

Sand beds as a small-scale structure

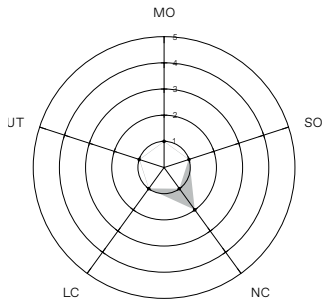
Sand beds provide valuable nesting sites for numerous insects in urban areas.



Definition

Sand beds are open, vegetation-free areas or sand piles consisting of gravel, sand, and small stones. Ideally, sand beds are located in dry, sunny, and undisturbed areas.

Site requirements



Moisture (MO)	Soil (SO)	Nutrient content (NC)
1 Dry	1 Raw soil	1 Very low
2 Fresh	2 Mineral soil (gravelly)	2 Low
3 Moist	3 Medium humus content	3 Moderately low/rich
4 Wet	4 Rich in humus	4 Rich
5 Always/part. inundated	5 Litter-rich humus (duff)	5 Very rich
Light conditions (LC)	Utilization (UT)	
1 Full sun	1 Passive nature experience	
2	2	
3 Semi-shade	3 Active utilization temporarily possible	
4	4	
5 Shade	5 Active utilization possible	

Principles

Fulfilling these guidelines promotes the biodiversity of this habitat type.

Seeds and planting material	Use a mixture of sand, gravel, and small stones
Structure	Fill a > 30 cm hollow with coarse gravel and > 30 cm sand on top
Maintenance	Add new sand if required Remove ingrowing vegetation if required
Utilization	No active use

Advanced requirements

By fulfilling these requirements, the biodiversity of this habitat type is additionally promoted.

Structure	Create borders of stones or deadwood to reduce root ingrowth Combine with deadwood and dry stone walls
Minimum size	> 4 m ²



Planning

- Include into utilization and design concept
- Chose appropriate location

Implementation

- Ensure drainage
- Provide a sufficient amount of sand

Maintenance

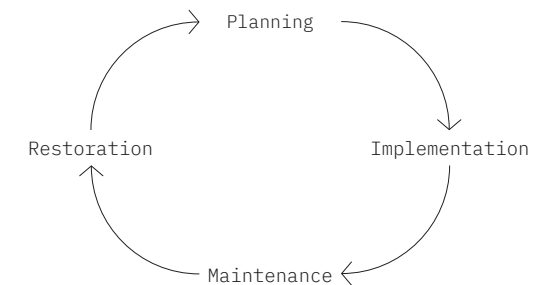
- Add new material
- Remove ingrowing vegetation
- Avoid disturbance

Restoration

- Reutilization of material where possible
- Maintenance only between October and March if possible

Climatic requirements

No specific requirements but sites should ideally be sunny and undisturbed, potentially but not necessarily in a rain-protected location.



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Sand bed with herbs (Valentin Klaus)



Example of a sand bed in a ruderal area (Valentin Klaus)



Grey-backed mining bee, *Andrena vaga* (Adobe Stock)



Hairy-footed flower bee, *Anthophora plumipes* (Adobe Stock)