

TTCD Newsletter—Summer 2016

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

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Subsistence is Our Agriculture.

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District Updates

This summer, TTCD welcomes several new employees to our team! For the 2016 summer season, Gwen Chickalusion has been hired as the Garden Supervisor. Justin Trenton has been hired as the Seasonal Technician. TTCD has also hired Leanne Smoke and Reka Smoke as Tyonek Garden Summer Youth Interns.

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Tyonek Grown Program

On May 13th, TTCD held a Garden Blessing ceremony to begin the 5th growing season at the Tyonek Garden. Native Village of Tyonek President Arthur Standifer planted the first vegetable start in the garden. Tebughna School and guests helped plant the remaining starts. NVT President and Tyonek youth also assisted in the blessing of the new Boat Garden Bed. TTCD thanks Johnny Standifer for contributing his retired wooden dory, which has been refurbished to provide a place to grow flowers and veggies.

The Tyonek Garden now serves as a source of inspiration and education throughout Alaska. In late May, TTCD welcomed participants from eight rural AK Native communities to our 2nd annual Tyonek Grown Workshop, a week-long training. Participants received hands-on gardening training and developed plans for their own community gardens.

TTCD works closely with the Native Village of Tyonek, the Tyonek Native Corporation, and other partners to manage the Tyonek Garden and to grow local, fresh, healthy vegetables. To learn about dates for veggie sales in Tyonek and Anchorage, visit TTCD's Facebook page.



Top: 2016 Tyonek Grown Workshop participants.

Middle: Tyonek youth volunteer during the summer.

Bottom: Students at the Boat Garden Bed blessing.

Fish Passage & Habitat Program

In 2016, TTCD is addressing invasive fish and invasive plants. TTCD's May pike derby in Beluga and Tyonek resulted in a total of 129 pike removed from the watershed. Thank you to everyone who participated! We'll be holding another pike derby in September, please keep an eye out for more information on our Facebook page.

TTCD is working with CIRI, Chugach Electric, and Beluga residents to remove invasive orange hawkweed from Beluga and to prevent its spread within the District. Control efforts were completed in June. TTCD will continue to monitor this area in future years as well.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game continue to provide valuable assistance to TTCD. Both entities spent time with TTCD staff earlier this summer assessing culverts and helping to plan for future culvert replacement efforts to address fish passage issues.

Through the Fish Passage & Habitat Program, TTCD is monitoring watershed health in the Tyonek area throughout the summer. In addition to monitoring for invasive species, TTCD staff are monitoring culverts, stream temperature, salmon populations, and water quality in order to support informed land management decisions within the District.

Technical Assistance Program

Through this program, TTCD works with landowners and stakeholders to help them achieve their conservation goals. Last year, TTCD worked with Tyonek Native Corporation to plan a fuel break on TNC lands surrounding the Native Village of Tyonek. This project is currently underway. Not only has this project provided local jobs, but it will also help to protect Tyonek from forest fires.



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www.ttcd.org

*Your donation will support local,
meaningful projects in the
Tyonek area.*



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Tyonek Youth Conservation Science Program

TTCD staff are providing innovative ways for youth to connect to natural resources, both in and out of school.

In April and May, Tebughna School students planted and nurtured vegetable starts for the Tyonek Garden. Students transplanted these starts into the Tyonek Garden to again begin the cycle that will produce food for elders and other community members.

Now that summer has started and school is out, TTCD encourages youth to come volunteer at the garden and continue learning with TTCD. TTCD will be back in the school providing conservation science education in the fall.



Above: Students planting veggie starts.
Below: Tebughna school students and staff helped to prepare garden beds.

