

April 5, 2024

Dear Montauk Lover,

Thanks to your support, CCOM is making great progress in our three areas of focus: Water Quality, Coastal Resiliency, and Environmental Sustainability. Flip this page for updates on some of the issues we're working on. I'll highlight two of them here:

- On the coastal resiliency front, we're responding to the loss of sand on our beaches from this winter's storms. CCOM has been pushing hard at all levels of government—Town, County, State and Federal—to get this addressed. The massive installation of almost 500,000 cubic yards of sand downtown through the federal FIMP project is a great step, one that CCOM has long fought for, but more help is needed, especially at Ditch. That addition of sand gives us some protection now, but there's hard work ahead to find longer-term solutions that will help Montauk adapt to climate change. CCOM is a voice for our community to move that goal forward.
- We're also excited to announce a new initiative to do real-time water quality monitoring in Fort Pond with advanced predictive sensors. Harmful algal blooms (HABs) and bacterial contamination threaten this vital aquatic and recreational resource. These sensors will not only enable us to expand our current range of testing parameters but also provide invaluable data for protecting both human health and the ecosystem. This real-time data on Fort Pond will be available on our website, PreserveMontauk.Org, beginning this summer. We must raise \$65,000 for the first phase of this project, which has great potential to protect the health and safety of not only Fort Pond but many other threatened and beloved East End water bodies.

To learn more about how to protect our beautiful but vulnerable Montauk: (1) visit us at 6 South Elmwood Ave; (2) sign up for our monthly e-newsletters and (3) visit PreserveMontauk.Org for the latest water testing results and news on upcoming family events and summer educational sessions.

We're grateful for your past support and hope you'll continue by donating, whether by scanning the QR code, mailing a check, or calling us at 631.238.5720.

What we do directly impacts your business, home, quality of life and even your future memories in Montauk. Your generosity continues to be critical to protecting and preserving Montauk's environment.

Yours truly,



Kay Tyler | Executive Director
M: 917.922.8656



BEACH & NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS

It is never too early to start talking to kids about how they can help the environment. We removed a large amount of microplastics from the beach last summer. It's important to remove microplastics from the environment because they are often mistaken for food by marine animals. Look out for our lineup of beach and neighborhood cleanups starting in April through September at PreserveMontauk.Org.



FIRE ISLAND TO MONTAUK POINT PROJECT (FIMP)

With almost 500K cubic yards of ocean dredged sand now placed on Montauk's downtown beaches, CCOM continues to strongly advocate for practical solutions that addresses rapid climate change and its impacts on sea level rise and coastal erosion. These include our 5-point call to action and our work with officials for remediation of the beach at Ditch Plains. Now is the time for collaboration and proactive planning with our community and businesses to ensure the resilience and sustainability of Montauk for generations to come.



REVOLUTIONIZING WATER QUALITY MONITORING

This summer we'll implement advanced predictive sensors in Fort Pond so we can forecast the occurrence of harmful algal blooms and enable proactive measures to protect public health. Stay tuned for updates as we begin this transformative journey to protect and improve Fort Pond's water quality. We will continue to partner with Surfrider's Blue Water Task Force to conduct regular testing for enterococcus bacteria and HABs to assess water quality in Montauk, Napeague, Amagansett, and East Hampton.



THE SWITCH IS FLIPPED – SOUTH FORK WIND

On March 14 all 12 turbines from South Fork Wind offshore wind farm became fully operational 35 miles off the coast of Montauk. The 132-megawatt wind farm will power 70,000 Long Island homes. For more than 50 years, Montauk has been at the forefront of environmental protection, and we are so proud to advocate and support this new era of clean and renewable energy.

STAY INFORMED. VISIT:
PreserveMontauk.Org

please donate today
PreserveMontauk.Org/DONATE
or become a 3-YEAR Sustainer
PreserveMontauk.Org/DONATE/SUSTAINER



YOUNG FILMMAKERS OF MONTAUK – STEAM PROGRAM

Our young members of CCOM's Science Technology Engineering Art and Math (STEAM) program caught the attention of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, East Hampton Town and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation when they created a video to "Save Ditch." Under instruction from Jody Kennedy, a former STEAM teacher, our kids produced a heartfelt plea to help save Ditch, a beach widely regarded as essential to our community.

SUCCESSFUL LAND ACQUISITIONS TO DATE

**1975: Montauk County Park 1,157 Acres | 1983: Camp Hero – 278 Acres | 1986: Hither Hills (North) – 557 Acres
1988: Hither Hills (South) – 777 Acres | 1991: The Sanctuary – 340 Acres | 1995: Culloden – 192 Acres
1999: The Benson Reservation – 43 Acres | 2000: Shadmoor – 99 Acres | 2005: Amsterdam Beach – 123 Acres
2014: Ft. Pond House at Carol Morrison Park | 2016: Montauk Moorlands – 12 Acres**