



CCCOM Water Testing Program

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS & ENTEROCOCCUS BACTERIA

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CCCOM Environmental Advocate

Montauk CAC 9.20.21



IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

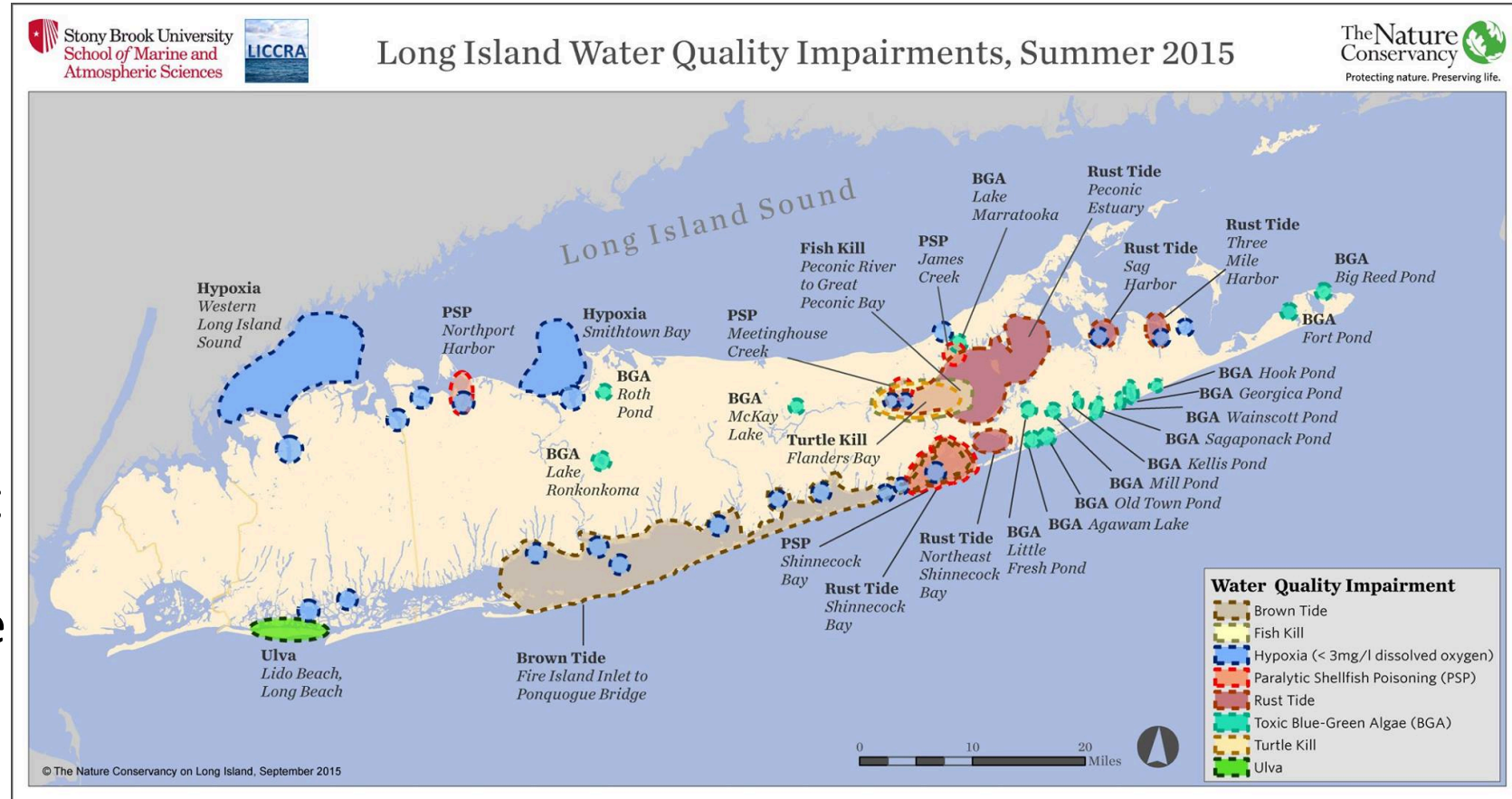
To ensure the quality of our waterbodies, we have introduced and sustained multiple science-based water testing initiatives throughout East Hampton Town, giving us the necessary data to assess current conditions, develop new improvement programs, and monitor their effectiveness.

WATER QUALITY INITIATIVES

- **Bacteria Testing:** With the help of dedicated volunteers, CCOM collects water samples year-round throughout East Hampton Town, and performs bacterial analysis in our office lab.
- **Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Testing:** Through a partnership with the Gobler Laboratory at Stony Brook Southampton, CCOM initiated HAB monitoring in Fort Pond, enabling us to notify the public when it is not safe to recreate in the pond.
- **Microbial Source Tracking:** CCOM worked with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to identify the sources of pollutants entering Lake Montauk. These results will drive targeted projects to improve Montauk's ground and surface waters.
- **Fort Pond Floating Wetlands:** A result of our bacteria and HAB testing, 7,200 native wetland plants are secured into seasonal and reusable floating mats. These plants uptake excess nitrogen and phosphorus. The goal is to lessen the extent and severity of the Pond's harmful algal blooms.
- **Septic Upgrades:** CCOM continues to educate and advocate for upgrading to nitrogen-reducing Innovative Alternative (IA) systems. Please visit our website to find out about available local and county funding.

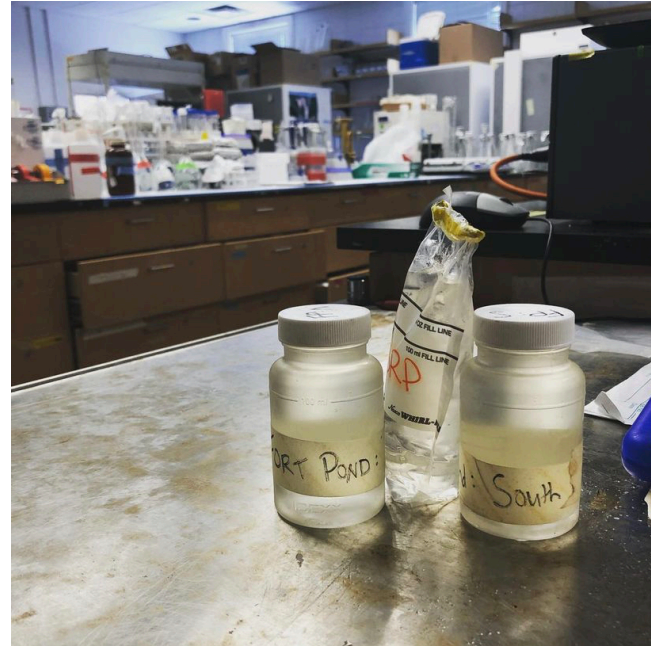
HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM TESTING

- CCOM partnered with Gobler Laboratory in 2018 to ensure regular testing of Fort Pond
- Prior testing was sporadic at best
- HABs had been detected in the Pond starting in 2015, but we knew nothing about the duration or consistency of the blooms



HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM TESTING

- May – October CCOM delivers water samples weekly to Stonybrook Southampton
- The Gobler Lab reports the results to CCOM and at the County and State (DEC) levels
- Regular testing is necessary for the health and safety of those recreating on the Pond, and for us to obtain a better idea of the HAB cycles and the causes



WARNING

Blue-green Algae bloom(s) have been spotted in this waterbody!

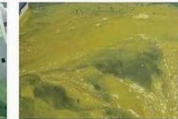
Avoid Harmful Blue-green Algae Blooms while swimming, fishing and boating



Keep kids and pets away from areas with blooms or scum. Swim, fish and boat in areas with no blooms or scum.

Contact can make people and animals sick.

**If contact occurs, rinse with clean water.
If symptoms occur, contact a medical provider.**



Blooms can look like streaks, spilled paint, pea soup, floating clumps or dots.

Learn more:

www.health.ny.gov/HarmfulAlgae
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOM ADVISORY

Blue-green algae bloom(s) have been spotted in this waterbody.

- Don't swim or wade near blooms or surface scum
- Don't drink the water
- Keep children and pets away from any blooms or scum
- Rinse with clean water if exposed
- Consider medical attention if you have symptoms of nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea; skin, eye, or throat irritation, allergic reactions or breathing difficulties. Report symptoms to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services at (631) 852-5760



Learn more:

www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/bluegreenalgae.htm

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html



Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) regularly tests waterbodies in Montauk, Amagansett, and East Hampton for the bacteria *enterococcus*. CCOM processes the water samples in the CCOM office lab and then shares the results on the Surfrider Foundation's Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) online portal. *Enterococcus* levels at 104 and above are considered a risk to human health; it is often due to heavy rains, extreme high tides, and/or warm water temperatures.

Intensive monitoring and/or remediation projects are planned or in place at the locations marked with an asterisk ()*

LOCATION	ENTERO LEVEL	INDICATION OF
MONTAUK		
Lake Montauk: Harbor*	Not Tested	
Lake Montauk: Causeway South*	Not Tested	
Lake Montauk: Little Reed Pond Creek*	172	High Bacteria
Lake Montauk: Nature Preserve Beach*	201	High Bacteria
Lake Montauk: East Creek*	4,884	High Bacteria
Lake Montauk: South Beach*	10	Low Bacteria
Lake Montauk: West Creek*	31	Low Bacteria
Lake Montauk: Stepping Stones*	41	Medium Bacteria
Lake Montauk: Benson Dr. Culvert	8,164	High Bacteria
Ditch Plains: East of Jetty	10	Low Bacteria
Surfside Place: Beach	0	Low Bacteria
Surfside Place: Outfall Pipe*	Not Tested - DRY	
Fort Pond: Industrial*	30	Low Bacteria
Fort Pond: Ramp*	10	Low Bacteria
Tuthill Pond	52	Medium Bacteria
LI Sound: Fort Pond Bay, Tuthill Rd.	31	Low Bacteria
LI Sound: Fort Pond Bay, Navy Rd.	697	High Bacteria
LI Sound: Soundview Drive Beach	0	Low Bacteria
LI Sound: Soundview Drive Culvert	Not Tested - DRY	
AMAGANSETT		
Napeague Harbor: East	20	Low Bacteria
Napeague Harbor: West	20	Low Bacteria
Fresh Pond: Beach*	197	High Bacteria
Fresh Pond: Creek*	228	High Bacteria
EAST HAMPTON		
Accabonac Harbor: Louse Point Beach	20	Low Bacteria
Accabonac Harbor: Shipyard Ramp*	108	High Bacteria
Accabonac Harbor: General Store*	1,081	High Bacteria
Pussy's Pond*	Not Tested	
Three Mile Harbor: Folkstone Drive	10	Low Bacteria
Three Mile Harbor: Head of the Harbor*	0	Low Bacteria
Three Mile Harbor: Settler's Landing	10	Low Bacteria
Northwest Creek: Ramp	373	High Bacteria
Northwest Creek: Culvert	465	High Bacteria

Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM), in partnership with the Gobler Lab at Stony Brook Southampton, monitors Fort Pond and Big Reed Pond for toxic blue-green algal blooms (cyanobacteria). CCOM delivers samples to the Lab, which shares bloom occurrences online through the NYS DEC HAB Notification page. Blue-green levels at 20ug/L and above are at high risk of a bloom and triggers toxicity testing; DEC considers a concentration of 25ug/L and above as a bloom.

LOCATION	BLOOM STATUS	BLUE-GREEN LEVEL	INDICATION OF
Fort Pond: Industrial	No Bloom	14.77	Medium Risk
Fort Pond: Ramp	No Bloom	15.92	Medium Risk
Lake Montauk: South Beach	Not Tested	---	---
Stepping Stones Pond	No Bloom	2.00	Low Risk
Big Reed Pond	Not Tested	---	---
Little Reed Pond	Not Tested	---	---

To learn more about CCOM's water quality programs, please visit the website at www.PreserveMontauk.org



Publications & Press

Webinars

Media Coverage

Press Releases

Water Testing Results

Topical Issues

Newsletters

Resources

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WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS & PRESS

WATER TESTING RESULTS 2021

September 2021:

9.13.2021

August 2021:

8.30.2021

8.23.2021 Harmful Algal Bloom Detected

8.17.2021 Harmful Algal Bloom Detected

8.9.2021 Harmful Algal Bloom Detected

8.2.2021

July 2021:

7.26.2021

7.19.2021

7.5.2021

June 2021:

6.28.2021

6.21.2021

6.14.2021

6.8.2021

May 2021: 5.24.2021

April 2021: 4.19.2021

March 2021: 3.22.2021

February 2021: 2.22.2021

January 2021: 1.11.2021



WATER TESTING RESULTS ARCHIVE

Water Testing Press Releases 2020

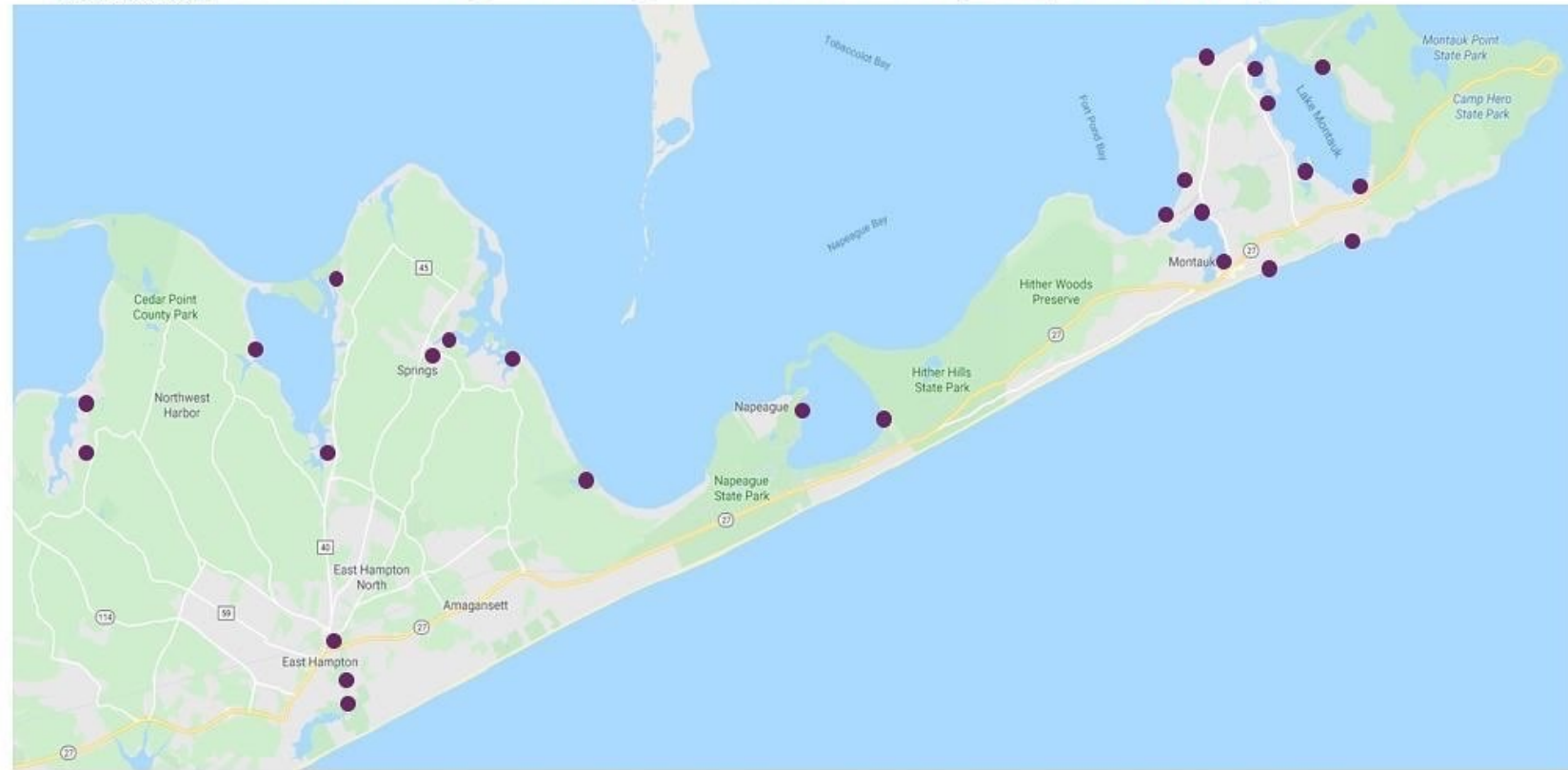
Water Testing Press Releases 2019

BACTERIA TESTING

- CCOM joined Surfrider Foundation's Blue Water Task Force in 2013 to test for *Enterococcus* in Montauk's waters
 - *Enterococcus* is a bacteria that exists in the guts of warm-blooded animals
- We now test 25-30 sites throughout EHT year-round in our office laboratory
 - CCOM collects and processes an average of 700 water samples annually!



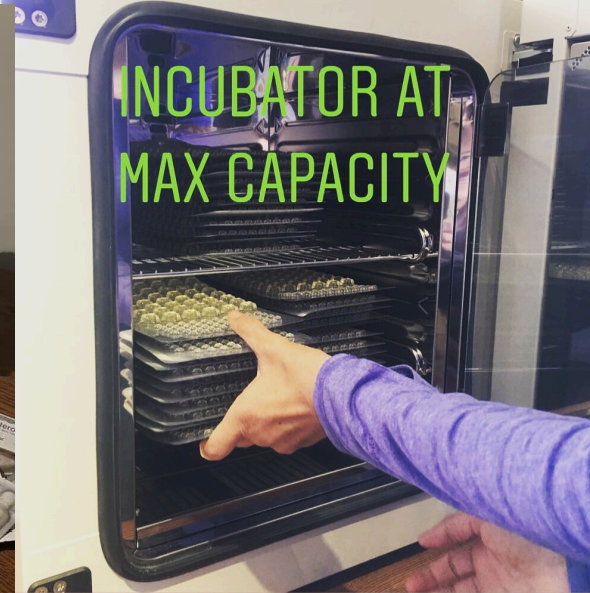
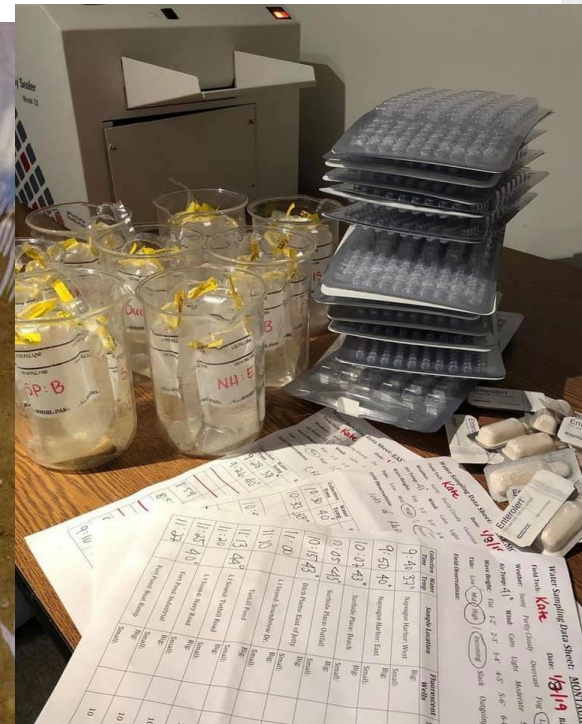
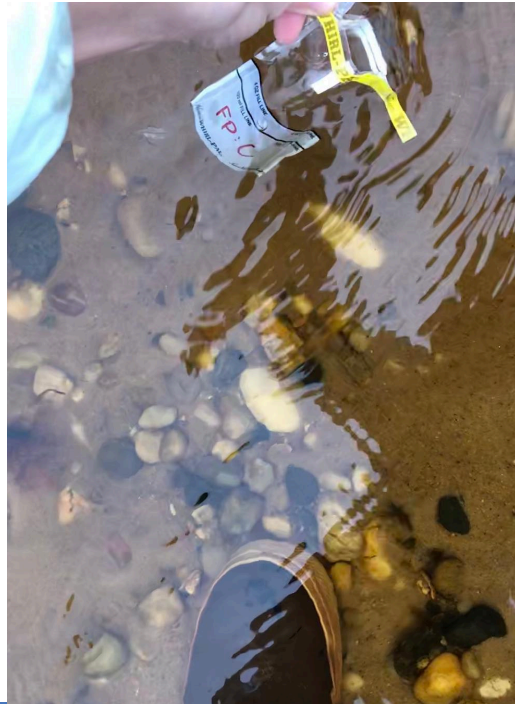
Water Quality Testing Locations – *in your community!*



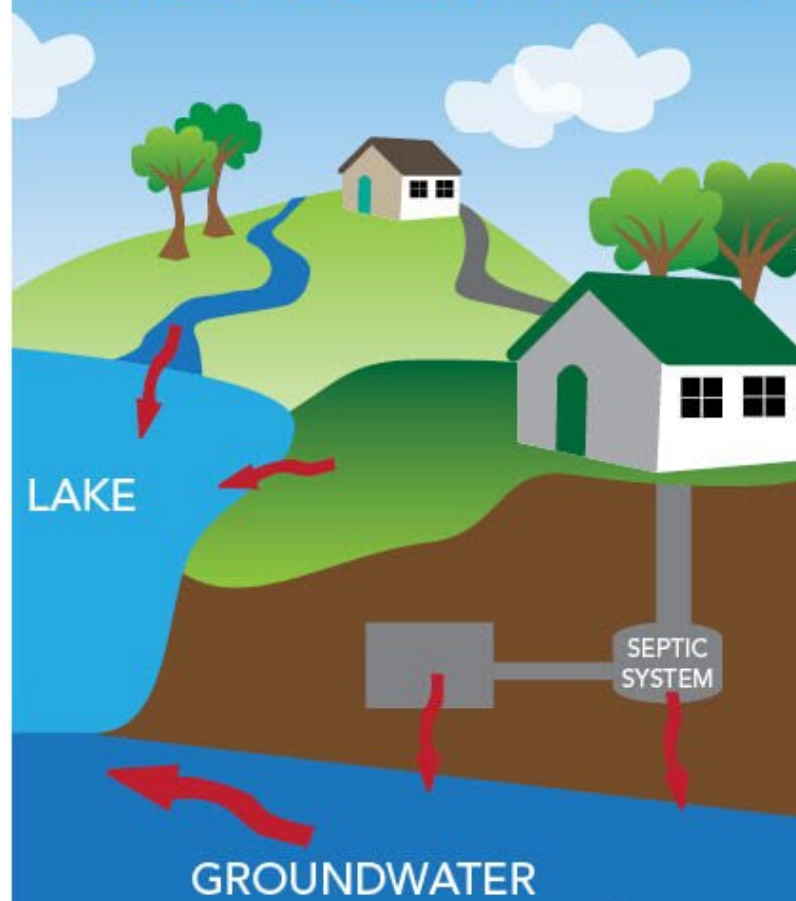
CCOM proudly tests and monitors waterbodies throughout the Town covering East Hampton, Springs and Amagansett, as well as Montauk

BACTERIA TESTING

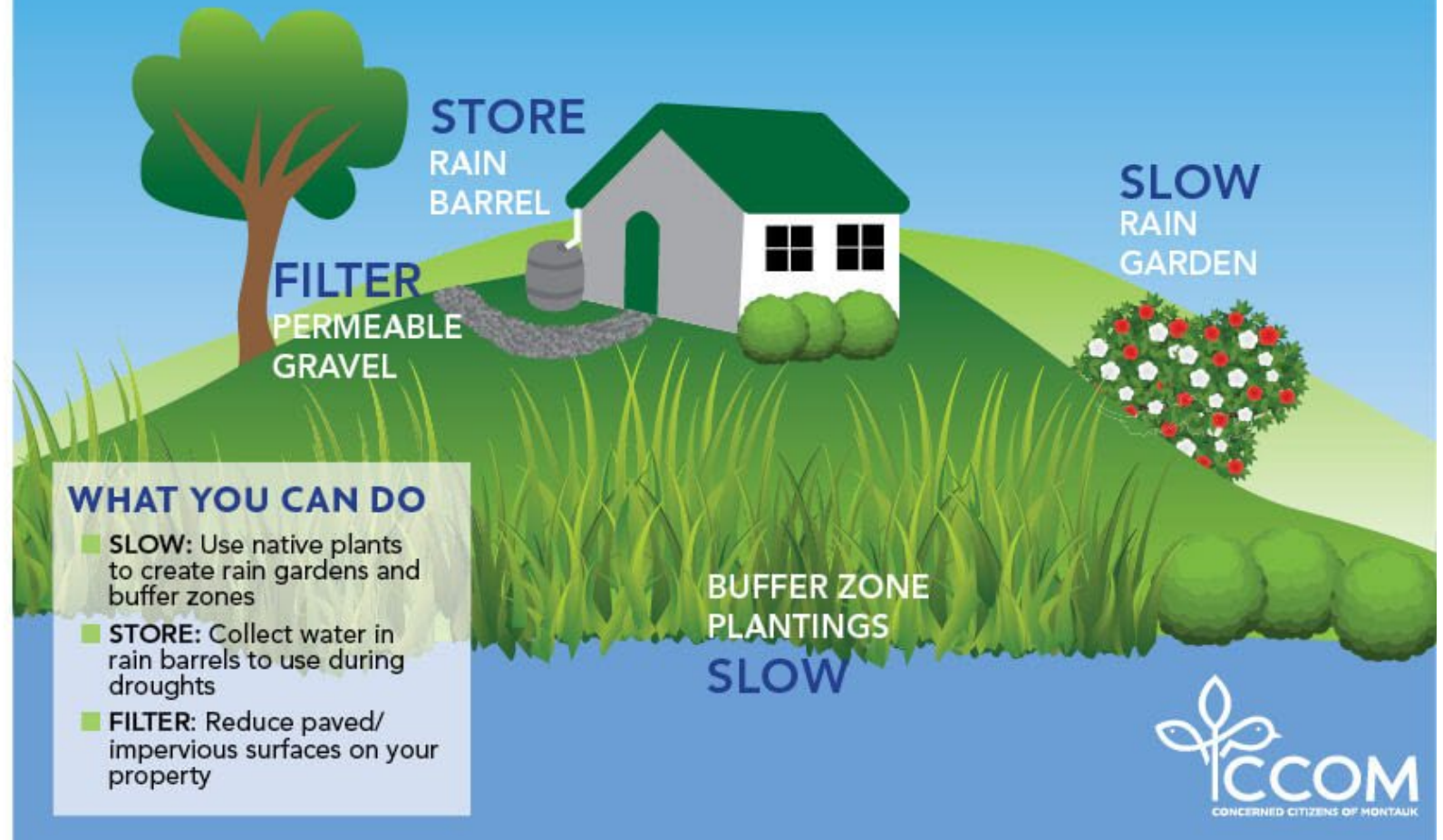
- The CCOM Lab is not certified, so results cannot be referenced on an official level...BUT they do help identify possible problem areas and can guide deeper investigations
 - We work very closely with EHT Natural Resources Dept.
 - ie: Fresh Pond Creek dredging, Surfside Place Outfall Pipe investigation, South Lake stormwater remediation, etc.
- Rich, multi-year dataset gives us a “big picture” on trends at certain sites



HOW DO POLLUTANTS ENTER THE LAKE & POND?



REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF AND RECHARGE THE AQUIFER





SAVE MONTAUK'S WATERS

Everyone contributes to the problem, but more importantly, we all have a role to play in the solution. Government, businesses, homeowners, and visitors all have a responsibility here:

- Upgrade your current septic system to one that is designed to treat for and reduce nitrogen
- Support local efforts to bring community wastewater treatment to vulnerable areas
- Limit the impacts of stormwater runoff by aiding in the restoration of native wetland areas, stopping the use of harmful chemicals, and picking up after your pet
- Respect the Peconic Bay area No Discharge Zone and utilize pumpout services for your boat



Sign the petition!
www.change.org/SaveMontauksWaters



THANK YOU!

- Have water testing / water quality questions?
 - Email me: krossi-snook@preservemontauk.org
- Want to start your septic replacement process?
 - Email: NaturalResources@EHamptonNY.Gov TODAY!
 - Visit CCOM's Resources page: www.preservemontauk.org/publications/resources/
- Looking to volunteer to help remove our Fort Pond Floating Wetlands later next month?
 - Email: info@preservemontauk.org