



Tyonek

TRIBAL
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

January, 2026

Happy New Year from TTCD! We kicked off the year by helping to organize an Alaska Tribal Conservation District Network Meeting, bringing together twenty-two TCDs from across the state for two and a half days of collaboration to chart a course for sustaining our partnerships into the future! Though we are deep in winter, our team is already starting to think about the upcoming summer season. Look out for summer job applications coming soon to our facebook page and website for field technician and garden youth positions!



Dena'ina word of the month



Our Dena'ina word of the month is nagel'ch'i which means beads. In Athabascan culture, nagel'ch'i (beads) carry stories, identity, and connection. Each bead is a reminder of the hands that taught us, the land that inspires our designs, and the generations who passed these skills forward.

Nagel'ch'i:
Beads

Alaska Tribal Conservation District Network Meeting



TTCD, Knik Tribe, and the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission, with funding from the Denali Commission, hosted an Alaska Tribal Conservation District Network Annual Meeting, welcoming twenty-two TCDs from across the state to come together to share knowledge, tell stories, and kick-off a growing community of practice grounded in collaboration and stewardship.

Habitat Monitoring & Restoration

This month, TTCD's HMR team hosted an invasive species breakout group at the Alaska Tribal Conservation District Network Meeting, following the appointment of Habitat Programs Director Nicole Swenson as Chair of the Alaska Invasive Species Partnership Board of Directors — a milestone that strengthens TTCD's leadership in statewide invasive species coordination. The team is also preparing to recruit seasonal conservation technicians for habitat monitoring and restoration work based in Anchorage and Tyonek from May 5–October 2.



Tyonek Gather



With most of the fish distributed last month, TTCD is ready to shift our focus to providing Tyonek residents with fresh, local veggies. Keep an eye out for cabbages, potatoes, brussels sprouts, rutabagas, and more on our Tyonek Gather Marketplace: <https://tyonekgather.localfoodmarketplace.com/Products> And there is still plenty of fish to go around! If you're wanting more fish or haven't received any yet, please reach out to Emma at eshelton@ttcd.org or call (907)317-9592 and she will be happy to send some your way!

Youth Conservation Science Lesson Plans

After winter break, TTCD is eager to be back in the classroom learning with the Tebughna School students. In the weeks ahead, we're excited to teach a lesson on culverts and continue our Salmon in the Classroom program, with plans underway for a hands-on salmon dissection.



NRCS Video: Tyonek Fish Passage



In 2024, conservation partners came together in Tyonek to install the largest fish passage culvert in Alaska, improving vital salmon habitat on Tebughna land in Western Cook Inlet. More than a decade in the making, this once-audacious project reflects years of collaboration, design, and dedication. This video, created by NRCS Alaska and Nomad Cinematics, highlights federal, tribal, and local partners working together to restore healthy salmon streams for future generations.

What's on the menu?

Recipe: Brussels Sprouts with Balsamic Vinegar and Honey

Ingredients

- 1½ pounds Brussels sprouts, halved, stems and ragged outer leaves removed
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- ¾ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon honey



Directions

- Preheat oven to 425°F and set an oven rack in the middle position. Line a baking sheet with heavy-duty aluminum foil.
- Directly on the prepared baking sheet, toss the Brussels sprouts with 2 tablespoons of the oil, the salt, and the pepper.
- Roast, stirring once halfway through, until tender and golden brown, about 20 minutes.
- Drizzle the remaining tablespoon of oil, the balsamic vinegar and the honey over Brussels sprouts.
- Toss to coat evenly. Taste and adjust seasoning, if necessary, then serve.

How's it growing?



Thanks to a donation from Lettuce Grow, TTCD is planning to replace a light fixture in one of our previously non-functioning hydroponic towers at Tebughna School. With this upgrade, all three towers should be fully operational soon and on their way to producing fresh produce for Tebughna School students.

