

# COMMON GROUND

2020 SPRING EDITION

## Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department Celebrates 35 Years of Service

Naomi Tillison, MNRD Director - [nrdirector@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:nrdirector@badriver-nsn.gov)

**A**pril 1, 2020, marked the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department! Although we were not able to celebrate the Department's anniversary in the way we were originally planning due to COVID-19, we are excited to reach this major milestone and hope you will take a moment to celebrate it with us.

Reflecting the MNRD mission statement, we strive for resource management which both conserves the natural resources for the future generations and provide for the needs of the present. The Department's existence reflects the importance the Bad River Tribe places on its right and ability to exercise sovereignty, self-determination and self-regulation in the area of natural resource management. (Our full mission statement can be found at: <http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/natural-resources/>)

### *Jiikakamigad (Celebration!)*

things over those 35 years, such as:

NRD started with only 4 employees in April 1985. Over the decades, we have grown and currently have 35 employees (25 full-time and 10 seasonal), and we're in the process of hiring a couple more people to join our team.

We have operated a fish hatchery for decades, raising and releasing billions of small walleye and perch into the Kakagon, Bad River and other local waters.

In 2001, we established a long-term weather station in Odanah, and in 2005, Bad River Band was the first tribe in the region to obtain "treatment as a state" status under the Clean Air Act.

In 2009, Bad River Band was



the fourth tribe in the region to obtain "treatment as a state" status for a water quality standards program under the Clean Water Act and our water quality standards were federally approved in 2011.

We were one of the first Tribes in the region to have a

*Continued on page 3*

#### Special points of interest:

- 35 Years of Service
- Wildlife Tech Introduction
- NEW Water Regulatory Specialist
- RADON Poster Contest Flier
- Lake Superior Days Reminder
- Wild Rice Restoration flier
- Earth Day Winners

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NRD has accomplished many



# What's Today's Air Quality?

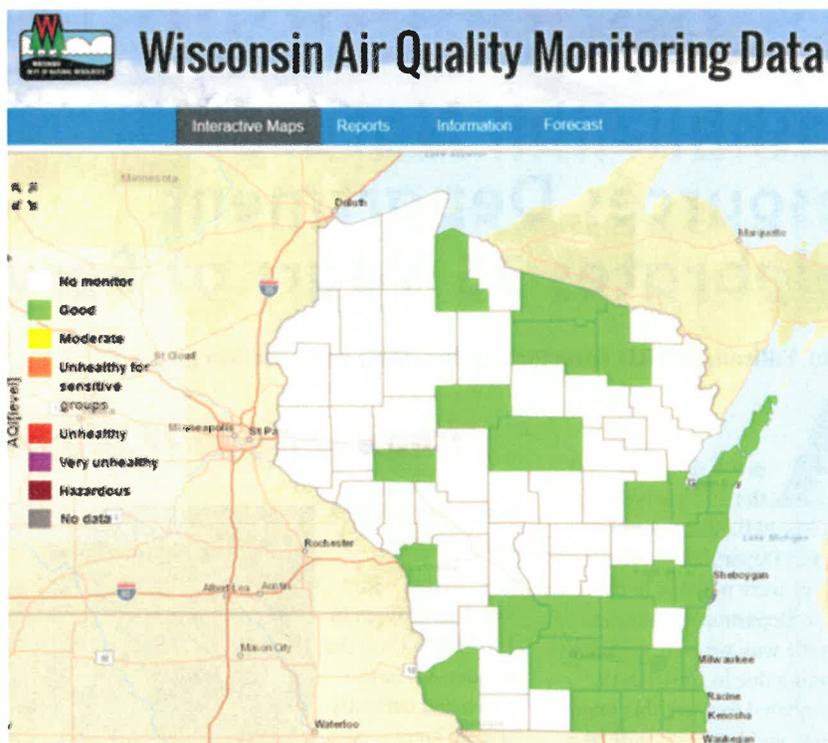
Nathan Kilger, Air Quality Specialist . Email: [airquality@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:airquality@badriver-nsn.gov)

That's a great question, I'm glad you asked! Let me describe how you can find out how the air is on the Bad River Reservation. The Mashkiizibii Natural Resource Department monitors air quality in Odanah. Bad River is one partner that operates an air monitoring site in Wisconsin, the Forest County Potawatomi Community conducts similar monitoring near Crandon, the other sites across the state are operated by the Wisconsin DNR.

And then each state has a similar air monitoring network that are made up of cities, counties, tribes, and state agencies. Nearby, Minnesota and Michigan each have their own state network like Wisconsin's.

But back to my initial question, the Wisconsin DNR has a website that pulls together the air monitoring information across Wisconsin and displays it on a map. You can find that website here: <https://airquality.wi.gov/home/map>

The map you will find is color-coded to the Air Quality Index (AQI). Green is "good" and these values are not a concern. Yellow is "moderate" and indicates that pollution levels are a little higher than they would be normally. Once the colors reach orange and red, air pollution levels are high enough that



anyone will want to limit time outdoors, especially if you have breathing problems.

You can also zoom in on any of the coun-

ties on the map that are colored in to see more information about the monitoring sites and check out graphs and real-time values of

## Introducing MNRD's Water Regulatory Specialist

My name is Lorrie Salawater and I am returning to the Mashkiizibii Natural Resource Department. I am a Bad River Tribal member. I have a passion for the outdoors and conservation of the resources that the creator has given us.

In the past I have worked as the GIS Technician, Invasive Species Coordinator and the Fisheries Specialist. I am very excited to be a part of the Water Resources program.

I enjoy spending time with my family. I have two children and a grandson. I enjoy walking in the woods and on the beach. Here in the Northwoods we have access to some of the most beautiful terrain and waters on the planet. Everyone should get outside and enjoy it as much as they can. Every time I think about nature, I think about how I hope that my grandson can enjoy the beauty that the creator has given us. I do what I can and have a passion to preserve nature for many generations to come.

~Contact me via email @ [WaterReg@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:WaterReg@badriver-nsn.gov)



# MNRD's 35th Anniversary continued....

functioning GIS program, and in 2017, we received an award for Tribal GIS program of the year!

Over the years, we have helped with securing funding and purchasing lands within the Reservation exterior boundaries to return these lands back to tribal ownership. We've spent countless hours fighting to protect the health of manoomin, Bad River watershed, and Lake Superior basin against numerous threats, such as a large-scale open pit mining proposal in the headwaters, Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline, and the loosening of environmental regulations, to name a few.

In October 2019, we changed our name to Mashkiizibii Natural Resources Department to incorporate the language.

The list of NRD's accomplishments is long, ranging from monitoring everything from water quality to ma'iingan, reseeding manoomin, planting trees, hosting community events (such as our annual Lake Superior Day celebration), engaging educators, youth, and others about the Tribe's culture and natural resources issues, implementing and enforcing the Tribe's conservation codes, supporting the Tribe's emergency response and pre-disaster mitigation efforts, supporting the Tribe's renewable energy efforts, participating in the Lake Superior bi-national program and other partnerships, and reviewing numerous project proposals in order to reduce impacts to the natural and culture resources. And the list goes on. (Please read the article from the May 13, 2020, edition of the *News for Mashkiizibii Community* for more details about NRD's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary: [http://www.badriver.nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/20200513\\_DrumBeats.pdf](http://www.badriver.nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/20200513_DrumBeats.pdf))

Miigwech to Ery Soulier, who managed NRD



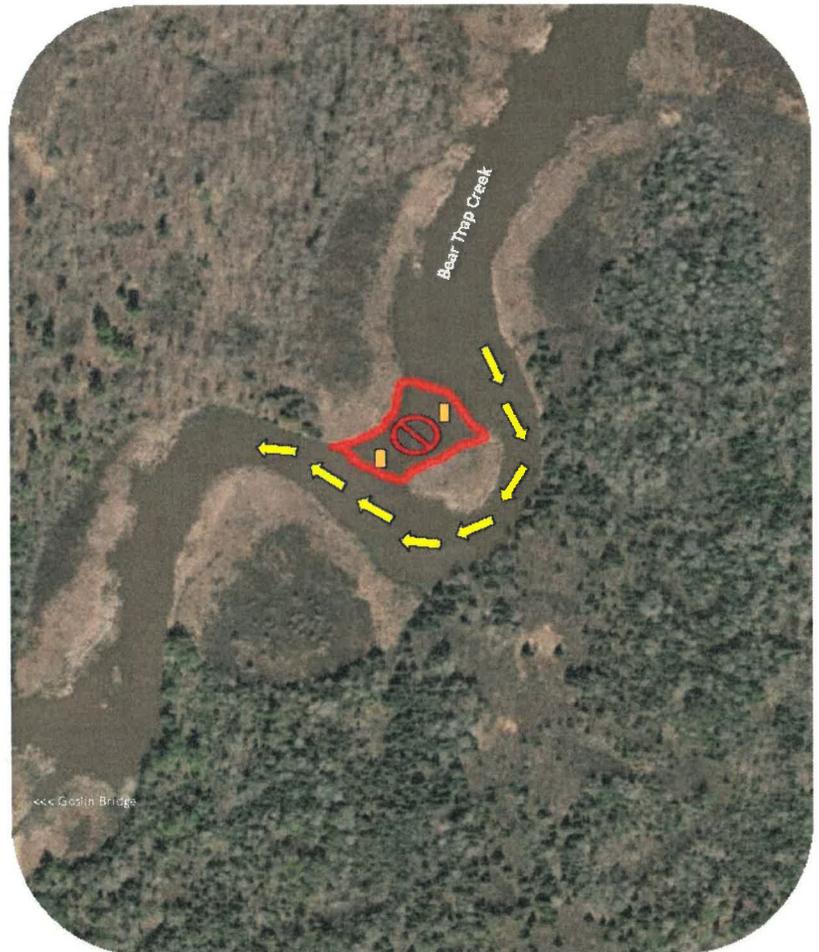
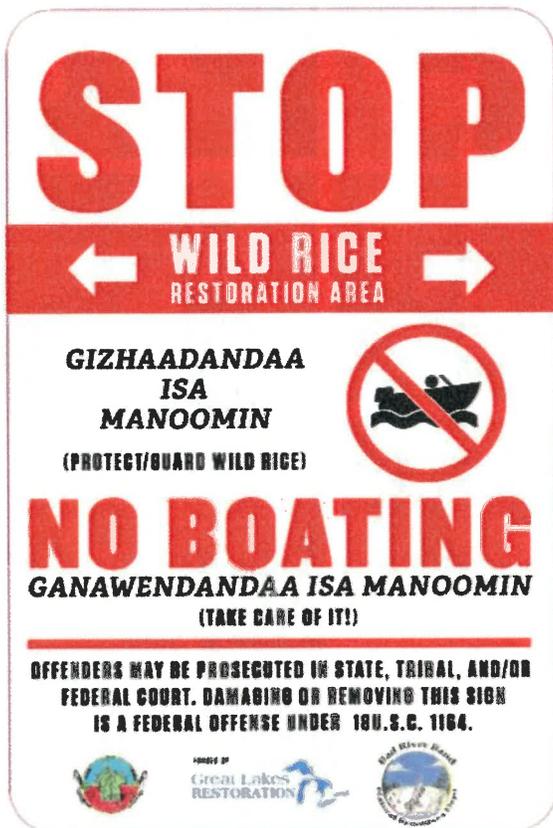
for 32 of those 35 years (we miss you, Ery! Miigwech to all the current and former NRD staff who have worked hard and helped shape our Department's path! Miigwech to other tribal departments and employees, tribal leadership, community members, and other partners who have supported NRD along this journey!

Although we are proud of NRD's accomplishments over the last 35 years, we know our work is not done. There are many challenges and issues that we are facing. We look forward to collaborating with you for the next 35 years (and hopefully longer) because together we can accomplish more and better protect and restore the natural and cultural resources and improve our relationship with them.

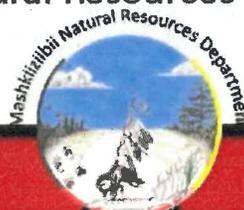


# PUBLIC NOTICE Manoomin Restoration

The Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department is posting this notice to inform the public of the “Manoomin Restoration Area” Signs (see sign below) placed in the sloughs as part of the tribes Manoomin Restoration Initiatives. These signs have been placed (orange squares represent sign placement) to help restore Manoomin (wild rice) growth in areas of the sloughs that have been run down by over-use and misdirection. The area within the Red boundary line is CLOSED to all Boats to prevent cutting through known rice beds were working to restore. We are asking that All boats use the correct channel marked with the yellow arrows.



Any Questions or Concerns  
please contact Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department @ 715.682.7123



## Piping Plover 2020 Season Updates

### Royce Galindo, Piping Plover Monitor

This season, the Chequamegon Point Piping Plover Team once again welcomes Royce Galindo, back for his fourth season and overall the 46th Season of the Great Lakes Piping Plover Project. Monitor Royce will be joined by a fellow Northland College grad and first-time monitor, Dane Hildebrandt. The Piping Plover Project is a cooperative effort between the Bad River Natural Resources Department, the National Parks Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The job of the Piping Plover Monitors is to camp in shifts on Chequamegon Point for the duration of the plovers' nesting season (late May through August). Daily, they walk along the dunes and beaches of the nesting beaches, recording breeding and territorial behavior, locating plover nests, erecting protective structures around them, counting eggs and chicks, and preventing predation of these endangered birds. Monitors also assist with chick capture and banding, as well as educating island visitors on keeping dogs leashed and minimizing their impact on this endangered bird's dwindling habitat. This year, plover surveying will begin on June 1. So far two pairs of Piping Plovers have been identified, and they each have a nest with four eggs. Three of these plovers—nicknamed “Gelato”, “Mellow”, and “XO” are returners from previous breeding seasons. This year the crew welcomes

“Bingwi”, an adult female. The team's biggest worry is the presence of out-of-state tourists on the beaches during the COVID-19 pandemic. To lower the risk of spreading disease from tourists to the reservation, the monitors have pledged to distance themselves from the visitors, of course, as well as Bad River community members and community spaces as much as possible. Fortunately, social distancing is easy on the 10+ mile beach that is Chequamegon Point. If you are interested in learning more about the Great Lake Piping Plover Project or about the plovers in general, please contact Wildlife Specialist Abi Fergus, at the Wildlife Office at the Bad River Natural Resource Department.

Royce Galindo is Bad River's longest-serving Plover Monitor. He started in the summer of 2016, after graduating from Northland College with a degree in Natural Resources. His home is in Chicagoland, but he finds that he cannot stray from the Chequamegon Bay community for more than a few months at a time. When he moves on from the Piping Plover Project, he hopes to stay working with threatened and endangered species—at some point, he would love to help with California Condor recovery efforts, or hummingbird conservation in Mexico, from where his ancestors originated. In his spare time, Royce is a visual artist, who is



currently pouring his heart into creating a graphic novel.



## Meet the New Piping Plover Monitor!!

I've had a bunch of jobs already in my short time on this Earth. I have been a farmhand, kayak guide, gas station attendant, trail builder, landscaper, custodian, radio DJ, school teacher, and still don't know half as much as I should. What I do know is that the web of life is complex, and these little birdies we're lookin' after could make a big difference if they go away. I have a little training about wildlife in a institutional setting, but I am excited to get out in the field and know these creatures on a more intimate level. The plants and animals, mycelium and stones, and everything else around us constitute a network deeply connected. As for me, I like a good combination of sittin' still and travelin' around to witness the wonders abundant on this Earth and to inspire me to keep on learning to live in a good way in this interconnected web. It's been about seven years since I called the Chequamegon Bay home, and I eventually am

finding out that it's worthwhile to develop skills that can contribute something valuable to the communities to which I belong: plant, animal, human, and too many others to name. You might find me sewing up a pair of moccasins, trying to catch a fish, looking for mushrooms, working in the garden or paddling a canoe when I'm not working. Come on by the tent some time and you might find me reading a book or playing the guitar, if I'm not watching the birds, and if you've got a minute I'll put the coffee on the burner and you can tell me all about you.

-Dane Hildebrandt



## Avoiding Bad Habits and Creating Good when Safer At Home

Jessica Strand, Environmental Specialist - Email: [Environmental@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:Environmental@badriver-nsn.gov)

**I** don't know about all of you, but "Safer at Home" actually seemed like "Busier at Home" as my family struggled to adjust to all of the new guidance to keep ourselves and others safe from COVID-19 and abreast of the daily (and sometimes hourly) changes in knowledge, policy, and recommendations. It was easy to feel overwhelmed trying to keep track, keep my family safe, work remotely, and watch my two young children. So other things slipped that I usually did, like recycling, for example. However, I did a little better being creative about what I cooked for meals based on what I had on hand and what needed to be used up first before it spoiled because we were trying to minimize trips to the store.

Surprisingly, both of these actions were then aspects of daily life that were addressed directly in outreach materials and educational offerings I saw through my professional work. Emails started coming out from the US Environmental Protection Agency discussing how during the pandemic that industries that relied on recycling for the raw materials for their products were suffering production issues as fewer people recycled during the pandemic. (Oops! I was part of the problem there—I can't imagine what that meant to the environment if industry was seeing an impact.) Then there was a webinar addressing household food waste and tips and tricks on how to save money and combat the huge amount of food we throw out on a weekly basis. (Well, at least I developed one good habit when I got creative in the kitchen to use food before it went bad.)

As this information was presented to me, I tried to fix my bad habits and support my good habits. Now, I am working hard to recycle properly no matter how busy I am (sort and toss, remove labels, and rinse) and continue to use those ingredients that need to be used first (that spinach is starting to wilt, so I should use it in the spaghetti sauce I am making tonight instead of tossing it later). Now, hoping that I might not be the only one trying to adjust and keep my habits good for



Aki and Nibi, I thought I would share my experience and some of the tips and tricks that were shared with me. I hope these help you make the small changes you can to keep our environment healthy (pandemic or not).

I hope you and your loved ones stay safe and well as COVID restrictions ease and we start to find our new normal. And remember, reduce, reuse, and recycle. ☐

Miigwech!

(See page 7 for Food Waste Tips & Tricks sheet to hang on your refrigerator and page 9 for Recycling Tips & Tricks sheet to hang near your recycling bin.)

Using up vegetables, fruits, meats, and other items that are about to expire in your refrigerator before you have to throw them out can help save you money at the grocery store.

### Special points of interest:

**Don't Forget to Keep a lookout for the Upcoming Lake Superior Days Celebration Flier!**

**Details coming Soon!**

# Reduce Food Waste & Save Money Tips & Tricks

## Smart Shopping: Shop with meals in mind.

- Think about how many meals you'll eat at home this week and how long before your next shopping trip.
- Next to fresh items on the list, note the quantity you need or number of meals you're buying for.
- Shop your kitchen first and note items you already have.



## Smart Saving: Decide what to eat first based on what will spoil.

- Look through your refrigerator every day and identify what will go bad first and try to incorporate it into your meal.
- Stock your cupboards with newest food to the back. Usually pantry foods have a long shelf life, but if you put your new can or box behind the older one that needs to be used up first you can avoid expiration dates.

## Smart Storage: Store fruits and vegetables appropriately.

- Know which fruits and vegetables stay fresh longer inside or outside the fridge. By storing them for maximum freshness, they will taste better and last longer.
- If you like your fruit at room temperature, take what you will eat for the day out of the fridge in the morning.
- Many fruits give off natural gases that hasten the spoilage of other nearby produce. Store bananas, apples, and tomatoes by themselves and store fruits and vegetables in different bins.
- Consider storage bags and containers designed to help extend the life of your produce.
- To prevent mold, wash berries just before eating.



### STORE INSIDE THE FRIDGE

- Apples, berries, and cherries
- Grapes, kiwi, lemons, and oranges
- Melons, nectarines, apricots, peaches, and plums (after ripening at room temperature)
- Avocados, pears, tomatoes (after ripening at room temperature)
- Almost all vegetables and herbs

### STORE OUTSIDE THE FRIDGE

- Bananas, mangos, papayas, and pineapples: store in a cool place
- Potatoes/onions: store in a cool, dark place
- Basil and winter squashes: store at room temperature— once cut, store squashes in fridge

For more tips and tricks and resources, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-too-good-waste-implementation-guide-and-toolkit#docs>



The Bad River Tribal Indoor Radon Program will be sponsoring the:  
**2020 Radon Poster Contest**

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and natural gas, that can develop into lung cancer in humans. Radon sources are usually found in the soils and can easily enter a home or building through foundation cracks and openings. With this year's contest the Program hopes to encourage testing of every tribal home. **TESTING IS THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW!!!**

#### Poster Contest Rules:

- 1) Must be 8-14 years of age for Tribal Contest
- 2) No copyrighted characters
- 3) Topic & Title must be on the artwork
- 4) Include Title on the front
- 5) No students name on the front (put on back)
- 6) Lettering and message should be readable and large enough to be reproduced well.
- 7) Paper Sizes Preferred: 11x 17 or 8.5x11, but all posters will still be taken on any size
- 8) Prizes will be given to winners!

#### Poster Topics:

- 1) What is radon?
- 2) Where does radon come from?
- 3) How does radon get into our homes?
- 4) Radon can cause lung cancer!
- 5) Test your home for radon!

#### Judging Criteria:

- 1) Content Accuracy
- 2) Visual communication of topic
- 3) Reproducibility
- 4) Originality

### SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE:

**July 13th, 2015**

**Winners Announced Friday, July 17th**

**Submit To: Aurora Conley @**

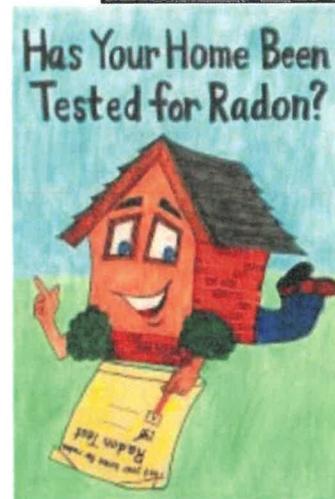
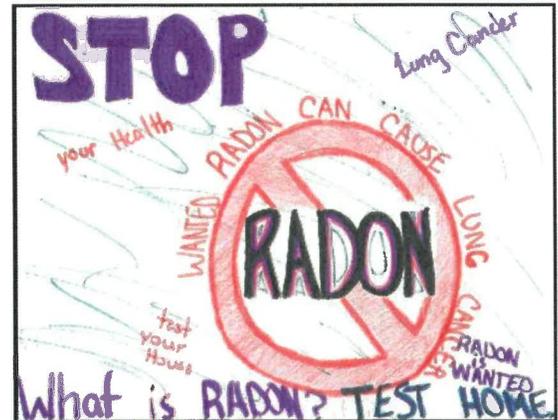
**Natural Resource Department**

**72682 Maple Street**

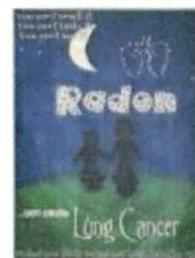
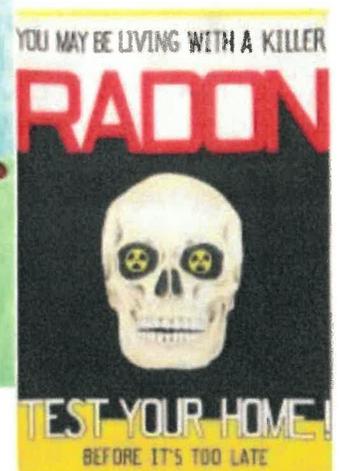
**Odanah, WI 54861**

**Phone: 715-682-7123**

**Email: Airoutreach@badriver-nsn.gov**



*Past National Radon Poster Contest winners and special mentions.*



*Find further Radon Information @*

*<https://bad-river-tribe.wn2gax0-liquidwebsites.com/radon-faqs/>*

*USEPA Radon Information can be found @*

*<https://www.epa.gov/radon/what-radon>*



*\* The Tribal Indoor Radon Program and NRD reserve the right to change, alter, or withdraw any of the contest rules or criteria. The program can also not be held responsible for any changes made to the National Radon Poster Contest by the Kansas State University or other parties.*

# Recycle Quickly & Appropriately

## Tips & Tricks

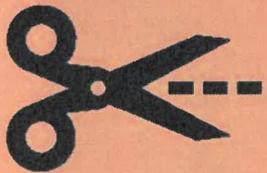
### Sort & Toss: Know what you can recycle and what you can't.

- Each recycling facility is different, reach out to your servicer and find out what materials they recycle. Sort your containers to know what you need to rinse for recycling and what goes to the trash.
- Remember, inappropriate materials can ruin the ability to use a batch of recyclables. So, if you don't know whether the container you're holding is allowed by your provider, toss it out.



### Clean: Rinse and remove caps and labels.

- Though each recycling facility is different, rinsing your containers before the food residue dries makes processing your recyclables more efficient wherever they end up.
- Removing caps and labels also is usually preferred as oftentimes these are made from materials different from that being targeted for recycling.



### Smart Buying: Consider the container when you purchase items.

- Some materials are easier to recycle than others or can be recycled many times. If you can, choose items in glass, aluminum, or paper packaging and avoid plastics. (Or, buy reusable bottles, etc. and fill them at home.)
- Many manufacturers now offer refill items as concentrates, in cardboard cartons, or have created items (like toothpaste dots) that no longer require a tube to hold them. Consider purchasing these items to cut down on containers you even need to recycle.



### ITEMS THAT CAN BE RECYCLED AT THE BAD RIVER SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING (BR SW/R) FACILITY

- Plastics #1 (pop bottles) and #2 (milk, detergent, and oil containers) accepted. Plastics #3, #4, and #5 are not accepted at the Bad River Solid Waste and Recycling Center.
- Glass that is blue, brown, white, clear, and green is accepted.
- Aluminum (pop cans) and "tin" (canned goods) containers are accepted. Each should be in either a plastic or paper bag or in a recycling bin. Tin/aluminum foil and styrofoam are not accepted.
- Newspapers, brown paper bags, magazines, wax cardboard, and corrugated cardboard must be flattened and tied, bagged, or bundled. Office paper can be bagged whole or shredded. **Each should be kept separated.** Brown paper bags can be used to separate recycling.

*Questions about the BR SW/R Facility can be directed to staff there at 715-682-7880.*

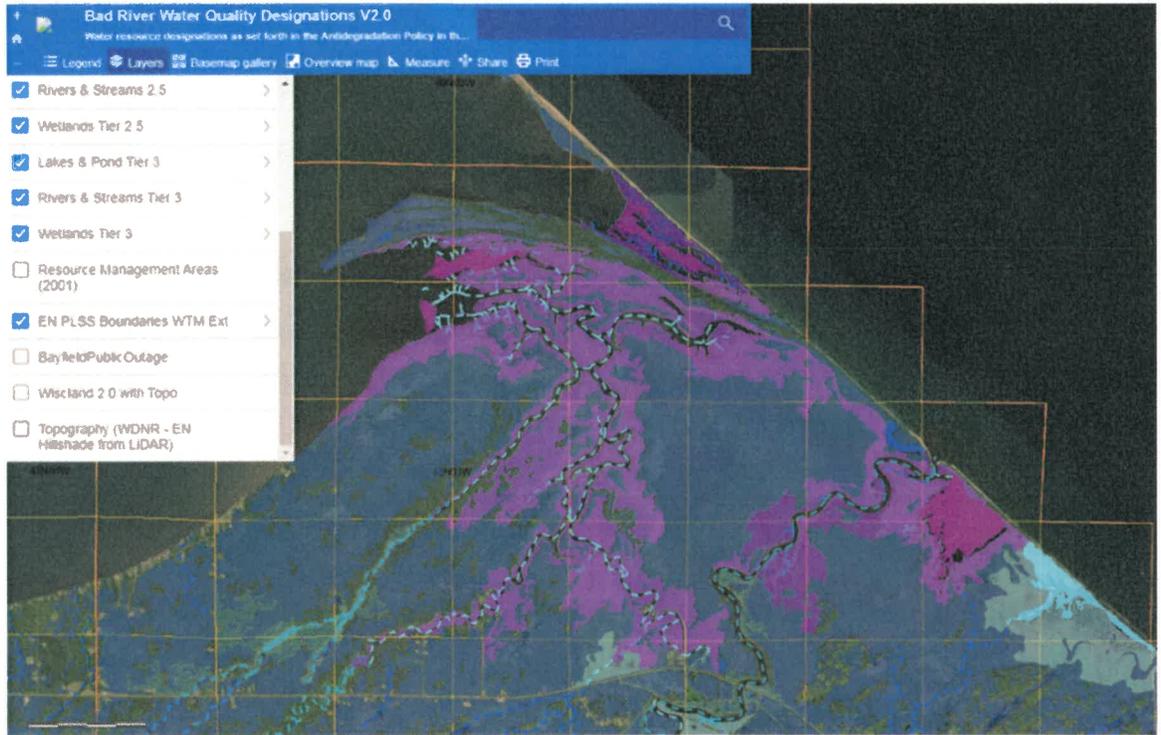
Plastic grocery bags can be recycled elsewhere at certain Ashland retailers.

Batteries can be recycled at self-serve boxes placed around the Bad River Community; call the Mashkiiziibii NRD (715-682-7123) to find out where boxes are located.

## Check out Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Interactive Web Map

Suzi Smith, GIS Specialist - Email: [gspec@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:gspec@badriver-nsn.gov)

Are you interested in seeing and making your own maps of Mashkiiziibing? If so, there is an app for that, maintained and periodically updated on the Bad River Tribe official web site. The interactive map started as a depiction of tribal water quality designations for streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. But has grown to include detailed topography and Integrated Resource Management Areas (RMAs), and other useful layers. And if there is something you would like to see added to the map, that can be accomplished, too, on a request basis. It is intended for general public viewing and for preliminary project planning.



Screenshot from interactive web map. The basemap can be changed and there are layers and tools.

Interactive web mapping can be found on the Bad River Tribe web site ([badriver-nsn.gov](http://badriver-nsn.gov)) > Services > Natural Resources > Maps & GIS. The content of the GIS page needs to be updated and refreshed, but the tribe's web site redesign is an overall improvement to the platform that is updated regularly. Here is a direct link to the interactive web maps (<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=6f44c371217e4ee8b5f1c2c705c7c7c5>), but readers are encouraged to familiarize with the tribe's website to know where to look for more information on government services, operations, and contact information.

-----CLICK LINK ABOVE-----

Interactive web mapping can be found on the Bad River Tribe web site ([badriver-nsn.gov](http://badriver-nsn.gov)) > Services > Natural Resources > Maps & GIS. The content of the GIS page needs to be updated and refreshed, but the tribe's web site rede-

# Emerald Ash Borer Traps

Gena Abramson, Forestry Specialist - Forester@badriver-nsn.gov

Mashkiizibii Natural Resources Forestry Program was hoping to sponsor an informative evening session this past April to educate the community on signs, symptoms, and recommended action regarding Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Unfortunately, we had to cancel because of Covid-19.

Please view the presentation provided by one of the experts that had agreed to visit. Mr. Paul Cigan tells what to look for in respect to Emerald Ash Borer with signs

and symptoms of infestation. It's very important that you report any suspicious trees to Mashkiizibii Natural Resource's Forestry Program.

We want to know as soon as possible about any EAB presence so that we can respond accordingly. The Tribal Council approved an EAB response plan in 2018. Thank you for your love of the forest and especially Bad River Forest!!

**CHECK OUT THE FORESTRY WEBPAGE UNDER NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE MASHKIIZIBII WEBSITE!!**



This is a "sticky trap" that we use to detect the presence of Emerald Ash Borer megwayaak (in the woods). So far, we have not identified EAB in Ashland, Bayfield, or Iron Counties. That doesn't mean they're not here!!

# Introducing MNRD's 2020 Wildlife Tech

Boozhoo,

My name is Kristopher Arbuckle, I'm the New Mashkiizibii Natural Resources Wildlife Tech. I'm 43 years old and have 3 children; Jerome, Sedonnah, and Oakley. I'm a Bad River tribal member, born and raised. I'm an active member whose exercises my rights to hunt, fish, gather, and protect our home. I owe my knowledge to elders and family members that

showed me the ways of our people and how to utilize our resources and the Bad River. I look forward to working with the Wildlife Program for MNRD and continue to monitor and protect our wildlife and resources on Bad River. If any member needs assistance, or have wildlife sightings to report, please call MNRD 715-685-7840 or email [wildlifeTech@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:wildlifeTech@badriver-nsn.gov)

# 2020 Earth Day Celebration

This year for our annual Earth Day Celebration we did things a little differently. Due to the current pandemic, MNRD decided to have a sign-up sheet for the first 35 households to call and register for our AI HOME Earth Day Celebration. We wanted fam-



# 2020 Earth Day Celebration

Berthea Olby, Outreach Coordinator - Email: [NRDOutreach@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:NRDOutreach@badriver-nsn.gov)

amilies to be able to celebrate Earth Day while still following social distancing measures and the ban against group gatherings of 10 or more. To do that, we provided each household registered an Earth Day basket containing; 1 box 30gal. Trash Bags, Safety Gloves, 1 Yard Rake. 1 outdoor item for kids, and a Raffle Ticket. Baskets were delivered prior to Earth Day so families had supplies ready and hoped to promote families to go out on their own on April 22nd and clean up our community. We held the raffle drawing the following Fri-



## Earth Day Raffle Winners

- Fishing Set - Annie Rosin household
- Camping Set - Duane Soulier household
- Patio Set - Mikki Connors household
- Gardening Set - Sondra Ford household
- Lawn Care Set - Carole Kraft household



## Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department

72682 Maple Street  
PO Box 39  
Odanah, WI, 54806

Phone: 715-685-7840 - 715-682-7123  
Fax: 715-682-7118  
Email: [NRDOutreach@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:NRDOutreach@badriver-nsn.gov)

## ~MISSION STATEMENT~

*The Department strives for resource management which both conserves the natural resources for the future generations and provide for the needs of the present. The departments existence reflects the importance the Bad River Tribe places on its right and ability to exercise sovereignty, self-determination and self-regulation in the area of natural resource management.*

*Were on the Web!*  
Visit [www.badriver-nsn.gov](http://www.badriver-nsn.gov)

