



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION AWARDS CONCERNED CITIZENS OF MONTAUK \$323,000 FOR COASTAL RESILIENCE PLANNING

Montauk, NY — July 1, 2026 — Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) today announced it has been awarded a \$323,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) through its National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF). The grant will support critical planning and design work to address growing risks from coastal erosion, tidal flooding, and habitat degradation in Montauk and East Hampton, New York—challenges intensified by sea level rise and increasingly frequent and severe storms.

With this funding, CCOM will identify high-priority shoreline segments and conduct site-specific ecological and coastal risk evaluations. The project will develop conceptual and preliminary designs for erosion mitigation, flood protection, and habitat restoration, laying the groundwork for permitting and future implementation of nature-based coastal resilience solutions.

This project plans for an expanded set of science-backed, vegetated shoreline features in East Hampton that work with natural coastal processes and adapt over time as living systems.

Complementing current coastal protection measures, these features provide ongoing erosion control, flood mitigation, and habitat benefits. They are designed to offer lasting benefits and deliver longer-term performance than many conventional shoreline treatments. This approach advances adaptive coastal resilience strategies in line with ongoing local projects and risk-reduction plans.

“As coastal communities face sea level rise and other coastal hazards accelerating faster than anticipated, it is essential to develop and explore all types of nature-based solutions right now to protect our communities,” said Kay Tyler, Executive Director of Concerned Citizens of Montauk. “Equally crucial is collaboration among the community, local government, and nongovernmental organizations to apply appropriate solutions to each unique situation.”

“I’m proud to congratulate the Concerned Citizens of Montauk on earning this National Coastal Resilience Fund award, which brings nearly \$323,000 in federal funding back home to Long Island to address coastal erosion and flood mitigation in Montauk, an effort I proudly supported. As erosion and flooding continue to threaten our homes, businesses, and beaches, this investment will help protect Montauk’s iconic waterfront. Strengthening our shoreline means safeguarding our way of life for generations to come,” said Congressman Nick LaLota.

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer applauded the award, noting CCOM's longstanding role in environmental stewardship on the East End. "I am very excited to see this NCRF grant awarded to CCOM, a longtime stalwart of preservation on the East End of Long Island. With this grant, CCOM will help chart the future for Montauk and East Hampton coastlines as they experience more coastal erosion and habitat degradation as climate change batters our coasts," said Senator Schumer. "I have long supported the preservation goals of NFWF, and that's why I delivered more funding than ever for their work to support coastal resiliency with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as Senate Majority Leader."

"CCOM believes that the first line of defense in protecting our vulnerable coastline communities should be nature-based strategies," said Jessica James, President of the Board of Concerned Citizens of Montauk. "Together with experts and community partners, this NFWF grant will enable us to explore those options."

East Hampton Town Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez stated, "Montauk has always been shaped by the water, and today that means we must be thoughtful and proactive about how we protect our shoreline. This proposed work will help us better understand where erosion and flooding pose the greatest risks and how we can plan responsibly for the future. We appreciate the leadership of Concerned Citizens of Montauk and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in supporting careful, science-driven planning that puts the long-term health of our coastline and our community first."

The National Coastal Resilience Fund supports projects that increase the resilience of coastal communities while restoring and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. CCOM's project will emphasize science-based planning, community collaboration, and scalable designs that can be advanced to construction as additional funding becomes available.

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About Concerned Citizens of Montauk

Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to preserving Montauk's fragile ecosystem through education, advocacy, and grassroots citizen action.

For more information, visit www.preservemontauk.org.

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