



## A COMMUNITY EFFORT TO CLEAN MONTAUK'S WATER BODIES

Collectively, we can make a difference!



The map above shows us that there is a high population density located in and around the watershed area of both Lake Montauk and Fort Pond. Because Montauk does not have a community-wide sewer system, nearly all of these properties, residential and commercial, either have cesspools or septic systems.

Surprisingly, many homeowners do not know they have a cesspool or septic system, or if they do know they have one, they do not know where it is located on their property. All cesspools and septic tanks convey nitrogen - a byproduct of their primary function. That said, antiquated and failing systems do have a dramatic effect on nitrogen leeching into our water bodies and our watershed causing high bacteria levels and dangerous algal blooms. The closer you live to one of these water bodies, the faster the nitrogen reaches the water.

Just like any other home maintenance schedule, cesspools and septic systems need to be inspected and pumped out regularly - every 3 to 5 years (depending on how heavily they are used). If you can't remember the last time you had your cesspool pumped out, it's probably time to schedule a visit. Plus, discounts are available through our Save the Lake - Save the Pond program!



**Save the Lake - Save the Pond** is a step-by-step program that brings together residential and commercial property owners to clean up Lake Montauk and Fort Pond. **The program is designed to specifically reduce nitrogen, the most serious threat to Montauk's water.**

Visit [www.SavetheLakeSavethePond.org](http://www.SavetheLakeSavethePond.org) to learn more about the program and to **have your property confidentially assessed for free by one of our trained volunteers.** You'll be surprised how quickly water quality can improve by just making a few small changes on your property.

*Advisory from summer 2015*

**If you have recently had your cesspool or septic maintained, please let us know!** Our goal is to have the entire community be part of this effort. Plus, there are other small, affordable things you can do on your property in addition to your septic that can also contribute to cleaner water.

## GOVERNOR CUOMO OPPOSES DREDGE DUMPING IN LI SOUND



On August 4th, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo flanked by dozens of elected officials and environmental leaders (including CCOM's President Jeremy Samuelson) signed a letter to President Barack Obama stating New York will sue the federal government if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proceeds with a plan to add two open-water dump sites in Long Island Sound and allow dredged sludge to be disposed of there.

Over the past year, CCOM and a handful of Long Island based environmental organizations have fought to stop the EPA's proposal to dump dredge spoil in Long Island Sound. Well, our leaders have listened! We're not quite there yet, but this is a very good start! Thank you Governor Cuomo and to YOU, our members for your support as we work to protect Montauk's natural resources!

## PLEASE SUPPORT CCOM

Without your support, we wouldn't be able to do what we do. CCOM is a 501 (c)(3) environmental non-profit founded in 1970. We are 100% funded by donations from supporters like you. Please consider making a donation today at: [www.PreserveMontauk.org](http://www.PreserveMontauk.org) OR by mail at CCOM, PO Box 915, Montauk, NY 11954.