

# TTCD NEWSLETTER

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

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## Tyonek Community Garden Updates

Through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP cost-share program, a USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach grant, and support from the Tyonek Native Corporation and the Rasmuson Foundation, this year TTCD was able to assist the Native Village of Tyonek with the installation of two 22'x48' seasonal high tunnels in June 2013. A seasonal high tunnel is a polyethylene (plastic) covered structure that is used to cover crops to extend the growing season. These structures increase the temperature surrounding crops and minimize heat loss, allowing for more production.

As the use of renewable energy to power this garden was a priority for the community, TTCD assisted with designing and installing a system that utilizes solar power. Currently, all watering is powered by a three panel solar array. An eight panel solar array system provides power

**Newly installed high tunnel in Tyonek Garden.**



**Left: Community planting day.**  
**Right: Solar array.**



for ventilation in the two high tunnels.

Tebughna School students planted vegetable starts for the garden such as tomatoes, corn, broccoli, cabbage, pumpkins, green beans, and cauliflower. Lettuces, radishes, carrots, and lots of potatoes have also been planted. TTCD and the Native Village of Tyonek will be hosting a harvest party in September.

### Compost—Recycle Your Food Waste!

Compost is organic matter (such as leaves, branches, or food waste) that has been decomposed and can provide nutrients to growing plants. Please help build our compost by bringing to the garden: vegetable waste, fruit waste, coffee grounds, cardboard, egg shells, yard waste (weed clippings, branches), paper (shredded). Items that should NOT be composted include: meat, cheese, grease, fat, or toxic materials.

## Air Quality Monitoring in Tyonek

TTCD is working with the Native Village of Tyonek, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to obtain outdoor air quality data in Tyonek. Through an ANTHC mini-grant and ADEC support, Tyonek has now installed a piece of equipment that will monitor levels of particulate matter in the air.

The NVT Environmental Department will continue to monitor outdoor air quality for the next few years. TTCD and NVT will host a community meeting in Tyonek in August to provide residents with more information.

If you have any questions about air quality monitoring, please contact Tina Constantine at 907-583-2201 or Christy Cincotta at 907-646-3109.



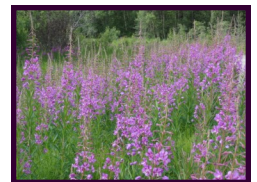
**Tina Constantine (NVT) and Chris Fish (ANTHC) installing Thermo Scientific High Volume Sampler.**

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**Subsistence is our Agriculture.**

## Indian Creek Fish Passage



Above: Installing coir log along the new channel.  
Below: Completed revegetation work at site.



In 2012, TTCD worked with the Native Village of Tyonek to obtain funding to install a fish-friendly culvert on Indian Creek near Tyonek. Partners included the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the AK Department of Fish & Game, the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership, and the Tyonek Native Corporation. The new culvert was installed in October 2012, and was successful in preventing a road washout during spring flooding.

In June 2013, TTCD worked with the Native Village of Tyonek, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game to restore the area disturbed during construction. To improve fish habitat, 100 ft of stream was layered with live willow clippings just downstream of the crossing. Some of these willow stakes were obtained with the help of Tyonek students who took cuttings from the surrounding area. Coir logs were used to help shape the stream banks and prevent erosion, and vegetation mats from nearby areas were placed along the

stream to further protect the bank. Lastly, native grasses were hydroseeded along the banks to hold the soil and prevent erosion.

This fish passage project was identified through a TTCD strategic planning project funded through USFWS's Alaska Coastal Program. This plan also identified other potential fish passage and habitat projects in the Tyonek area. TTCD will continue working with partners to plan additional fish habitat improvement projects.

**Do you have an idea for a conservation project in West Cook Inlet? TTCD is interested in working with any and all District residents and stakeholders to help you achieve your conservation goals. Please contact us at 907-646-3109, or email us at [ccincotta@tyonek.com](mailto:ccincotta@tyonek.com).**