



# Tyonek

TRIBAL  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT

## April, 2026

April brought a steady rhythm of activity for TTCD as programs ramped up for the season ahead. Tebughna students started indoor seedlings and took part in field trips exploring Native Alaskan culture, local ecosystems, and owls! Our Habitat Monitoring & Restoration team welcomed two new staff members and the Tyonek Garden is starting to thaw in welcome of spring (and summer)!



## Dena'ina word of the month



Our Dena'ina word of the month is k'tnelyāhi, which means "spring showers" or "it is growing things." As the rains return and the ground begins to wake up, we honor k'tnelyāhi, the showers that help our plants, medicines, and berries begin their slow spring growth. This word reminds us that everything is stirring beneath the soil, preparing for the season ahead.

**K'tnelyāhi:**  
"Spring showers;  
It is growing  
things"



## Tyonek Youth Conservation Science

It was an exciting and busy month with the Tebughna School students! We kicked off April by starting indoor seedlings with the school that will eventually be planted in the Tyonek Garden at the end of May. Then TTCD helped facilitate two school field trips - one to the Alaska Native Heritage Center with the 6-12 class and another to the Eagle River Nature Center with the K-5 class, where the students learned about traditional Alaska Native home design by region, were introduced to Archimedes the owl, and explored the local flora and fauna of the Eagle River Valley.

## Habitat Monitoring & Restoration

The HMR team was thrilled to welcome two new staff members: Leah Ellis, Aquatic Biologist, and John Hermus, Field Biologist! The team has been actively preparing for a productive field season by completing field safety trainings and coordinating upcoming field schedules. In addition, HMR is excited to announce the successful award of a Tribal Wildlife Grant as well as progress being made on the Upper Tyonek Creek fish passage project, with a contractor now selected and construction planning moving forward.



## Tyonek Gather

All remaining fish is now in Tyonek and able to be distributed regardless of flying conditions! Reach out to Emma at [eshelton@ttcd.org](mailto:eshelton@ttcd.org) or call (907)317-9592 if you are interested in receiving some. We have fresh locally-grown beef cuts now available from Mat-Valley Meats and pork roasts from Blood Sweat and Food Farm. The food cellar is well stocked with root veggie staples like carrots and potatoes, and we look forward to bringing you more veggies as the growing season is quickly approaching! Sign up and order from the Tyonek Gather marketplace: [tyonekgather.localfoodmarketplace.com](http://tyonekgather.localfoodmarketplace.com).

# Tyonek Grown

The Tyonek Grown program started indoor seedlings with the students at the Tebughna School this month, marking the start of a seasonal project that culminates in students planting their mature seedlings at the Tyonek Garden at the end of the school year. TTCD is continuing to recruit Youth Garden Interns! Applications are open to youth ages 14-20 and have been extended to Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. To apply, submit a letter of interest with your contact information to [admin@ttcd.org](mailto:admin@ttcd.org). You can read the flyer included in this newsletter for more details.



# WE ARE HIRING! YOUTH GARDEN INTERNS



## SEASONAL, PART-TIME STARTING AT \$16/HR

Do you want to work outside, grow food for your community, and gain valuable work experience? TTCD is hiring responsible and committed individuals to work in the Tyonek Garden! No gardening experience is required.

**APPLICATION EXTENDED: FRIDAY, MAY 15TH, 5PM.**

### POSITION DETAILS:

- Must be 14-20 years old
- 20-30 hours per week
- Position begins May 26th, 2026
- Reports to Tyonek Grown Program Manager and Garden Supervisor
- Internship is 12 weeks long and flexible schedules will be considered

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Planting seeds and vegetable starts in the garden
- Watering and weeding crops
- Data collection
- Following instructions and attention to detail
- Vegetable harvesting
- Vegetable sales and marketing
- Making and maintaining compost
- Agricultural training
- Other tasks as assigned



### HOW TO APPLY!

Submit a letter of interest (at least a half page in length) explaining your interest in this position and gardening. Include any relevant experience you may have, as well as your contact information (phone and email).



Submit your letter to [admin@ttcd.org](mailto:admin@ttcd.org) by Friday, April 15th, at 5pm.

Email your resume and cover letter to TTCD to apply:

 [admin@ttcd.org](mailto:admin@ttcd.org) | 907-278-1022



TRIBAL  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT

# What's on the menu?

## Recipe: Simple Yogurt Sauce



### Ingredients

- 1 cup yogurt (preferably whole milk)
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- Salt and pepper
- A few drops of lemon juice (optional)
- \*Optional: 1/4 cup chopped fresh mint, parsley, dill, or cilantro or 1 teaspoon dried mint or dill.

### Directions

- Stir the yogurt, garlic, a pinch salt, and a grind or two of pepper together in a small bowl.
- Taste and adjust the seasoning, adding the lemon juice if necessary.
- Add herbs at this point, if desired.
- Serve or cover and refrigerate for up to a few hours; bring back to near room temperature before serving.
- Serve with raw or grilled vegetables, flatbread, or as a dip. This sauce also tastes good on salmon!

## How's it growing?



Check out how much the indoor seedlings have grown since April 1 when we started them with the Tebughna School students! It's amazing to witness the impact of light, water, and air on seeds. Pretty soon these seedlings will be ready to go into the garden to make food for the Tyonek community all summer!

