

Fire Island Photo Interpretation Key



Class: *Quercus coccinea* - *Quercus velutina* /
Sassafras albidum / *Vaccinium pallidum* Forest
(Coastal Oak - Heath Forest)

TNC Alliance Code: I.B.2.N.a.100. 6375

CMI Code: 6375

Type Locator:

Restricted to the Floyd Estate

TNC Alliance Description: The canopy of this vegetation is dominated by *Quercus velutina* and *Q. alba*. *Carya tomentosa* and *Quercus coccinea* are common canopy or subcanopy associates. Other canopy associates may include *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Prunus serotina* or *Pinus rigida*. The shrub layer contains *Quercus* species present in the canopy, especially *Q. alba*, with *Sassafras albidum*, *Vaccinium corymbosum*, and/or *Viburnum dentatum* occurring locally. *Gaylussaccia baccata* is often present in the short shrub layer with considerable cover. Vines, where present, tend to be abundant, especially *Smilax rotundifolia*. The herbaceous layer is generally sparse to absent.

Photo Interpretation: This type covers a large portion of the William Floyd Estate. It appears on the photography as a tall, forested area with a tan or brown color stippled with shadows from tree trunks oriented all in the same direction. Individual green *Pinus rigida* is often present but not in high enough proportion to classify as coniferous forest.

Aerial Photo Samples:



Field Notes: The most common forest type of the Floyd Estate. *Quercus coccinea*, *Q. velutina*, and *Q. alba* are the dominant overstory species. *Vaccinium corymbosum* is a common understory shrub.

Ground Photos:



Coastal Oak-Heath Forest



Mature Coastal Oak-Heath Forest

Similar Alliances:

Quercus stellata - *Quercus velutina*/*Myrica pensylvanica*/*Deschampsia flexuosa* Forest (Maritime Post-Oak Forest): Dominated by *Quercus stellata* rather than *Q. coccinea*.

Pinus rigida - *Quercus coccinea* / *Vaccinium pallidum* - (*Morella pensylvanica*) Forest (Pitch pine - Oak Forest): Dominated by *Pinus rigida*.