



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CCOM Awarded East Hampton Town Water Quality Grant

The East Hampton Town Board recently approved a second Community Preservation Fund Water Quality Improvement Project grant award to Concerned Citizens of Montauk to support the 2022 installation of floating wetlands in Fort Pond.

In mid-May, 50 volunteers planted 7200 native plants into custom floating mats anchored at two locations in Fort Pond. As the plants mature, their roots will uptake excess nitrogen and phosphorus from the pond as food. The plants help reduce the overall nutrient load in the pond which can help lessen the extent and severity of harmful algal blooms which have plagued Fort Pond for years.

This project is just one of the science-based comprehensive approaches being implemented to reduce pollutant loadings to Fort Pond. CCOM's floating wetlands project, when combined with weekly bacterial and harmful algal bloom monitoring, septic system upgrades, downtown Montauk wastewater treatment, stormwater runoff, and land preservation, can make a real difference in Fort Pond's water quality.

CCOM President Laura Tooman noted, "I wish to thank the Town of East Hampton for supporting not one, but now two years of this truly grassroots, community driven effort. The Town has been an incredible partner and we look forward to continuing to work with them to help save Montauk's waters."