



May has been an extremely busy month for us at CCOM! Aside from continuing our great work in the fields of water quality, coastal resiliency and environmental sustainability, we have successfully installed our floating wetlands demonstration project in Fort Pond! It was incredible to see the the Montauk community come together and lend a hand in actively restoring the Pond. Read on to find out more about our floating wetland installation!

With thanks,
Jaime Tooman
President

CCOM INSTALLS PILOT FLOATING WETLANDS IN FORT POND

WATER QUALITY REMEDIATION PROJECT TO ADDRESS HAB'S

On Saturday May 15th, Concerned Citizens of Montauk were joined by nearly 40 volunteers to install approximately 3,000 square feet of floating wetlands in Fort Pond, Montauk.

A total of 7,200 carefully selected native plants were planted and secured into custom mats designed by [Beemats Floating Wetlands](#). As the plants mature, their roots will uptake excess nitrogen and phosphorus from the pond as food. The goal is to reduce the nutrient load in the pond to lessen the extent and severity of the harmful algal blooms (HABs), which have plagued Fort Pond for years.

Conceived as a result of our extensive [bacteria and HAB testing program](#), the pilot project is just one of several approaches aimed at reducing pollutant loadings in Fort Pond and Montauk's surrounding waterbodies. Our outreach efforts include encouraging property owners to upgrade to new nitrogen-reducing

septic systems through the Town's incentive program, having their cesspools or septic tanks serviced every 3-5 years, implementing community-based wastewater treatment in downtown, and committing to minimal or no use of lawn fertilizers.



These wetlands are also seasonal and reusable. At the end of the growing season when the plants reach full maturity, the mats will be removed from the pond and the nutrient-rich plant material will be donated to local community gardens for composting or for shoreline buffers and raingardens.

This remediation pilot project was made possible by a grant from the [East Hampton Town Community Preservation Fund Water Quality Improvement Program](#).

Learn more about this project [HERE](#).
Want to see more photos? [CLICK HERE!](#)

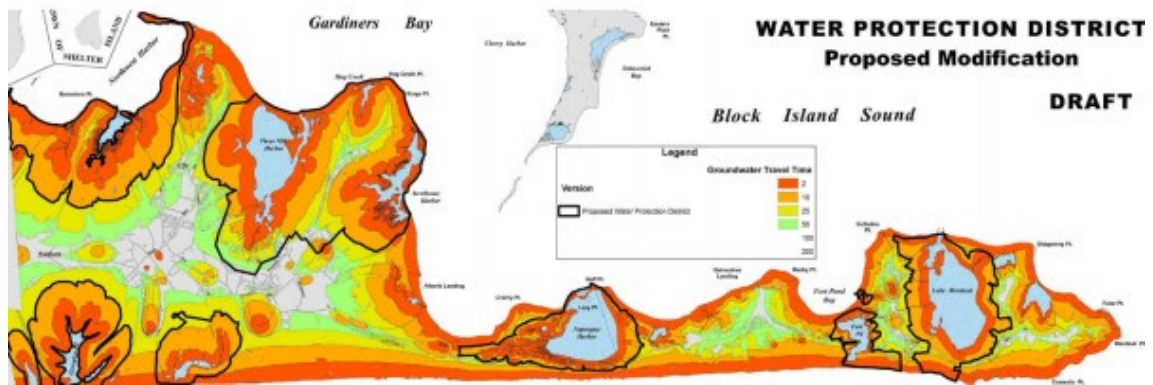
BECOME A CCOM MEMBER!

SAND ON MONTAUK DOWNTOWN BEACH **TOWN & COUNTY REPLENISH IN ADVANCE OF SUMMER SEASON**

Our [call-to-action petition](#) requesting the Army Corps of Engineers deliver FIMP in 2021 as promised has received more than 1,400 signatures thanks to our members and supporters. We continue to advocate directly with the ACOE and our elected officials for this project as an integral intermediate step in the much larger, longer-term comprehensive plan to address the coastal resiliency of our vulnerable Montauk downtown area. In the interim, this month, [17,000 cubic yards of sand were placed on the Montauk downtown beach](#) as part of the ongoing maintenance of the emergency stabilization project; yet again, raising the need for a longer term, sustainable solution.



WATER PROTECTION DISTRICT TO BE EXPANDED MORE PROPERTY OWNERS WILL QUALIFY FOR SEPTIC UPGRADE FUNDS



The East Hampton Town CPF Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation to expand the Town's Water Protection District (WPD) was the subject of a public hearing on May 20th at the East Hampton Town Board meeting. The WPD includes areas in the Town of East Hampton including Montauk that have the greatest potential impact on priority waterbodies based on groundwater travel time and density of use - these areas are designated "priority" for septic upgrades.

This long-awaited change in code means that **more property owners will be eligible to receive additional funds** towards the installation of new nitrogen-reducing septic systems.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the Town's Septic Incentive Program, or contact the Natural Resources Department: #(631) 324-0496 to see if your property is affected by the district expansion.

KNOW YOUR WATER MONTAUK'S SOLE-SOURCE AQUIFERS

The Upper Glacial and Magothy are the two aquifers that are the sources of all our drinking water. Lacking mountain streams, big rivers, lakes, or even pipelines from upstate reservoirs, the East End depends entirely upon ground water held in geologic formations called aquifers.

Years ago, Montauk's only source of ground water was local public and private wells. Development in the 1980's put excessive demand on the public wells, causing salt water intrusion. A pipeline was extended across Napeague allowing Montauk to access deep Magothy wells in Amagansett and East Hampton. According to Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) Montauk now gets almost 60% of its "Town water" from the aquifers west of the hamlet, and even more in summer.



Today SCWA has a rigorous testing program to ensure the wells they manage are providing safe drinking water, and more information can be found on the [SCWA](#)

[website](#). For those homeowners using private wells, water quality testing is available through the [SCWA Private Well Water Testing Program](#).

CCOM WEBINAR SERIES | JUNE 23

ENERGY CONSERVATION & SOLAR ENERGY

We would like to invite you to attend our upcoming webinar, "Energy Conservation & Solar Energy" on Wednesday, June 23rd from 4-5 pm. This webinar, one of several that we will host on this topic, is focused on renewable energy. Leading experts in the renewable energy field will discuss a range of energy conservation measures, including solar, its cost savings and how to make the switch in your home.

CCOM believes that a comprehensive portfolio of renewable and alternative energies must be combined with extensive energy conservation to address the climate crisis resulting from our region's dependence on fossil fuels.

PARTICIPANTS:

Laura Tooman | CCOM President
Gordian Raacke | Renewable Energy LI, Executive Director
Andrew Smith | Greenlogic Energy Sales Manager

Please note: Pre-registration is required. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.



[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A DONATION!](#)

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