HOW TO BECOME A CLEAN WATER STEWARD

MEET WITH AN AMBASSADOR

- Arrange for a **free and confidential** property assessment by one of CCOM's volunteers.
- Sign up online: **SavetheLakeSavethePond.org** Call: **631.238.5720**
- Discuss the simple steps you can take to improve water quality

TAKE ACTION

- Follow through on recommendations
- Take advantage of rebates and discounts from preferred businesses who have pledged to help Save the Lake – Save the Pond

FOLLOW-UP

- Your Ambassador will confirm the actions you've taken
- Congratulations! You are now a Clean Water Steward

Cover photo: Michael Perini

CCOM
CONCERNED CITIZENS OF MONTAUK

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Montauk, New York 11954
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PreserveMontauk.org

CCOM
CONCERNED CITIZENS OF MONTAUK

Keeping Montauk *Montauk*
since 1970

SAVE THE LAKE SAVE THE POND

STEWARD GUIDE

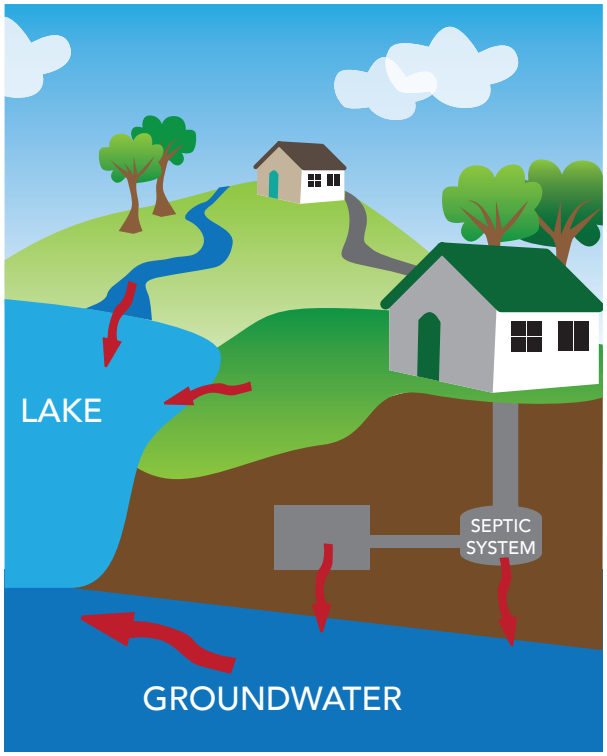
BECOME A STEWARD AND HELP IMPROVE MONTAUK'S WATER QUALITY

HOW DO POLLUTANTS ENTER THE LAKE AND POND?

Groundwater: A significant percentage of pollution entering Lake Montauk and Fort Pond is due to poorly maintained septic systems

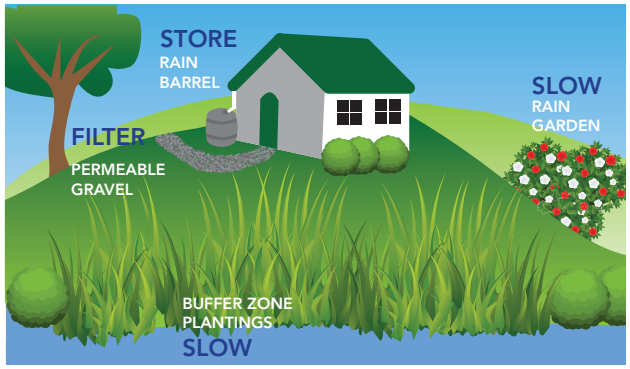
Runoff: Pollutants such as fertilizers, oils, cleaners, and pet waste are carried by rain and snowmelt directly from unbuffered adjacent land, roads, and docks into surface water

Stormwater Conveyances: Although you may not live on the waterfront, pollutants entering storm drains or streams from your property and/or roads are delivered untreated directly into waterbodies



WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

- Nitrogen loadings can lead to harmful algal blooms, and can even increase toxicity levels of the algae
- Bacteria in the water make swimming and recreation dangerous for our pets and families
- Toxic chemicals and waste can contaminate our drinking water supply
- Water quality has a profound effect on the birds, fish, and shellfish that live in and around the Lake and Pond



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Wastewater Treatment
  - Pledge to have your septic or cesspool inspected and pumped regularly based on usage
  - Consider upgrading to a new low-nitrogen system – both Suffolk County and the Town of East Hampton are offering incentives!
- Reduce stormwater runoff and recharge the aquifer
  - Slow: Use native plants to create rain gardens and buffer zones
  - Store: Collect water in rain barrels to use during droughts
  - Filter: Reduce paved/impervious surfaces on your property
- Practice Sustainable Property Management
  - Use toxin-free landscaping
  - S.T.O.P. – Stop Throwing Out Pollutants
- Educate your friends and neighbors about how they can affect the water quality in Lake Montauk and Fort Pond!