

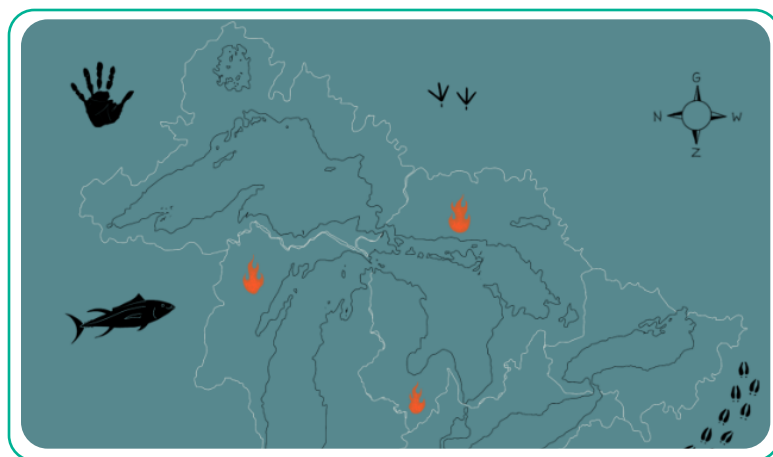


Giizhenindan Inawemaagan-gitigaan / Design a Relationship Garden

Anishinaabemowin is Michigan's indigenous language. It is currently used in nearly 150 Anishinaabe communities here and around Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The map below shows the Great Lakes Watershed which is home to the People of the Three Fires Confederacy of Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Odawa nations today. These are sovereign nations within the borders of the United States and Canada.



Many of you already know some words in Ojibwe. Words like toboggan, or moose, or moccasin. Here are some more words to learn.



Aani/Aaniin, Hello

Boozhoo, Hello (slightly more formal)

Anang(oog), Star(s)

Animosh(ag), Dog(s)

Miigwech, Thank you

Nimkii, Thunder

Giiwedanang, North Star

Nokomis Dibikigiizis, Grandmother Moon

Gizaagi'in, I love you

Gijigijigaaneshiinh(yag), Chickadee(s)



Giizhenindan
Inawemaagan-gitigaan

Design a Relationship Garden



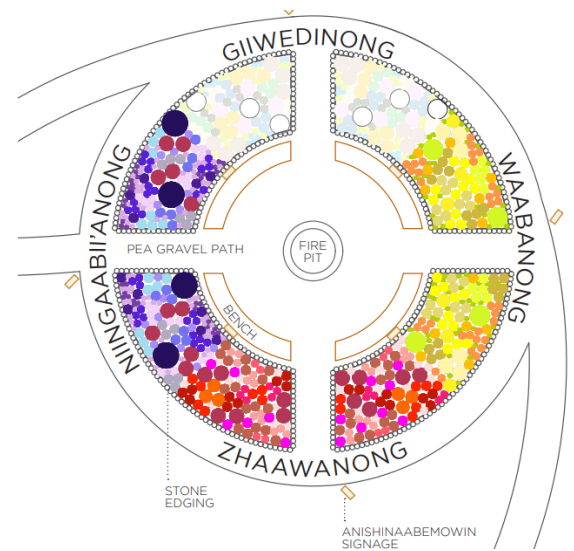
We are defined...

We are defined by the relationships we have with others, by the seasons, by the gifts and responsibilities we all have. This exercise is an opportunity to think about ways that you connect with your community of family, friends and beyond by considering ozaagakiig (plants) and how they might live together in a gitigaan (garden). As humans we ultimately are the gardeners of how we live our lives - where we live, what we do, how we serve and are served, what we add or take from the world. In the Anishinaabe worldview, all beings have gifts, things that humans lack. Some can fly, or see at night, or even make maple syrup. And humans have many gifts and many responsibilities. This can be thought of as Inawemaagan-gitigaan, or a Relationship Garden, a place where we find a network of relatives supporting one another in all directions.

A Story of a Garden

Izhi-Minoging means Healing Garden

On October 15, 1900 the Cheboiganing Burt Lake Band (located in Cheboygan, Michigan) were evicted from their ancestral homeland. The Cheboygan sheriff and his deputies then burned each home to the ground, and illegally sold the band's treaty-promised land. However, the Burt Lake Band survived and today has their tribal headquarters in Brutus, MI. At this location they have created an Izhi-Minoging Mashkikiwan // Place Where Medicines Grow Well, a healing garden which honors the relationships between plants, and carefully considers the gifts and responsibilities of being in the garden. The garden is educational and provides a place for reflection, ceremony, and healing.



Izhi-Minoging Mashkikiwan Planting Plan by
Landscape Architect, Eva Roos.

Design Your Own Garden

What are our responsibilities in our community?

We are thinking about plants and their responsibilities within a garden. We've described 3 different responsibilities below. Every plant has a role to play, and no plant is the only being who holds a given responsibility in each garden. The plants support each other - some plants have the same responsibility and share the load together. Other plants have different responsibilities, and fill gaps in the community's needs. We can think about this with people-relationships, too. Who plays what role in your life? How do you support each other in your community?



Badakide // It stands up.

Often the tallest plant. The firework of the garden! Outgoing and vibrant personality. Shines in front of people. Inspiring, brings energy to a space.

Example: *Pale purple coneflower*



Babaamoode // It crawls about.

Groundcover, protecting the soil and retaining moisture, shorter, quietly doing the hard work on the ground. Quiet or shy do-gooder.

Example: *Wild strawberry*



Aasonige // It supports others.

Structural support, fill visual space, often mid-height. Hold their blooms and structure longer. Always there for you.

Example: *Black-eyed susan*

Step 1: Think About Your Relationships

Identify 6 people or beings in your life.

Identify six people or beings in your life who stand up for you, support you, or protect you. Please expand this idea as needed - you could include those who have walked on, a new baby, a pet, a tree you love, or blank bubbles are okay too.

Name: _____

Aasonige // It supports others

Name: _____

Badakide // It stands up

Name: _____

Badakide // It stands up

Name: _____

Babaamoode // It crawls about

Name: _____

Babaamoode // It crawls about

Your Name

Step 2: Learn About the Plants

Now let's learn about 16 different plants and their gifts and responsibilities within the three categories.

Badakide // It stands up

Below are Great Lakes native plants whose responsibility in the garden is "badakide":



Dense Blazing Star / moos-waanow(ag) (moose tail)

Flower gifts are purple wand-like blooms in the summer. Visual gifts continue in the winter with brown towering seedheads. Used for medicinal purposes.

Summer - Flowering / **Fall, Winter** - Seed head



Culver's Root / wiisagjiibik(ag) (a root that is bitter)

Flower gifts are white candelabra-like spikes in the summer. Visual gifts continue in the winter with brown candelabra seedheads. Used for medicinal purposes.

Summer - Flowering / **Fall, Winter** - Seed head



Pale Purple Coneflower / waabigiizisobagoons(an) (white little petals of the sun)

Flower gifts are pink-petaled shooting-star-like coneflowers, blooming in the summer. Visual gifts continue in the winter with a dark brown spiky seedhead. These seeds are also food gifts for birds. Used for medicinal purposes.

Summer - Flowering / **Fall, Winter** - Seed head, bird food



Butterfly Weed / ininiwanzh(iig) (common stalk)

Flower gifts are red-orange clusters of small flowers blooming in summer. In fall, rainbow pods release wind-bound seeds. In winter, visual gifts continue with gray/tan seed pods. Used for medicinal purposes.

Summer - Flowering / **Fall, Winter** - Seed pods



Prairie Dock ginoozhewashk(oon) (long/tall stem)

Flower gifts stand on 7-9' stalks with bright yellow daisy-like blooms that reach for the sun. Used for medicinal purposes. Visual gifts continue in the fall with red/brown stems and silvered dry leaves persisting.

Summer - Flowering / **Fall** - Dried stem, leaves

Step 2: Learn About the Plants

Babaamoode // It crawls about

Below are Great Lakes native plants whose responsibility in the garden is "babaamoode":



Wild Strawberry / ode'imín(an) (heart berry)

Flower gifts are white five-petaled blooms which stay close to the ground in spring. In late spring, and early summer, strawberries ripen and are ready to eat - So scrumptious.

Spring - Flowering / **Summer** - Fruit



Common Cinquefoil / gichi-ode'imíniibik(ag) (big heart seed root)

Flower gifts are yellow five-petaled blooms which stay close to the ground in spring and early summer. Used for medicinal purposes.

Spring, Summer - Flowering



Canada Anemone / midewíibik(ag) (oily root)

Flower gifts are white five-petaled blooms surrounded by star-shaped leaves, staying close to the ground. Blooms in late spring and early summer. Used for medicinal purposes.

Spring, Summer - Flowering



Prairie Smoke / zhingidib(an) (spreading head)

Flower gifts are pink smoke-like blooms atop short pink stalks, blooming spring through early summer. Found on Drummond Island! Used for medicinal purposes.

Spring, Summer - Flowering



Lance-Leaf Coreopsis / ozaawaabigwan(iin) (yellow leaves)

Flower gifts are vibrant yellow blooms, about 1' tall, which blossom from spring through late summer. Used for medicinal purposes.

Spring, Summer - Flowering

Step 2: Learn About the Plants

Aasonige // It supports other

Below are Great Lakes native plants whose responsibility in the garden is "aasonige":



Little Bluestem / mashkosiw(an) (hairy/furry)

Visual gifts are clumped grass fronds that begin a blue-green color in summer, and shift to reds and purples in the fall and winter. Provides gifts of nesting and roosting habitat for birds and small mammals.

Summer, Fall, Winter - Colorful grass fronds, nesting/roosting habitat



Side Oats Grama / agooji-anoomin(ag) (hanging oats)

Visual gifts are small bright red flowers which hang off upper grass fronds. In the fall, oat-like seed heads dry. Provides food gifts for many species of skipper moths.

Summer - Flowering grass fronds, food source for moths. **Fall** - Seed heads



Prairie Dropseed / nabagashkoon(an) (little flattened plant)

Visual gifts are fountain-like grasses with sweet smelling flowers in late summer and fall. In winter, peachy fronds give visual gifts.

Summer, Fall - Fragrant flowers **Winter** - Colorful grass fronds



Smooth Blue Aster / mayaawadikwayaapin(iig) (central twig tuber)

Visual gifts are abundant purple flowers in late summer and early fall. Seeds provide food gifts for birds in the winter.

Summer, Fall - Flowers **Winter** - Bird food



Black-Eyed Susan / ozaawaa-bashkiibigwaniins(an) (yellow blossom)

Visual gifts are bright yellow flowers in mid summer and early fall. Seeds heads provide food gifts to birds in the winter. Used for medicinal purposes.

Summer, Fall - Flowers **Winter** - Bird food



Sweetgrass / wiingashk (great or excellent grass)

Sacred plant used in ceremonies and healing. In spring and summer, it gives gifts of sweet fragrant grass fronds.

Spring, Summer - Fragrant grass fronds

Step 3: Create a Responsibility Plant Web

Select two plants from each category that resonate with you.

Aasonige // it supports other | Babaamode // it crawls about | Badakide // it stands up

Draw and name each plant in the web below:

Name: _____

Aasonige // It supports others

Name: _____

Aasonige // It supports others

Garden Name

Name: _____

Badakide // It stands up

Name: _____

Badakide // It stands up

Name: _____

Babaamoode // It crawls about

Name: _____

Babaamoode // It crawls about



Maamakaadendaagwad

Congratulations!

**You created a community of six plants who will work well
together in a garden!**

Their relationships both support and complement each other, just like your loved ones in your life. This plant palette can be used to build your own garden at home; these Great Lakes Native plants are found at many local native plant nurseries. Have fun arranging them together in a community, and see how they grow together. Look for the lessons each plant gives and enjoy the beauty!

