IV. Crushed Stone/Gravel/Shell

T-Zones: T2, T3, T4
Cost: $
Maintenance: Medium
Slope: Moderate, Flat
Soils: Poor, Medium, Good
Climate: Cold, Temperate, Hot
Dry, Moderately Wet, Wet

A. Description
Crushed stone, gravel, and shell (or any non-bound aggregate material) spread over soil can be used for paving. This method uses abundant natural materials, such as stone and shells, as well as recycled materials like crushed brick and concrete. The strength of the material is based on the hardness of the aggregate and the stability of the soil. Mineral aggregates, such as limestone, dolomite, granite, and quartz, are generally the strongest type of aggregate. Compacting the soil before applying the crushed stone, gravel or shell material also increases the strength of the material.

B. Use
Crushed stone, gravel, and shell can withstand moderate, low-speed vehicular use as well as pedestrian use. That makes it especially appropriate for the T2 and T3 transect zones. This material is often used for parking areas, alleys, and rear lanes. It is a good choice for pedestrian paths within parks. This paving method is structurally flexible. It can be placed over non-compacted soil, or it can be used in regions susceptible to soil displacement caused by freeze/thaw cycles. The stability of crushed stone, gravel, and shell is increased when a stabilization mat is used between the aggregate and soil base.

C. Cost
The cost of this paving method varies by the type and quantity of aggregate used. Generally, it is inexpensive, especially when locally abundant materials are used.

D. Maintenance
Most of the maintenance required is due to erosion and the development of potholes and ruts. Heavy vehicular use may result in displacement of the material. In that case, more aggregate can be spread. In dry areas, proper care should be taken to avoid airborne dust caused by vehicular use.

E. Resources
T2 - Gravel - Oklahoma City, OK

T3 - Gravel - Isle of Hope, GA
Crushed Stone/Gravel/Shell

T4 - Crushed Stone Parking - Chestnut Hill, PA

T3 - Crushed Shell - Edenton, NC

T2 - Rural

T3 - Sub-Urban

T4 - General Urban

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T3 - Crushed Stone - Cheshire, NC
T4 - Crushed Stone Sidewalk - Monteagle, TN

T4 - Crushed Stone - Typical Sidewalk Entry

T4 - Crushed Stone - Typical Sidewalk Entry