



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2021

EDUCATIONAL FLOATING WETLANDS SIGN UNVEILED

On Wednesday, July 14th, representatives from the Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) and Town of East Hampton met on the shore of Fort Pond in Montauk to unveil a floating wetlands educational sign.

Conceived as a result of our extensive [bacteria and HAB testing program](#), the Fort Pond Floating Wetlands project is just one of several approaches aimed at reducing pollutant loadings in Fort Pond and Montauk's surrounding waterbodies. 7,200 carefully selected native plants were planted and secured into custom mats designed by family-owned, Florida-based company [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.

This project was made possible by a grant from the East Hampton Town Community Preservation Fund Water Quality Improvement Program.

CCOM President Laura Tooman noted, "CCOM looks forward to educating the Montauk community and visitors alike about the many benefits of floating wetlands for addressing the water quality issues plaguing Fort Pond. I am so thankful for the support and enthusiasm we have received from the Town of East Hampton."



Left to Right: Board Member David Lys, Deputy Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, CCOM President Laura Tooman (and her daughter), Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc, CCOM Chairman David Freudenthal