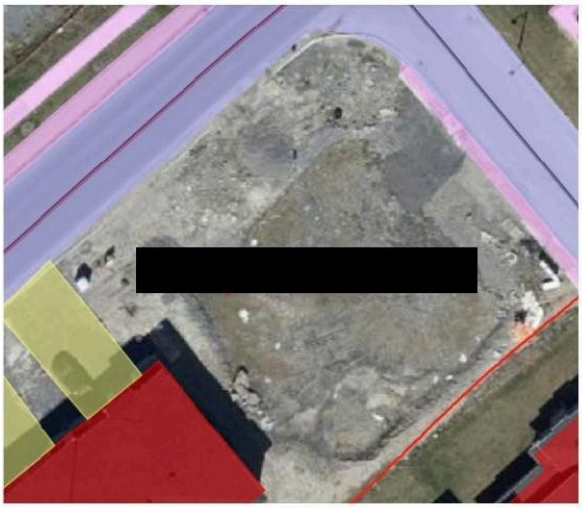


MORE SAMPLES FOR GRAVEL



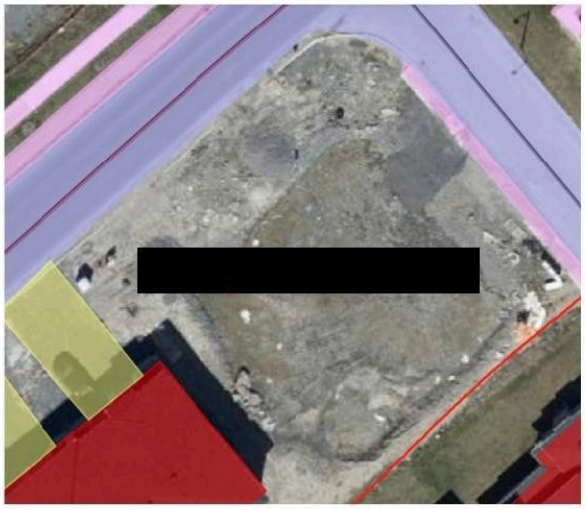


MORE SAMPLES FOR GRAVEL





MORE SAMPLES FOR GRAVEL





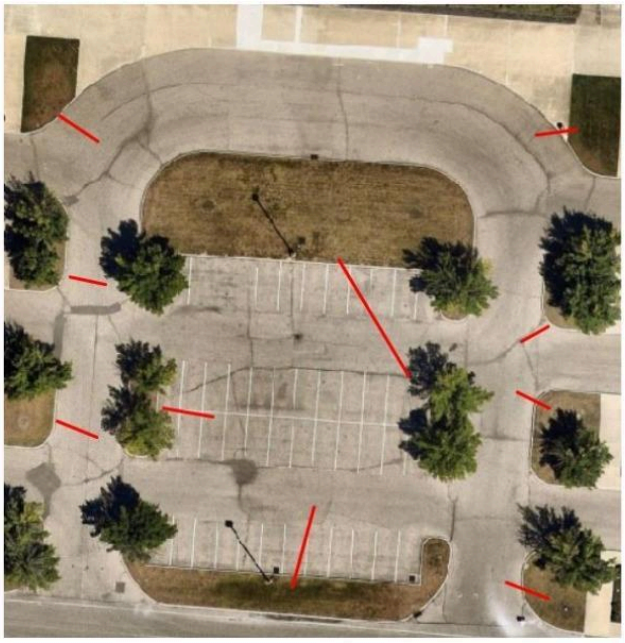
MORE SAMPLES OF GRAVEL





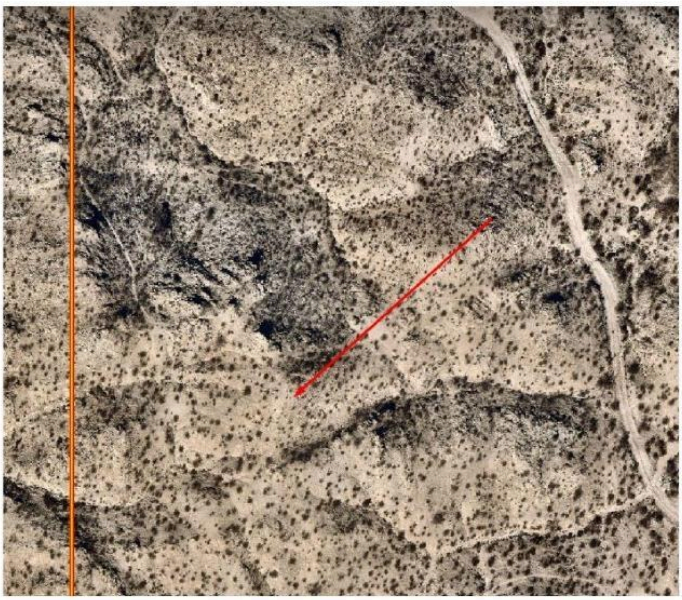
MORE SAMPLES FOR OSD

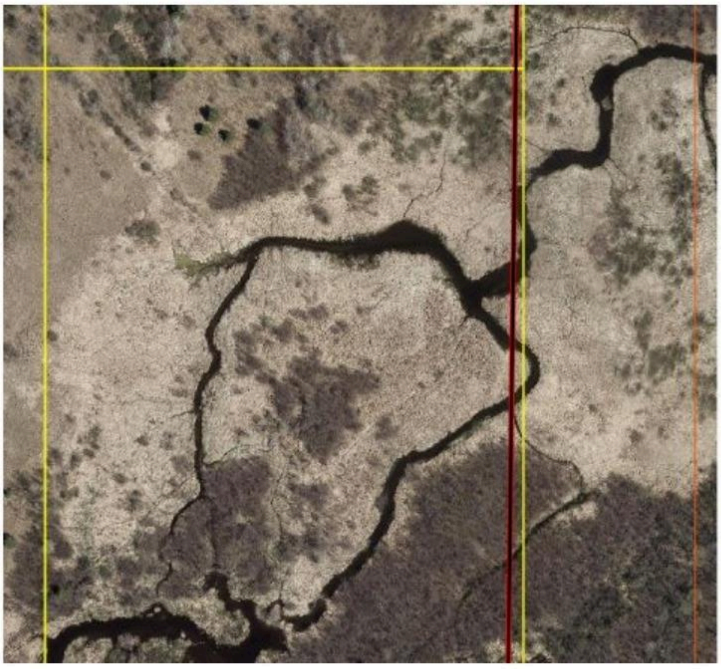




MORE SAMPLES FOR WILD GRASS









MORE SAMPLES FOR COMPACTED SURFACE



