

## What is so important about trees?

### Trees:

- Provide shade and cool temperatures
- Take carbon dioxide out of the air and put oxygen back in
- With their roots, they decrease risk of erosion

So hug a tree today!

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### *Ocean Beach, Fire Island List of Indigenous Trees*

The following chart includes a list of trees and shrubs that are indigenous to Fire Island as well as their preferred planting sites. Indigenous trees and plants (those that developed naturally in a particular region) tend to thrive better and be less resistant to disease in that particular ecosystem than others that are artificially introduced.

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Preferred Sites *</b>
<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch pine	Dry sheltered sites
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Red cedar	Dry, exposed and sheltered sites
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	Moist or dry, sheltered sites
<i>Quercus stellata</i>	Post oak	Dry sheltered sites
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black oak	Dry sheltered sites
<i>Salix</i>	Willow	Moist overwash or sheltered sites
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush blueberry	Shrub; moist or dry sheltered sites
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy Juneberry	Moist or dry sheltered sites
<i>Prunus maritime</i>	Beach plum	Shrub; dry exposed sites
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black cherry	Moist or dry sheltered sites
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Sour gum	Moist overwash or sheltered sites
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry	Moist or dry sheltered sites
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly	Moist or dry sheltered sites
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrow-wood	Shrub; moist or dry sheltered sites
<i>Baccaris halmifolia</i>	Groundsel tree	Moist overwash sites

### \* Site Definitions

- Dry site is one with the water table two feet or more below the surface
- Moist site is one with the water table within one foot of the surface
- Overwash site is one exposed to ocean or bay overwash, annually (more or less)
- Sheltered site is one protected from wind by dunes, structures, or vegetation
- Exposed site is one open to wind, particularly in winter

*Provided by the Village of Ocean Beach Environmental Commission*