

## GreenSteps Best Practice 27: Local Food, Action 2: Community Garden, Bee Keeping, Chicken Raising

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Red Lake Band of Chippewa Tribal Nation does not have any “city ordinances” that require or prohibit having community gardens, chickens, or bee hives on property within the reservation. However is allowed to engage in such practices.

### Community Garden

**Date Started:** April 15th 2016

**Descriptive File:** This file

**Web Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/384504271580246/>

**Descriptive detail Paragraph:** Red Lake Band of Chippewa Tribal Nation has a Local Food Initiative with which the goals are to decrease diet-related health issues, increase access to local healthy foods and develop a local foods economy. The Initiative incorporates community beliefs and attitudes about contemporary and traditional foods, in which the community garden is a part of. This community garden was started to provide food for the community and for the Oshkiimaajitahdah (New Beginnings) kitchen for employees. The food produced will also be used for cooking classes and programs to teach locals how to prepare traditional dishes, start a farmers market and help individuals start their own garden plots. There is also a High Tunnel Training Program with which, after community members finish the 13 week training, they receive a grant and a loan for a high tunnel and other equipment to start their own garden. The community garden currently has 1 high tunnel to help extend the growing season. The garden was done all by community members and includes the following foods:

- 4 types of Tomatoes- Heirloom Cherry, Beefy Steak, Big Girl, and Aroma
- 4 types of Potato- Russets, Red, Yukon Gold, and Purple Viking
- 5 types of Peppers- Green, Chili, Jalapeno, and Poloma, and Hungarian wax Pepper
- 3 types of Lettuce- Red Heirloom, Red Leafy, and Kale
- 3 types of Corn- Heirloom Vanity, Hominy, and Popcorn
- Squash
- Cucumbers
- Broccoli
- Onions
- Scallions

The Community Garden space also includes an orchard which contains 60 trees with 4 varieties of fruit- Apple, Pear, Plum, Cherry, and Apricot. The Garden also has flowers planted throughout the space and has a plot for just wild flowers. For the future, Dave has a “Dream List” of things to add to the community garden space that includes: better irrigation with soaker hoses, inputting landscape fabric, adding 2 more green houses, and adding a deep winter green house.

**Key Partners:** Shkiimaajitahdah (New Beginnings); Red Lake School District; Poly Tex; Project Grow; DNR; Wozupi Tribal Gardens; Sanitation Department; Comprehensive Health; local SNAP educator, Debra Hawthorne.

What worked well with the garden? Over all the work that went in to the community garden space was not only very successful but a complete transformation of the space which had been grown over with trees after the Forest Service moved to a different location.

What didn't work well? The garden was started later than the normal planting season so some plants such as potatoes will not grow to full potential size. Having no landscape fabric means that a lot of time is spent pulling weeds. Other pests such as crows, rabbits, and gophers have been a problem as well.

What changes would be made for next year? Next year it would be ideal to have landscape fabric, at least one more green house and a deep winter green house. Also we would like to start saving seeds and grow what we can from seed next year. More sprinklers will be needed and some more organization in the planning process will help the community garden be more successful. There are also hopes to add a bee hive to the property to increase the pollination.

### *Fruit Tree Orchard*



*After Planting*



*After Growth*

### *Community Garden*



*Before Planting*



*After Planting*

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8/10/2016