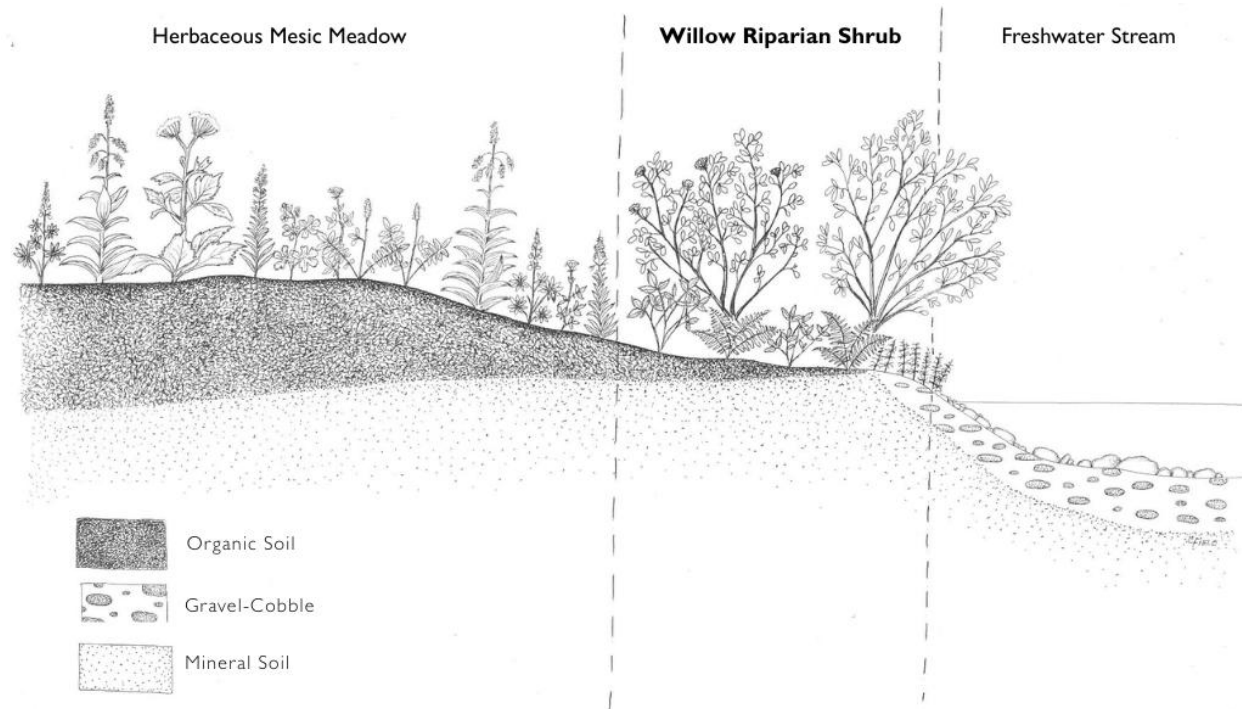


Willow Riparian Shrub



Willow riparian shrub develops along the margins of lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams experiencing seasonal flooding due to spring snow melt and direct precipitation. Thickets are dominated by Sitka willow (*Salix sitchensis*) and Barclay's willow (*Salix barclayi*) with a rich understory of salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), woolly geranium (*Geranium erianthum*), Sitka valerian (*Valeriana sitchensis*), twisted stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*), marsh violet (*Viola epipsila*), and lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*).

Environment:

Riparian shrublands develop at low elevations along the coast within floodplains, shallow lake beds, the margins of ponds and lakes, and the banks of rivers and streams. Soil may be mineral silts or sands or well-decomposed organic mucks; water is nutrient rich. These systems are highly productive and have high rates of decomposition.

Disturbance:

Riparian shrublands are subject to flooding, groundwater discharge, or surface inundation, resulting from proximity to waterbodies, including tidal pulses of freshwater, or subsurface water due to high water table. Flooding may be accompanied by burial by sand and other coarse

material. Systems will be impacted by any alterations to the natural hydrology that raise or lower the elevation of the groundwater or surface water, or change the frequency of flooding or duration of inundation.

Animal Species Supported:

Mammals:

Moose (*Alces alces*) – **Tunturpak, Teqliq** [Chenega], **Teggliq** [NW, PG]

Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) – **Paluqtaq** [NW, PG], **Shniq** [Chenega]

Showshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*) – **Uskaanaq** [NW, PG]

River otter (*Lutra canadensis*) – **Aaquyaq** [NW, PG], **Kep'akag** [Chenega]

Northern vole (*Microtus oeconomus*) – **Kriisaq** [N Alutiiq], **Ugna'aq** [S Alutiiq]

Short-tailed weasel (*Mustela erminea*) – **Amitatuk** [NW, PG]

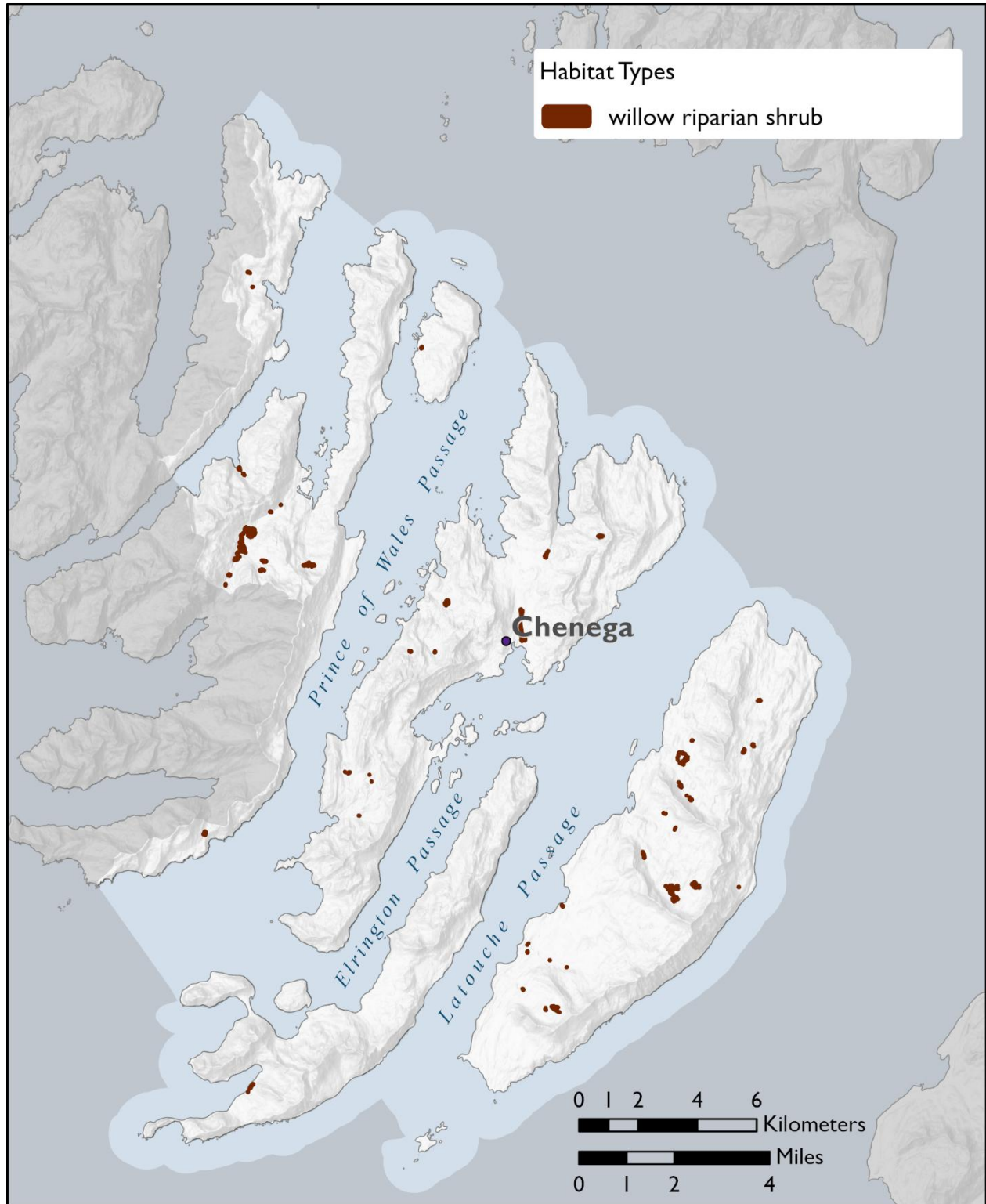
Mink (*Mustela vison*) – **Qaugciciaq** [NW, PG]

Sitka black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus ssp. sitkensis*) – **Tuntuq, Puhgutaq** [Chenega]

Ground squirrel (*Spermophilus parryii*) – **Qanganaq**

Black bear (*Ursus americanus*) – **Tan'erliq**

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) – **Kaugya'aq; Kangilngaq, Uuquciik** [NW, PG]



Subsistence Plants:

Species: Common name (*Scientific name*) – **Alutiiq name** [if known]

[NW = Nanwalek; PG = Port Graham; PWS = Prince William Sound]



Willow (*Salix* spp.) – **Cuaq** [PWS Alutiiq], **Nim'uyaq** [PG]: Tender shoots and leaves are gathered in the spring within wetlands and along rivers and stream margins. The inner bark is chewed for pain relief or dried and ground for use as a flour substitute. Leaves can be boiled as a tea for colds and pain, or chewed into a pulp as a poultice for stings and bites. Stems and branches are used for building fish racks, constructing children's toys (whistles, slingshots, popguns), steam bath switches, and smoking fish.

Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) – **Alagnaq** (berry), **Cugelenuk** (shoots), **Qimalaa**, **Qateguatagiaq**: Berries are collected mid-summer for use in jams, jellies, and wine. People also suck nectar from blossoms and eat flower petals. Leaves and powdered bark can be turned into a heated poultice for rashes, cuts, and sores to promote healing. Peeled shoots can be sautéed and eaten, or can be chewed to aid with digestion.



Woolly geranium (*Geranium erianthum*) – **Talltaciq**: Leaves can be collected for use in salads or boiled into a tea to be used as a throat gargle. Roots can be chewed or boiled into a decoction to alleviate sore throats, tuberculosis symptoms, canker sores, coughs, and colds.

Twisted stalk/Watermelon berry (*Streptopus amplexifolius*) – **Muuguaq**, **Cugelenuk** (shoots), **Kakegluguat** [NW, PG], **Mugauat**: Young shoots can be harvested and added to salads or vegetable dishes. The berries can be eaten raw.



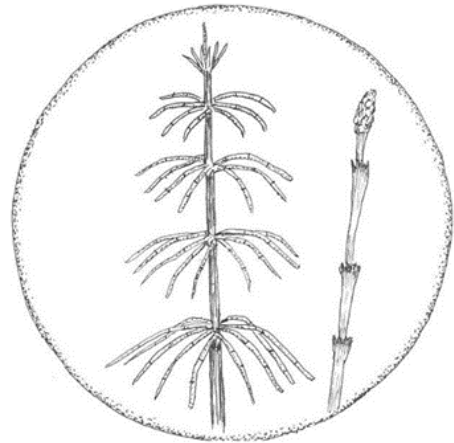
oversized leaves can also be used to wipe surfaces, wrap fish or fish eggs while steaming, or line bowls to add flavor during cooking. **CAUTION:** surficial hairs and exudates can cause rashes, blisters, and itching.

Field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) – **Paumnaruaq**: Stems can be mashed and used as a poultice for skin trouble (lesions, pimples) or to stop hemorrhaging, or consumed to treat anemia and strengthen hair and nails. Roots and green stems can be used as a yellow-green dye. Stems are also great for scrubbing and polishing due to their high silica content.

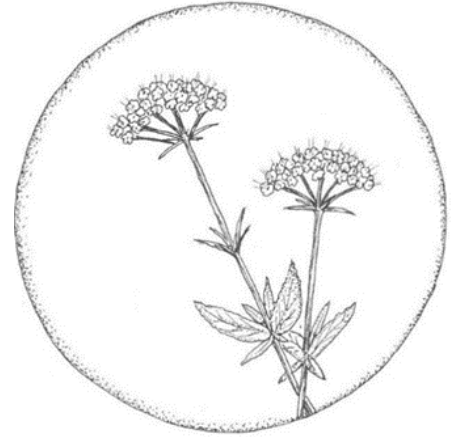
Lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) – **Qaataq, Qaataqutaq, Kun'aquataq, Kunraanguasaaq**: Young shoots are collected in early spring from meadows, streambanks and moist woodlands. Fiddleheads are cooked in butter, while rhizomes are steamed and eaten. Shoots are high in iron, potassium, and vitamins A, B, and C. **CAUTION:** fronds become toxic with age; only young fiddleheads should be consumed.

Yellow monkey flower (*Mimulus guttatus*): the plant can be boiled into an infusion used to treat constipation.

American burnet (*Sanguisorba canadensis*): No documented use by Alutiiq, but other regional groups collected fresh leaves for eating and seasoning. Leaves also can be used to stop internal and external bleeding.



Sitka valerian (*Valeriana sitchensis*): No documented use by Alutiiq, but other regional groups collect leaves to make a tranquilizing tea to treat insomnia, constipation, and sore muscles. Leaves can be heated and applied as poultice to treat stomach troubles. Roots can be boiled as a sedative. **CAUTION:** large and frequent doses can cause poisoning symptoms.



An example of willow riparian shrub habitat (PC: ACCS – Kenai Fjords NP)