

## THE LEISNOI LAND SURVEY

- Where did our ancestors live?
- What were their communities like?
- How can we protect our history?

To explore these questions Leisnoi, Inc. worked with Alutiiq Museum archaeologists to document ancestral settlements on our lands.

In 2019, archaeologists walked and boated the coast of Chiniak Bay and Monashka Bay examining beaches, meadows, and river banks for evidence of Alutiiq ancestors.

They visited known settlements and documented many unrecorded sites. Their observations are helping Leisnoi protect ancestral places and the history they hold.

## ARCHAEOLOGY EXPLAINED

Archaeology is the study of history from the things people leave behind. Alutiiq people have lived on Kodiak Island for over 7,500 years. Hundreds of archaeological sites filled with features and artifacts tell their story. They are a library of Alutiiq history.

- Sites: The places people lived and worked—villages, camps, quarries, cairns, weirs, traps, trails, and rock art sites.
- Features: The structures people built—houses, smoke houses, storage sheds, pits, hearths, and burials.
- Artifacts: The objects people used—harpoon points, lances, fish hooks, adzes, lamps, beads, masks, and many others.

# Our Ancestors' Settlements:

## An Introduction to Chiniak Bay Archaeology



## LEARN

Our tribal museum explores Alutiiq culture and history with exhibits, programs, and publications. Learn more by visiting the Alutiiq Museum's gallery and website.

[www.alutiiqmuseum.org](http://www.alutiiqmuseum.org)  
844.425.8844



**LEISNOI**  
INCORPORATED

## CONTACT US

194 Alimaq Drive, Kodiak, AK 99615  
[www.lesinoi.com](http://www.lesinoi.com)  
907.512.2055

## LEISNOI'S SITES

There are 74 archaeological sites on Leisnoi lands, and more waiting to be discovered. These sites span the region's human history from our ancestors' ancient hunting camps to large winter villages, Russian era kilns, cabin and barn remains, and bunkers. Each is unique, with a different story to tell.



## VILLAGES & CAMPS

Alutiiq people once lived in coastal villages in warm, weather proof houses built of wood and sod. When these houses collapse, they leave depressions. Archaeologists can find and map ancestral settlements by locating the depressions. Many villages have garbage deposits—clam shells, animals bones, and wood charcoal from making ancient dinners.

## BRICK KILNS

In Middle Bay and on Woody Island there are Russian brick kilns. Here, Alutiiq laborers produced thousands of bricks a year. They used local clay and lime, and fired the bricks in specially built ovens.

## REFUGE SITES

On pinnacles of rock in Chiniak Bay, Alutiiq people built small settlements—places to retreat in times of conflict. Steep rock walls were hard to climb but easy to defend.



## RECENT PAST

Leisnoi lands lie near the City of Kodiak, a center of American era activities. Here, sites reflect daily life and local industries—communications, transportation, and the military. Structures built during World War II are common, like the buildings, bunkers, and roads of Long Island's Fort Tidball and Chiniak's Fort J.H. Smith.

## PROTECT THE PAST

The archaeological sites preserved today represent the entire record of the Alutiiq past available for study. Once damaged, sites lose information and their ability to teach us about our ancestors' world. Leisnoi does not permit recreational digging or artifact collecting on its lands.

## TAKE PHOTOS NOT OBJECTS

- Never dig in a site. Recreational digging destroys Alutiiq history.
- Never collect artifacts, even from the beach. When taken, artifacts lose information.
- Never buy or sell artifacts. The artifact trade is illegal and encourages site looting.
- If you make a discovery let us know so we can record it.
- Never disturb or collect human remains.

## REPORT

If you make a discovery let us know. Report your find to the Leisnoi lands department.  
907-222-6900

All discoveries of human remains should be reported to the Alaska State Troopers.  
907-486-4762