

TTCD Newsletter—Fall 2017

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

October 2017

Vol. 5, Issue 2

Subsistence is Our Agriculture.



Tyonek Grown Program

In 2017, TTCD Garden Supervisor Gwen Chickalusion and Summer Youth Interns Leeanne Smoke, Reka Smoke, Janie Standifer, and Randall Jones worked with TTCD staff to grow a bounty of vegetables and implement several new projects.

This summer, TTCD tilled a new field in the Tyonek Garden and used fish composting techniques to add nutrients to soils. This was also a successful first year of production in the Boat Bed, a raised bed built from an old wooden dory.

Vegetables from the Tyonek Garden are being utilized in the Elder's Program and in the Tebughna School Lunch Program, as well as by local residents through sales.

TTCD hosted several Tyonek Grown events this year, including the Tyonek Garden Blessing Ceremony in May, a Tyonek Grown workshop to

provide hands-on gardening training in Tyonek in June, and a Harvest Celebration in October.



Top: Tebughna School students planting in May.
Bottom: Students harvesting carrots in October.

In this issue:

Tyonek Grown Program	1
Technical Assistance Program	1
TYCS Program	1
Habitat Monitoring and Restoration Program	2



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Technical Assistance Program

This year, TTCD and the Native Village of Tyonek Environmental Department worked with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) to complete an energy audit of several tribal buildings in Tyonek. The audit was completed with the help of many individuals in Tyonek working hard to gather data. This information will be used to improve energy efficiency, reduce waste and reduce energy costs for tribal buildings.

Tyonek Youth Conservation Science Program

The school hydroponics system is up and running, and TTCD will work with students this school year to grow healthy greens for the school lunch program.



Habitat Monitoring & Restoration Program

In addition to monitoring stream temperature, salmon populations, and surveying for invasive species, TTCD implemented several projects in 2017 to benefit fish and wildlife.

In May, TTCD held a pike derby in Tyonek and Beluga to remove pike and gather data on infestations. In June, TTCD partnered with Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, UAF, USGS, and others to net pike from multiple systems. These combined efforts resulted in the removal of 231 pike in 2017, and a total of 497 pike removed by TTCD and partners since 2015.

In 2017, TTCD continued control efforts of orange hawkweed, and invasive plant, in Beluga. Orange hawk-

weed was reduced 95% in the first year, and TTCD plans to return for the next 2-3 years for control.

TTCD completed two culvert replacements this summer along Indian Creek. This work was completed by Tyonek Contractors through generous support by US Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, AK Department of Fish & Game, and Tyonek Native Corporation. These replacements allow salmon to access upstream habitat and improve opportunities for spawning, foraging, and overwintering.

For more information about TTCD's Habitat Monitoring and Restoration Program, check TTCD's Facebook page.



Top: John Hagan removes a pike from Chuit Lake.

Bottom: Nicole Swenson removes invasive orange hawkweed in Beluga.

Would you like to help? There are multiple ways that you can support TTCD:

1. Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program: Earn donations for TTCD by shopping at Fred Meyer! Link your Fred Meyer Rewards card to

90037 at [www.fredmeyer.com/
communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards).

2. Online donations: Donate to TTCD through our website: www.ttcd.org

Thank you for your support! It makes a difference.



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Find Us on Facebook



Congratulations to Alicia Smoke, TTCD's volunteer of the year! Alicia contributed 28 hours in the Tyonek Garden.

Staff Announcements

TTCD welcomes John's daughter Eleanor Hagan (L) and Christy's daughter Maura Mazzacavallo (R).

