Let’s Pick Berries:
An Apsaalooke Community-based Project
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This board presents a very general and adaptable plan for a berry picking community space. This “park” will ideally be in each town on the Crow Reservation—the first of which will be Lodgegrass. Everything that is part of this rough layout of spaces was determined through conversation with Crow community members on the Little Big Horn Tribal college campus. Ages of tribal members ranged from 18-65 and included a wide variety of opinions and perspectives.

In Apsaalooke culture everything has intention; every element and object carries meaning. This creates an interesting and provocative standard for design, and pushes every element to be purposeful. This community space is inspired by this idea and every part of the design is birthed our of Apsaalooke culture, presenting a space that can serve as a cultural expression as well as be enjoyed by members of the community.

**Let’s Pick Berries**
As determined by Tracie Small and previous classes, berry picking has been established as a community-revitalization and cultural-rehabilitation catalyst. Berry picking is the heart and soul of this project, but as determined by community members, a scattered, random pattern of berry plants throughout the space is favorable over a set area with rows of berries.

**Recreation**
There was an expressed interest in an area for recreation. It was understood that it should be near the ‘place of honor’ so that parents could watch their children and youth could have a place entirely their own. Among many ideas generated (including a celestial design mini-golf course), the few that seemed to come up the most times and were most favored were the horseshoe pit, playground, basketball court, and tire-swing.

**Place of Honor**
The back of the tipi is the “place of honor;” this is where the chief, or head of the household would traditionally sit. For this community space, the back of the site would hold a gathering area—a place for congregation and conversation stimulating the interaction of families and strengthening the youth-elder connection. This space could also be a venue for something tribal members expressed as a lost part of their culture they would like to see return.

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**Crow Design**
The idea of using the geometric patterns everpresent on tradition Crow clothing throughout the public space as ornament was greatly emphasized by community members. Along with the patterning, they expressed the gravity of color in crow explicitly informing never to use black, and that Crow blue, and Crow pink (the colors used in this drawing) were the most favored of the Apsaalooke color palette. Some ideas were to use it as a “wrap” around the fire pit, or to have it frame or even become a path.

**New Beginnings**
All tipis in Crow culture faced east, the cardinal direction of new beginnings. The crescent moon shaped plan of Crow settlements also faced east.

**The Land is Like a Lodge**
In the Apsaalooke tipi, every pole used to construct the tipi carries meaning. This idea surrounds the berry patch with a subtle perimeter of 21 poles, each marked with its traditional meaning. The land is is also considered a greater lodge, to mirror this idea the space is circular in plan—just like the tipi.

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