



For Immediate Release:

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CCOM LAUNCHES MAJOR CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE
Innovative Scientific Partnership to Yield Big Results for Lake Montauk

Montauk, New York – Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) today announced a major new partnership with the nation’s premiere scientific agency, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), to restore water quality in Lake Montauk. The USGS will use advanced scientific analysis to track the sources and significance of pollutants entering Lake Montauk. Known as “microbial source tracking (MST),” this critical information will establish a crucial baseline of pollutants and help CCOM drive measurable improvements in Montauk’s ground and surface water.

CCOM President, Laura Tooman, explained, “Understanding the sources of pollution entering Montauk’s waters will help us identify and implement targeted, effective solutions. We’ve already seen significant participation in our Save the Lake-Save the Pond program. This partnership takes it to the next level.” “CCOM is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with USGS. They have an unparalleled reputation as leaders in water quality monitoring and analysis,” Tooman added.

High bacteria loads have made parts of Lake Montauk unsafe for swimming and shellfishing, placing Lake Montauk on the New York State List of Impaired Waters. Elevated nitrogen levels, from outdated and ineffective septic systems, have led to a proliferation of harmful algal blooms in recent years. CCOM has been leading the effort to reverse the damage by working with homeowners and local government to target the causes and sources of pollution.

“We are able to fund this significant new program because of the remarkable generosity of donors who have supported our Clean Water Challenge, including CCOM Sustainer Circle Members, whose three year financial commitments help make this program possible,” said Ed Braun, CCOM’s Board Chairman. “We are also deeply grateful to the Town of East Hampton, which recently approved significant funding towards the effort to this important effort to monitor damaging Nitrogen levels.”

Lake Montauk will be one of six project areas across Long Island, contributing the eastern most data set. The project is designed to be replicable elsewhere on Long Island. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is working with USGS on the other five sites.

Sampling is set to commence in early 2018, with a final report available in 2019.

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Keeping Montauk Montauk since 1970