

FY-2025 3rd Quarter Report

ENVIRONMENTAL, LAND & AG DIVISION

Status report of Outcomes/Goals

1. Which outcome/goal(s) does the Division wish to report on?
2. What metric is being used to measure the outcome/goal?
3. What are the accomplishments (i.e. positives, things for which the Division is proud, brags) have occurred over the reporting period that reflect the Division's progress for reaching the outcome/goal?
4. What can the community expect to see in the future (i.e. 6 months; next year; 18 months) from the Division related to the outcome/ goal?

Outcome/Goal # 1

Continuous review and improvement of current programming while also creating new programming based on community demand, to provide services to more of the community.

MEASUREMENT: Promoting positive community relations

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Farmers Market kicked off in June and again this year it was at the top of the hill that has attracted so many more visits with it being in a more attractive location. The need for a permanent structure was supported by the BC and will be moving forward at this same location. Elder Food Boxes began in May and the Farm has provided 2000 pounds of beef and the Cannery, Tsyunhehkwa and Orchard will include items later this summer.

The Program 'From Seed to Preservation' project which began in February with the support of a gardening coach, now has 10 families growing and maintaining their own gardens at the Cty H site. It has been a great success, and they have really "grown" together as a very supportive group. Additionally, a chicken coop was placed at the County H garden site, where the gardening participants have the option to help in the care taking of hens in exchange for free eggs.

All crops were planted early with 3800 acres planted in 9 days at ONF and 7 acres of Oneida White Corn planted at Tsyunhehkwa. The Orchard began harvesting strawberries and carrots in the high tunnel May and all have gone to the cannery for processing into

drink, jams, and meals. Tsyunhehkwa provided over 200 families with seeds and plants at their Annual Giveaway.

Multiple tours for Oneida community and OBC, HS student Intern mentoring, Oneida Elder and UWGB birding group monitoring events, Video on Nation's water quality worked on. Continued working to improve communication with community through sharing of information on ELA Facebook. Stats for Q3 APRIL=28 posts & 10,223 Views, MAY= 38 posts & 26,198 Views, JUNE= 24 posts & 17,905 Views; Top Posts in Q3 were, Forester HeadStart tree walk, Seed & Plant Distribution flyer, Oneida Lake Campground Pow wow weekend Closure announcement.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The lack of white corn in the community is major concern as the demand continues to grow but our supply is so limited. Growing at multiple locations will help with supply needs and use of the RFSI Grant will be used to solve harvesting challenges.

We continue to draw from our community wide eval and hear from participants we need to increase small scale community led projects to address the need of connecting with family, community, and culture via our food pathways. We have finalized our 2025 programming schedule to fit these needs, offering educational workshops, community gardens, take home agriculture opportunities, etc. that focus on intimate connection and sustainable real change in our food systems.

Outcome/Goal # 2

Expand and enhance best practices to improve the health of the Reservation's environment and the community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

16 NEPA Reviews completed, 8 Phase Ones, 8 Construction Site Stormwater Compliance checks performed, 19 pet licenses issued, 20 food safety inspections completed, 48 Food safety handlers trained and certified, 8 Compliance UST inspections completed at Oneida One Stops. Completed garden tilling for 30 community members home gardens. Oneida Lake opened in May and had steady requests for the 5 campsites. The Nonpoint Program increased up to 15 more acres of buffers, going from 35 feet to 50 feet around ONF's to reduce nutrient and sediment loading into our waterways and improve water quality. The Environmental Dept. planted 57.5 acres of cover crops to build soil health, increase yield, and reduce erosion. The Red Willow Community Garden, a pilot project, is a 14.0-acre multi-use area that was planted into trails, cover crops, pumpkins, sweet corn, chaos garden mix, berries, fruit and sugar maple trees. Wild bergamot (#6) will be planted in the fall for another gathering location for community members. Completed over 70 acres of prescribed burns this spring. Environmental applied for \$2 million grant award from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to continue forestry, nonpoint pollution prevention,

brownfield cleanup, and wildlife monitoring programs. Provided compliance assistance for the underground storage tank removal at the Retail E&EE One Stop facility.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Continued protection and restoration of Reservation habitats, stocking of clean healthy fish, and encourage and assist with outdoor recreational activities for the community. Buffers continue to be expanded every year from 35 feet to 50 feet, which will take 3 years to complete. Three stream maintenance projects to be completed this summer or winter when it's either dry or frozen. Project managing a 57-acre rotational grazing pastures expansion for ONF beef animals in 2025. Future planning for Oneida Nation Farm to expand their bison grazing acres by 150 acres in 2026. Future wetland restoration on Fernando Drive to be completed by 2027. About 2 miles worth of two-stage waterways will be completed in the next 2 years to help promote positive drainage and reduce flooding. Red Willow Community Garden harvest will be donated to the Oneida pantry for distribution to Oneida members.

Outcome/Goal # 3

Exercising Sovereignty

ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Working through the 3 new rules that were certified and are now effective. These are Rule #1, LANDBAC (Land Assessments for the Nation's Decisionmakers to Build an Autonomous Community), Rule #2 Land Use Licenses, and Rule #3 Easements. All the rules need forms and process established to allow full use of the Rules and that is in process.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Partnerships with local governments on ag best management practices, Food Service inspections, NEPA & Phase reviews, Construction Site Stormwater compliance and inspections, UST compliance and Brownfields remediation will continue to take place. 13 accepted offers to purchase on land totaling 114 acres since the beginning of 2025. Negotiating on 7 additional properties totaling 67.5 acres. Have pending offers on 318 additional acres. Recently Public Meeting for the DRAFT Agricultural Rule resulted on so many changes to the Rule another Public Meeting is necessary for review.

Contact Info

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Photos (optional):



BC Tour the rez as part of their Back To The Land and Healing event.



ELA Division staff with Annual Garlic Mustard Pull Event at the Museum



Underground Storage Tank Removal at the Retail E&EE OneStop.



Oneida Lake After Weeds Removed From Peninsula





Electro Shocking at Oneida's lakes to complete annual fish survey.



Rainbow Trout Stocking



Tree Felling Training with Louis Mehojah



Wild Rice Planting at Duck Creek Headwaters



Strawberries from the Orchard High Tunnel Greenhouse.