REZ RECYCLER

PBPN Planning & Environmental Protection Spring 2023 Edition

STORY LEADS TO ACTION

We are thrilled to be one of the 5 selected organizations to participate in Rural Cinema 2023! PEP and the Kansas Rural Cinema will be joining the Working Films Rural Cinema program which is a training institute and community engagement program aimed at supporting community leaders located in rural areas and smalls towns

to utilize documentary films for social change.

PEP and the Kansas Rural
Center will be focusing on a
series of films to inspire and
take action through
engagement and
education of indigenous



food sovereignty and systems, we hope to achieve and progressively develop sustainable and resilient methods of agricultural practices that build healthy communities.

Spring Cleaning and Air Quality

Most people spend over 90% of their time indoors and are surrounded by pollutants from pet dander, tobacco smoke, pesticides or other hazardous products that affect human health. With spring cleaning around the corner, here are some tips to protect your health and air quality during those days of dusting:

- •Ventilation open windows to bring in as much fresh air indoors. Don't do when there are local burns and monitor children and pets around open windows.
- •Moisture control. Use exhaust fans and dehumidifiers to remove moisture as humidity and condensation increases.
- •Store items in boxes instead of keeping stacked. Storing in boxes helps organization and cleaning easier when moving to sweep or dust.
- •Store food in containers and clean up dropped food and water spills to keep pests away.
- •Check appliances. Change filters routinely, clean dryer vents to remove lint build up, clean drip pan under refrigerator.
- •Always, store chemicals and other harmful products out if reach of children and household pets.

For more Indoor Air Quality tips visit US EPA's Indoor Air Quality page at https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq or National Tribal Air Association's Indoor Air Quality page at https://www.ntaatribalair.org/indoor-air-quality/ or call 785-966-2946 for more information.

Protecting Our Waterways Through RIPARIAN AND BUFFER ZONES

The following feature was written by Laurie Brown, Conservation Ecologist with Vireo.

Water is one of the Nation's most important natural and cultural resources. The protection of aquatic resources and their associated terrestrial resources has a multitude of biological, cultural, and economic benefits. One way to effectively protect waterways



(streams, ponds, lakes, and wetlands) is to buffer them with healthy native vegetation. This vegetated corridor along waterways is called a riparian corridor. The native plants found within these corridors are able to tolerate wet and dry conditions, as these areas often flood during rainy seasons and then dry out during the summer.



In addition to protecting water resources, riparian corridors have many benefits for nature and people. These corridors provide critical open space and a variety of ecosystem services, such as reducing flooding, improving water quality, and sequestering carbon; creating habitat for plants and animals;

connecting communities and providing access to nature and healthy recreation; and they enhance the overall quality of life for our community.

The best place to see existing riparian corridors that have healthy vegetation is along Big Soldier Creek. In several locations, there are stands of trees and native grasses like Switchgrass, Indian, and Big Bluestem planted between the stream bank and the adjoining agricultural fields. Native vegetation along streams helps to shade the water in the heat of summer, and the plant's roots help to keep the stream banks stable, preventing soil erosion. The photos above, highlight a healthy wooded corridor along Big Soldier Creek at Rocky Point and native grasses in a field adjacent to a tributary of Big Soldier Creek.

128a Tribal Response Program/Brownfields

PBPN Solid Waste Code 21 1.1 (H)

Prohibition on Disposal in Open Dumps. In order to protect the limited land, air, and water resources of the Reservation from pollution by solid and hazardous wastes and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all residents of the Reservation and surrounding communities, disposal of solid and/or hazardous waste in any open dump is expressly prohibited within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation. Report any illegal dumping activity or a site that needs to be cleaned up.

NO ILLEGAL DUMPING!! SEE IT!! REPORT IT!!

Kyle Miller-TRP Coordinator

Phone 785-966-8033

Email: Kylem@pbpnation.org

NO ILLEGAL DUMPING!! SEE IT!! REPORT IT!!



What is Traditional Ecological Knowledge?? (TEK) Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) refers to the knowledge, practices, and beliefs of indigenous and local communities about the environment and natural resources. It is a holistic and integrated system of understanding that is passed down from generation to generation through oral tradition, observation, and experience. TEK encompasses a wide range of knowledge, including the relationships between different species, the seasonal cycles of plants and animals, and sustainable resource management practices. It is a valuable source of information for understanding complex ecological systems.

Additionally, language is a critical aspect of TEK since it facilitates the transfer of knowledge from one generation to the next. In many indigenous cultures, the passing on of knowledge is an oral tradition, meaning that written records are not used. In conclusion, the connection between traditional ecological knowledge and lan-

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guage is evident. Language plays a significant role in the preservation and transmission of traditional ecological knowledge, making it an essential aspect of culture and identity. Moreover, traditional ecological knowledge, rooted in indigenous communities, has the potential to inform and shape the conservation efforts needed to preserve biodiversity and maintain ecological sustainability.

Gas Station Safety

Gasoline is part of our everyday lives, we use it in our vehicles, and usually pump it ourselves. It can become easy to fall into complacent habits but it's important we stay cautious at the pump. Due to gasoline's low flash point and high vapor density it's one of the most dangerous liquids that we see in our everyday lives. Fuel spills and leaks also pose a serious threat to environmental quality. One gallon of spilled gasoline can contaminate up to 1 million gallons of water. Cleanup of fuel-contaminated soil and water can be extremely difficult and expensive. To avoid catastrophe, follow these simple safety guidelines* when refueling:

- Always turn off your vehicle engine while refueling.
- Stay near the vehicle fueling point during the process.
- Never smoke, light matches or use lighters while refueling.
- Cellular phones and other electronic devices may have the potential to emit electrical charges, and should therefore be left in the vehicle during fueling.
- Do not get back into your vehicle during refueling even when using the nozzle's automatic hold-open latch. If you must re-enter your vehicle, discharge static electricity buildup when you get out by touching the outside metal portion of your vehicle, away from the filling point, before attempting to remove the nozzle.
- To avoid gasoline spills, do not overfill or top off your tank. The fuel dispenser will shut off automatically when the tank is full.
- Use only the hold-open latch provided on the gasoline nozzle. Never jam or force the hold-open latch open by using some other object, such as the gas cap.
- When dispensing gasoline into a portable gasoline can, use only an approved container. Always place the container on the ground and keep the pump nozzle in contact with the container when refueling to avoid a static electricity ignition of fuel vapors. Containers should never be filled inside a vehicle, in the trunk, on the bed of a pickup or flatbed truck, or on the floor of a trailer. The bed of the truck and the bed liner act as insulators, as does the carpeting in a car or in its trunk, which may allow static electricity to build up in the can while it is being filled. That static electricity could create a spark between the container and the fuel nozzle.
- If a flash fire occurs during refueling, you should leave the nozzle in the vehicle fill pipe and back away from the vehicle. Notify the station attendant at once so that all dispensing devices and pumps can be shut off with emergency controls. If the facility is unattended, use the emergency intercom to summon help and the emergency shutdown button to shut off the pump.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Division of Planning & Environmental Protection

15498 K Road

Mayetta, KS 66509

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