



Dear Montauk Enthusiast,

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Montauk's environment. Your generous support of CCOM is making a **real difference**.

That's why I'm excited to announce that a group of Montauk friends and neighbors has come together to offer a **\$20,000 challenge grant. They have pledged to match all donations made during our year-end fund drive. That means every dollar you donate today will be doubled**. Please help us take advantage of this incredible opportunity and consider a generous donation to CCOM before **December 31st**.

Your support has enabled us to win some big victories this year including: stopping ED40, a massive redevelopment plan for the East Deck Motel which would have had major environmental consequences, and reopening Fort Pond House to the public after winning a battle to save it. We're also leading the effort to improve water quality in Montauk. For three years CCOM's team of highly trained volunteers and partners have worked year-round collecting and analyzing water samples. Montauk's water quality is getting worse. That's why CCOM has launched a comprehensive, community-based effort to improve water quality in Fort Pond and Lake Montauk within three years. There are no quick fixes, but our plan will make a measurable difference.

CCOM also worked hard in 2015 to win \$400,000 of grants for East Hampton Town to launch a vital, community-based coastal planning program that will create the laws and funding mechanisms necessary to save our beaches. This is a critical part of CCOM's "Say Yes to Sand," campaign, which supports a large-scale beach nourishment project and, longer term, the relocation of threatened beachfront hotels and infrastructure.

Preserving our threatened shoreline and fixing 50-year-old mistakes does not happen overnight. CCOM has spent the last two and a half years fighting the Army Corps to get the best possible project for downtown Montauk. We successfully fought their plans to build a massive stone seawall. But we've also had setbacks, most strikingly the selection of the geobag (sandbag) project instead of a far preferable sand-only option to protect downtown.

While geobags are nobody's preferred option, our grave concern is that without them as a temporary measure, private property owners will build their own permanent steel and rock revetments. That is why we are focusing on a "Say Yes to Sand" campaign and working to bring millions of federal dollars to Montauk for building a wide sandy beach using sand pumped from offshore. We are also pressing hard for the creation of a special tax district in downtown Montauk to fund sand pumping should federal funding not be realized. Our top priority is widening the beach and getting the sandbags off our shores as quickly as possible.

By making a special year-end gift today, CCOM can do even more to protect Montauk in 2016. Every dollar you give will bring two dollars of environmental protection.

There is much to be thankful for this holiday season, and much work to do in 2016. I look forward to working with you to Keep Montauk *Montauk*. Happy and safe holidays to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Samuelson, Executive Director