

# Beach & Dune Ecosystem Services

## **NESTING & NURSERY SITES**

Shorebirds, sea turtles, & other endangered or endemic species need dunes to hatch and raise their young.

## **PROMOTES HABITAT & BIODIVERSITY**

Sand crabs, clams, beetles, & even microscopic invertebrates live in the sand beneath our feet, depositing nutrients into the ecosystem and fueling the food chain.

## **WATER FILTRATION & REDUCED RUNOFF**

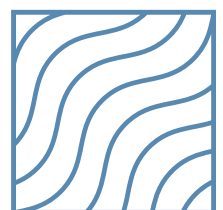
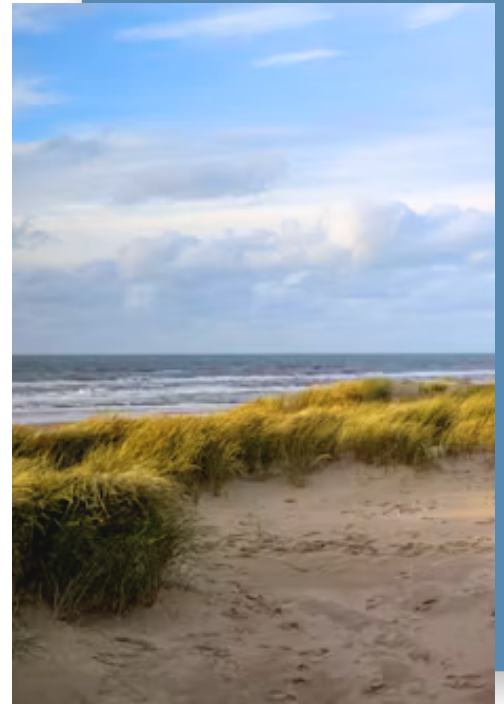
The sand, roots, and microorganisms in beaches and dunes act as a large filter, breaking down pollutants and reducing bacteria levels. This is essential to improving water quality impacted by urban and agricultural runoff.

## **CARBON STORAGE**

Sand and grass roots naturally trap and bury carbon. Although other coastal ecosystems like mangroves and seagrass beds can store more carbon, properly planted dune systems can sequester carbon in extensive root systems and plant material.

## **THE LINK BETWEEN TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS**

Intertidal zones like beaches transfer nutrients from land to sea and sea to land. They also support species who need both environments to survive, & provide humans with access to the ocean!



**#YEStoBeaches**  
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