#### 2025 CALIFORNIA LAND RECYCLING CONFERENCE

BACK TO THE FUTURE: YOUTH+SENIOR ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY PLANNING

Penknife Site Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point (Sipayik) ,ME

2024 EPA Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

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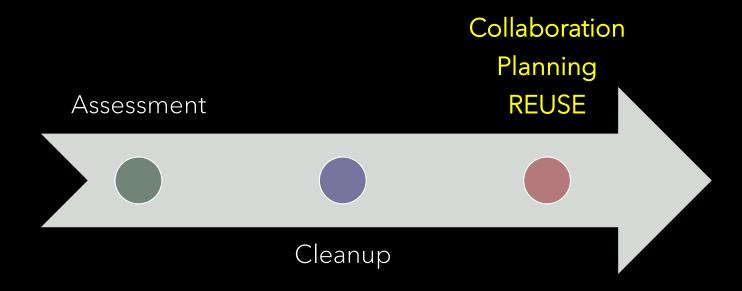
# BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



- Local land use interconnected challenges
- Local/regional government or tribal partners + community partners
- Planning, design & development strategies
- Convene partners across govt, sectors



# 2024 BB THEME: Post-Brownfields Revitalization



#### Goals:

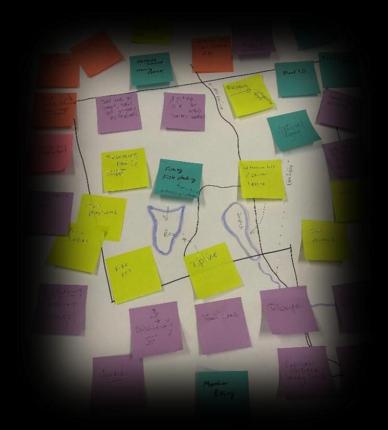
- Stimulate discussion and action around growth and development
- Coalesce implementable plan to achieve a community vision
- Build local capacity to implement sustainable approaches.

### 2024 OCR "PUZZLECUBES"

- YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
- TRADITIONAL VALUES, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE
- Testing our Process with Tribal and Native Communities

### Explorations:

- Strategies for effectively planning WITH and FOR youth
- · Plan within intergenerational framework build continuity, reconcile Past Future
- · Integrate cultural norms and traditional practices in the planning approach;
- Build excitement for the project from kids to seniors!
- · Changes in BB Process to better serve tribal/native communities



### PENKNIFE SITE



2024 Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, ME



# PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE AT PLEASANT POINT, MAINE

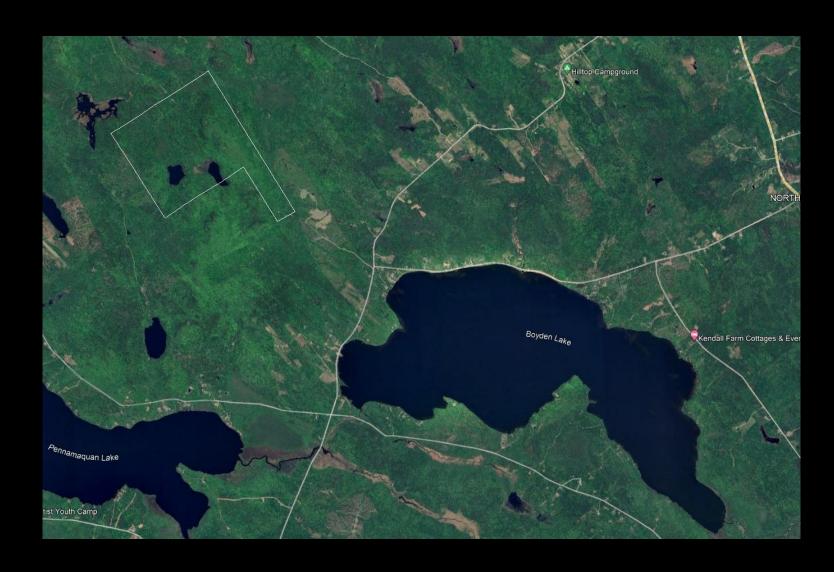








# PENKNIFE PARCEL IS 500 ACRES



## PHASE I:

The cabin, facing upper Penknife







# ENTRYWAY TO CABIN WITH A BROWN PROPANE STOVE





# PROPANE CYLINDER & A YELLOW 5 GALLON PAIL LABELED "IRVING 15W40"







### THE INSIDE:

THE "LIVING ROOM" WITH A MAKE-SHIFT SHELTER



ORIGINAL WOODSTOVE
SURROUNDED BY DEBRIS &
SOLID WASTE





Ground surface beneath cabin prior to demolition and sampling.



EROSION CONTROL:

-INSTALLED SILT FENCES &HAY BALES
PRIOR TO ANY DEMOLITION ACTIVITIES OR
OTHER SITE WORK.



## POST-DEMOLITION &CLEAN-UP



# A WELL-DESERVED BREAK









# 20+ TIRES DUMPED RECENTLY





"I'm extremely excited for this new opportunity for the youth! I work very closely in the community, and I have four boys myself. This is going to be an amazing venture for them. Coming as a parent of all boys who are all adventurous and spend half their time in the woods, this is definitely going to be utilized"

- Melissa Dana, Passamaquoddy Tribal Member













CHALLENGES & CONSIDERATIONS

Tips for Effective Partnership



## TIME & PROCESS: MAKING SANDWICHES VS. BAKING BREAD

Be flexible! Be patient! Meet the community where they're at.

Get the right stakeholders - Chief & Elders, even if schedule changes

Being present, listening and learning to be a Guest

Create space where ideas from all are heard and VALUED

Credible process only thru local champions (including parents)



# ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS



First - which institutions or organizations serve youth?

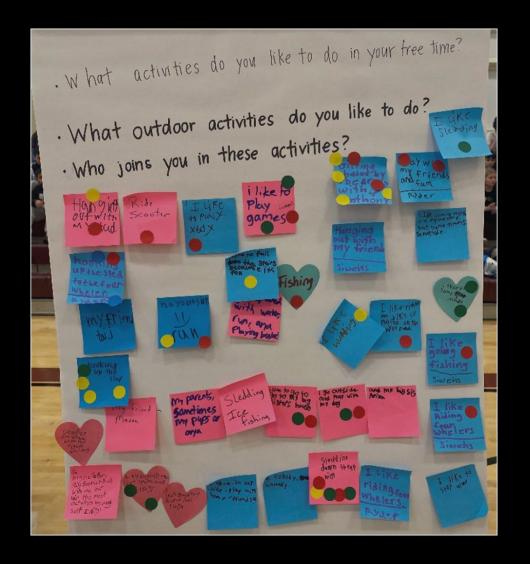
Orgs with willingness & capacity to RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS, PROVIDE INPUT

Finally - how to gather ideas to be actionable for the planning and design team?

Translating ideas into the language of project development & implementation

Next - what and how to present to different ages, abilities, affiliations, and interests?

Activities that are relevant, accessible, and enjoyable?



# KIDS R [NOT] US...

...grounded in the belief that children and youth are <u>not</u> just in the process of becoming adults: they already have so much experience to contribute, just as they are.





#### HUMILITY: Think like they do

- Learn how to HEAR the LANGUAGES of children:
- Activities planned for adults they hate it
- Go to where young people already are e.g. clubs
- Be flexible & don't take yourself too seriously.



## PLAYFULNESS: Energy! Tempo! Less talk more Action!

- Laughter is good medicine.
- ◆Use creative, varied Visual and Physical expression to validate their ideas: writing, drawing, voting, storytelling, rizes



## INCLUSIVITY: Give opportunity to share in own words/form own ideas

- ◆Be inclusive of ALL answers
- Adapt for different ages and abilities

### SENIORS R US

SOME UNIVERSAL TRUTHS

> LI Leave a world better than what

◆Leave a lasting legacy

we had

✓ Instill values in the youth

AS REFLECTED IN COMMUNITY

- ✓Identity & Tradition
- ◆ Culture & Cultural Education
- → Playfulness
- ◆Stewardship of Air, Land & Water

- Why was this important to you growing up?:
- What distracts from or competes with passing along what is important?
- What kinds of spaces (physical and mental) are needed to support this?





#### INGREDIENTS FOR PENKNIFE SUCCESS



Build on Existing Programs (esp cultural initiatives)



Be clear about goals of reuse: Who, What, Where, When, How



Activation, Early Wins & Momentum



Identify Partners & Common Goals



### LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- This will freak out your contractors and other components of how you structure your projects
  - Fixed Cost vs. Fee for Service
- Site control and jurisdiction
- Don't be afraid to ask experts
- Esp with youth plan around school schedules, waivers, security clearance
- Phasing/Sequencing Reuse "what is absolutely necessary to start"



## CALIFORNIA LAND RECYCLING CONFERENCE

Transforming Land, Empowering Communities **September 16-18, 2025 | Carson, CA** 









### **TOGETHER WE EMPOWER COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE** TRANSFORMATION OF BROWNFIELDS

### **THANK** YOU!

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Special thx to Passamaquoddy Chief Pos Bassett, the Wabanaki **Environmental Team, the Penknife** Steering Committee, EPA Region 1 Amy Jean McKeown & Elise Simons & Julie **Iskill from NPS-RTCA** 

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