

The background of the slide features a close-up, macro shot of snow and salt crystals. The snow on the left side shows intricate, feathery dendritic patterns. The salt crystals on the right are smaller, more angular, and some have a slightly yellowish or brownish tint, possibly due to impurities or the way they were captured. The overall color palette is a mix of light blues, whites, and pale yellows.

# **DMV WINTER SALT WEBINARS**

## **COMMUNITY WINTER SALT MANAGEMENT IN ACTION**

**JANUARY 23, 2026**

# WINTER SALT WEBINARS



## SAFE SIDEWALKS, CLEAN WATER: SMART SALTING FOR RESIDENTS

January 21, 2026 | 1 – 1:30 pm

Learn how winter salt impacts our environment, why it's a growing regional concern, and the simple steps you can take at home—before, during, and after storms—to apply just the right amount of salt to maintain safety in the winter. Learn application tips, alternatives to salt, and other ways you can be #wintersaltsmart while protecting the environment.

- Speakers: Renee Bourassa (ICPRB); Rebecca Murphy (NVRC)

## COMMUNITY WINTER SALT MANAGEMENT IN ACTION

January 23, 2026 | 1 – 1:30 pm

This session is tailored for HOA and other community association residents, board members, community managers, and maintenance team members.

- Speakers: Benjamin Rhoades (Reston Association); Janine Pollack (Columbia Association); Camryn Arnstein (MDE)

*Attendees will also have the chance to win a free sidewalk ice scraper!*



Maryland  
Department of  
the Environment



# Winter Salt Week 2026



MONDAY  
JAN 26  
1:30 ET

**Freshwater Salinization  
Causes, Consequences, and Trends**  
Dr. Megan Rippey and Dr. Stan Grant, Virginia Tech

TUESDAY  
JAN 27  
1:30 ET

**Salt Wise Stories**  
Phill Sexton, WIT Advisors  
Aron Rodman, Extra Mile Snowplowing LLC

WEDNESDAY  
JAN 27  
1:30 ET

**Smart Salting Contracts**  
Martin Tirado, Snow and Ice Management Assn  
Jim Turcan, Cornerstone Partners Hort. Serv. Co.

THURSDAY  
JAN 29  
1:30 ET

**Engineering Solutions**  
Connie Fortin, Bolton & Menk  
Wilf Nixon, Professional Showfighters Association

FRIDAY  
JAN 30

*Virtual Conversation Table Options:* **Advocating for Change (12-1pm ET)** hosted by Abby Hilleman and Mary Rooney; **Salt Monitoring 101 (1-2pm ET)** hosted by Lauren Eaton and Paige Vichiola

[www.wintersaltweek.org](http://www.wintersaltweek.org)



# Today's Speakers



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

**Camryn Arnstein**



**Ben Rhoades**



**Janine Pollack**

# **Community Winter Salt Management In Action: Reston Association**





# Reston Association Winter Preparedness and Salt Use

Ben Rhoades, Watershed Manager, Reston Association

 **Reston**<sup>®</sup>  
ASSOCIATION  
*Together we make Reston great*

# Background

- The Reston Association is a community association with approximately 21,000 households and 65,000 residents in Fairfax County.
- Within RA, there are over 200 sub-associations, which range from small townhome HOAs to condominium associations
- RA has three departments that interface with the public— Parks and Recreation/Maintenance, Environment, and Covenants.



# Reston (as an) Association

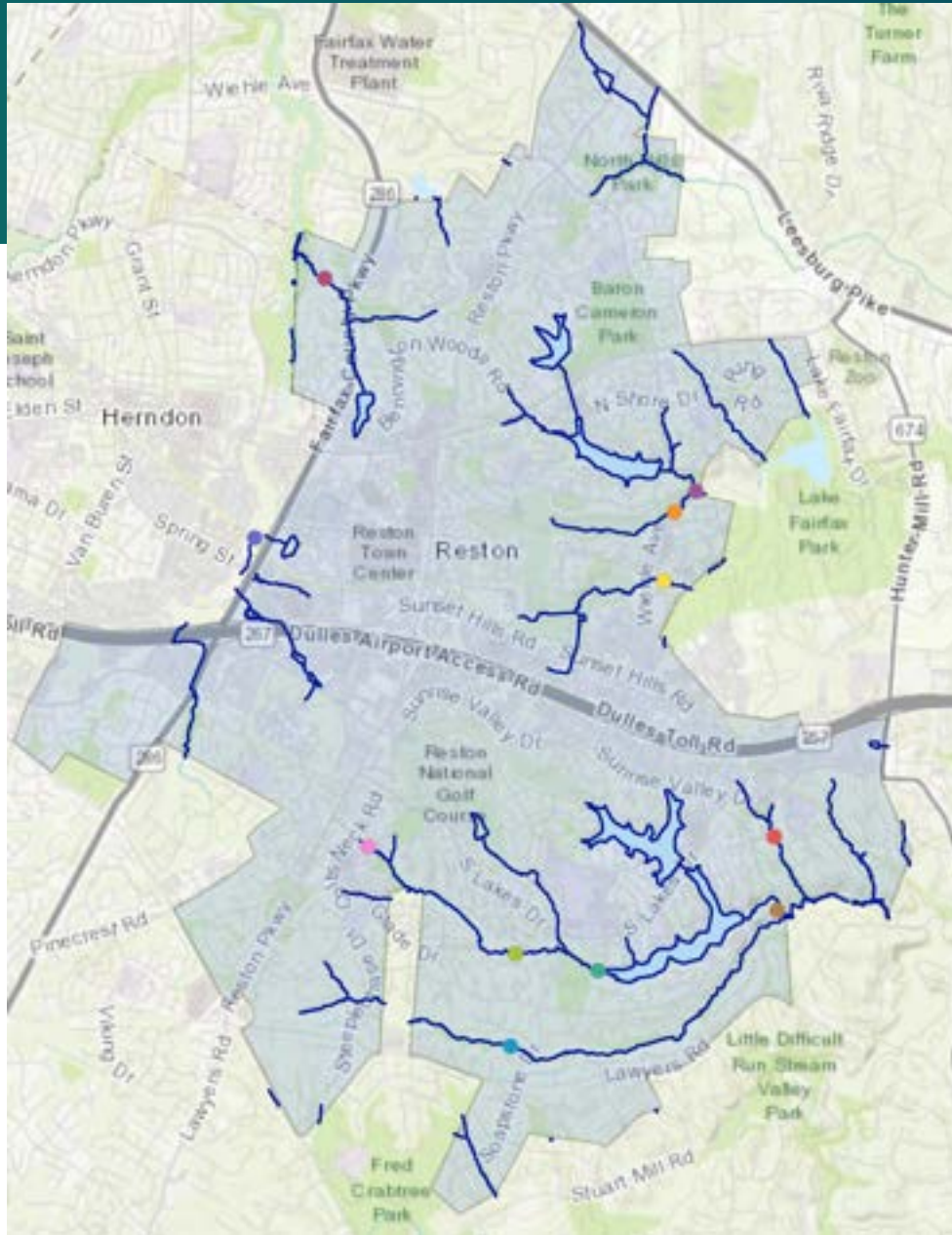
## • Benefits

- Community leader, source of expert knowledge
- Flexibility of operations
- Environmentally-minded residents
- Close connection with residents, neighborly

## • Challenges

- Difficult rule-making processes
- Limited enforcement capacity for environmental issues
- Ever-changing stakeholders (RA and sub-HOA boards, community managers, commercial tenants, etc.)

# Reston Watersheds



The Reston Association Watershed Team manages streams, lakes, and ponds in the headwaters of seven sub-watersheds. As such, we have an interest in better understanding and mitigating chloride pollution.

# Leading by Example: RA and Winter Preparedness

- Reston Association prepares for and responds to snow and ice every year.
- All paved RA pathways are cleared with snowplow vehicles we call “bombardiers.”
- Parking lots are plowed and sand spread to improve traction.
- Inaccessible areas are hand shoveled and may have a sand/salt mix applied by hand.



Reston Today - Reston Pathways Snow Removal



# Winter Preparedness Outreach

- Every year, RA messages about the importance of smart salting practices, in coordination with Northern Virginia Regional Commission and Fairfax County
- Online articles
- Weekly RA News videos (email newsletter)
- Educational session (2024 session with NVRC and Fairfax centered on HOA leaders and contracting)



## Smart Salt Use: An Environmental Guide to Snow and Ice Removal

News & Updates Posted on January 13, 2020

As potentially wintry weather arrives in the forecast here in Reston, many are likely thinking about stocking up on ice melt or checking that their neighborhood's snow removal contract is up to date. What might not be top of mind for those same folks is the potential toxicity that salt runoff creates in our local creeks - just one teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes five gallons of water, raising the cost of drinking water treatment, harming wildlife, and damaging metal and concrete infrastructure. RA's environmental staff would like to share information on smart salting, and how you can keep yourself, your neighbors, and your environment safe this winter.

Deicing salts come in a variety of "flavors," advertised as fast-acting, pet safe, eco-friendly, and more, but it is important to keep in mind that any salt applied to the ground to prevent icing is going to runoff as ice melts or rain falls, polluting our local waterways. At the same time, those deicing salts are one of the most important tools to keeping pavement ice-free and safe. Luckily, this is not an impossible balancing act, but one that has been studied extensively. The [Northern Virginia Regional Commission](#) has a great Smart Salting toolkit to help you learn proper dosing, negotiate better with contractors, and learn more about regional efforts to combat salt pollution.

# Winter Preparedness Outreach



Reston Today - Salting this Winter • Protecting our Watershed



RestonAssociation

1.24K subscribers

Subscribe



3



Share



209 views 1 year ago

Learn more about Reston's watershed: <https://www.reston.org/183/Lakes-Wate...>

Tips for winter salting: <http://WinterSaltSmart.com> ...more

- Every year, RA messages about the importance of smart salting practices, in coordination with Northern Virginia Regional Commission and Fairfax County
- Online articles
- Weekly RA News videos (email newsletter)
- Educational session (2024 session with NVRC and Fairfax centered on HOA leaders and contracting)

 **Reston**<sup>®</sup>  
ASSOCIATION  
*Together we make Reston great*

# Message to HOAs: Cost of Over-Salting



- Excess salt damages asphalt, concrete, and metal shortening the lifespan of costly infrastructure and corroding resident vehicles.
- Salt spray from roads kills roadside grass and landscape plants, including trees.
- Road salt enters drinking water supplies and can impact health.

# Message to HOAs: You Can Make a Difference

- Challenge of winter weather is balancing safety and the environment.
- Best practices developed by Fairfax County and Northern Virginia Regional Commission can help residents, businesses, and HOAs.
- Looking to HOA leaders to negotiate better salting practices into their landscaping contracts



## What to do during and after a storm?



Clear snow by shoveling early and often, and apply salt only where needed.



If the sun comes out and you can wait, let the sun do some of the work before you apply salt.



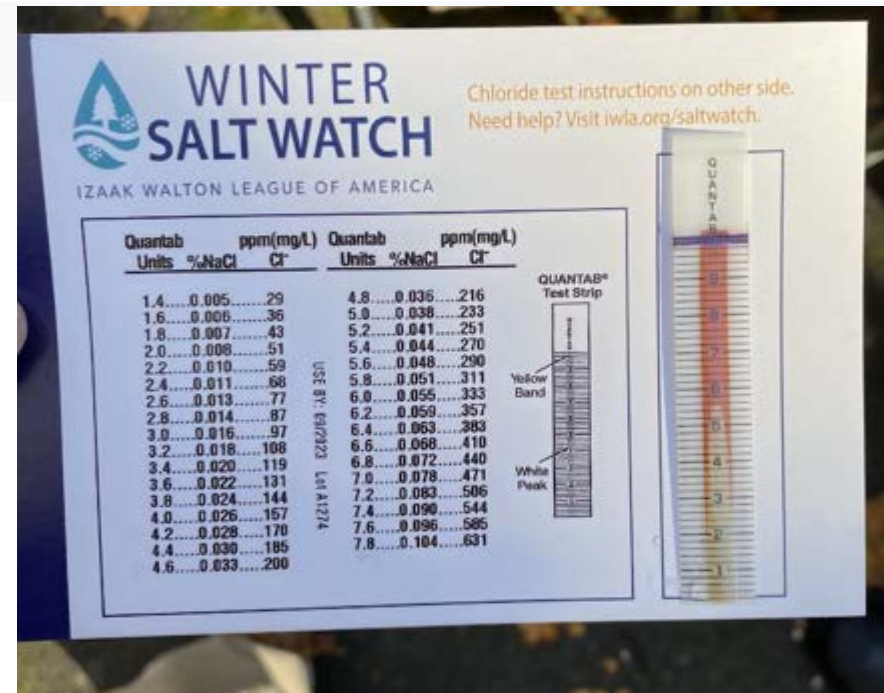
Apply salt after clearing snow. Never use salt to "burn off" snow. It will quickly dilute and requires more salt.



After the storm, sweep up the extra salt or traction material and use it again next time.

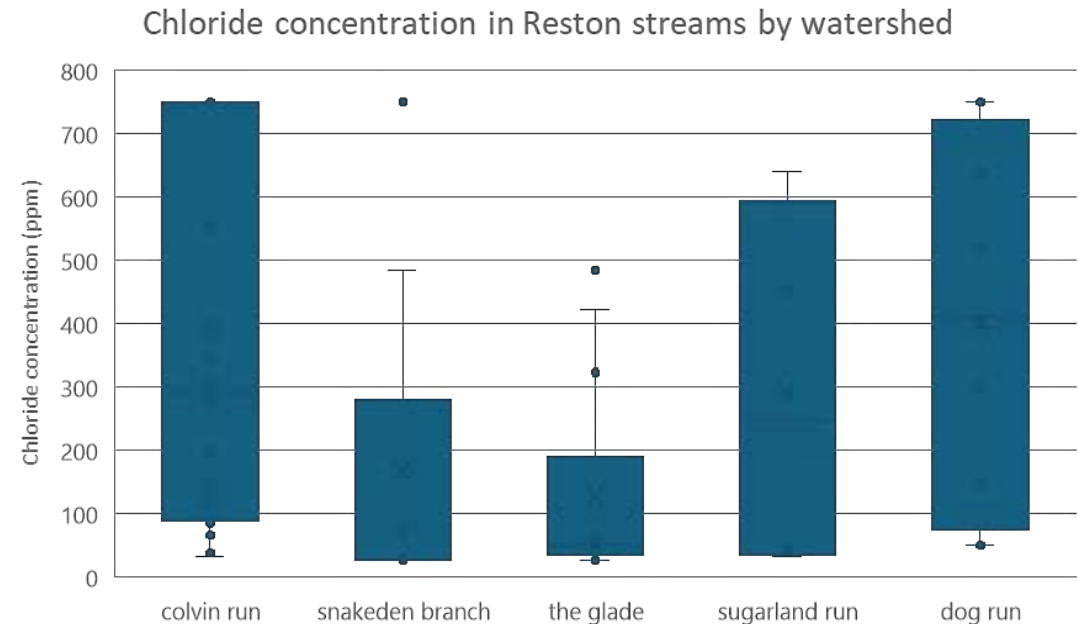
# Participation in Salt Watch

- RA participates in Salt Watch to identify most impaired water bodies in Reston and to engage community in water quality awareness.
- For the last three winters we have shared a report on chloride levels with the community using these results.
- 65 samples were taken over the previous winter-early spring by eight volunteers.
- This August we had more than 30 volunteer water quality monitors attend a presentation on Reston's water quality, including many of our Salt Watchers.



# Chloride Pollution by Watershed

- Five of our seven sub-watersheds were monitored, three had average readings above chronically toxic levels.
- Sites in **Colvin Run** tended to have high influence from commercial areas and road ways.
- The site in **Sugarland Run** had influence from single family homes and a major parkway – piles of salt were visible in the neighborhood.
- **Dog Run** sites also had major influence from single family homes and a major roadway.
- **Snakeden Branch** and the **Glade** sites were primarily influenced by single family homes, often with larger lots. The Glade sites were set in areas with larger park and natural area buffers.



Colvin Run m = 392, stde =64; Snakeden Branch m = 186, stde =98; the Glade m = 125, stde = 55; Sugarland Run m = 375, stde = 180; Dog Run m = 401, stde = 107.

# Targeting Outreach and Taking Action

- Drainage basins were delineated for all sites. We intend to target outreach material for residents in near sites with high impairment and small (<100 acres) drainage areas.
- The site with this 21-acre watershed had high chloride readings, indicating that this neighborhood may have salted excessively.
- A total of six sites were identified to target outreach for.





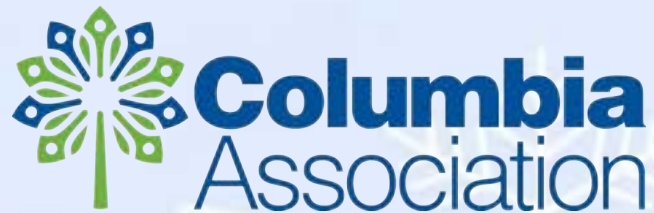
# Thank You!

Email: [Brhoades@reston.org](mailto:Brhoades@reston.org)

Phone: 703-435-6535

 **Reston**<sup>®</sup>  
ASSOCIATION  
*Together we make Reston great*

# **Community Winter Salt Management In Action: Columbia Association**





# Winter Salt Management

Janine Pollack

Watershed Manager

# What is CA?

- Serves as nonprofit community services organization to ~100k residents in 10 Villages
  - Departments: Sustainability, Capital Improvements, Open Space, Communications, Sports and Fitness, Aquatics, etc.
- Operates and maintains over 60 community facilities (3 fitness clubs, 5 tennis clubs, 2 golf courses, 23 outdoor pools, ice rink, art center, etc.)
- Preserves natural spaces and pathways

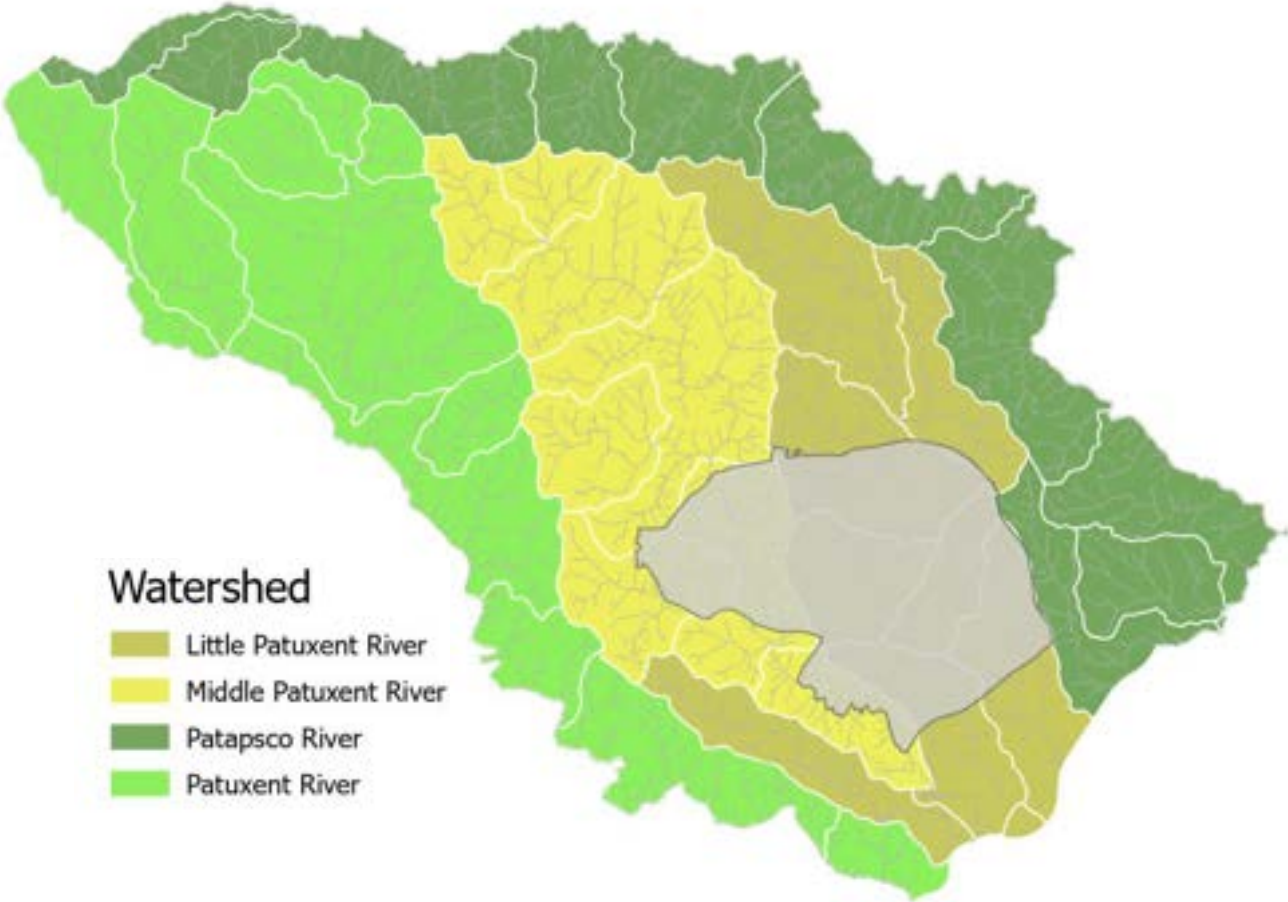
# CA's Assets

Responsible for the management of many assets, including:

- 3 lakes, 50 ponds, 113 miles of stream
- 3600 acres of open space
- 35 acres of parking lot, 95 miles of pathway



# Columbia's place in space



### Watershed

- Little Patuxent River
- Middle Patuxent River
- Patapsco River
- Patuxent River

# Salt: A Shared Responsibility

- CA Staff
- Howard County
- Residents
- Property Managers/HOAs (NEXT YEAR)

# CA Staff

15 staff members completed MDE's Smart Salting training

- **Increased awareness! Staff now think before applying salt**
- Added new brining equipment
- Purchased new shakers for manual application
- Improved calibration of equipment

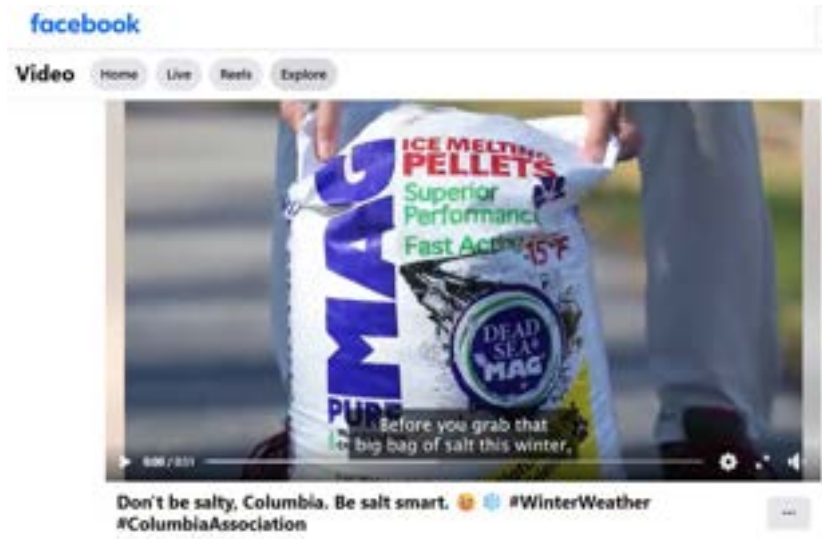


# Partnership with Howard County

- Shares maintenance on pathways
- Maintains roads running through Columbia
- Signed MOU calling out salt reduction
- Trained in MDE Smart Salting

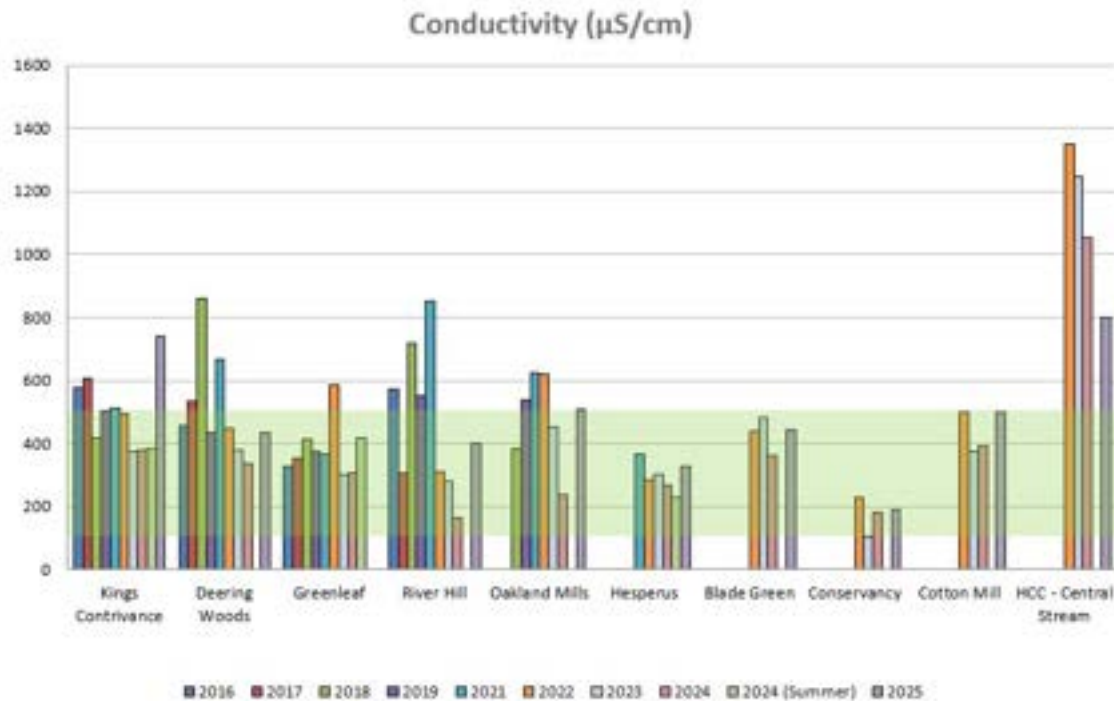
# Residents

- Salt Smart mugs
- Outreach/tabling at several venues
- Social media (webpage, videos, timely posts, CA app)
- Village newsletters

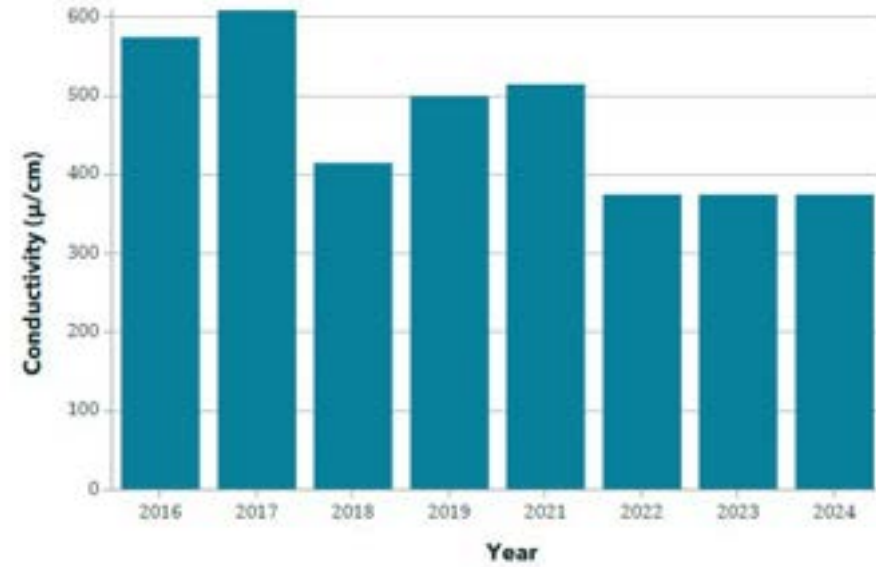


# Residents

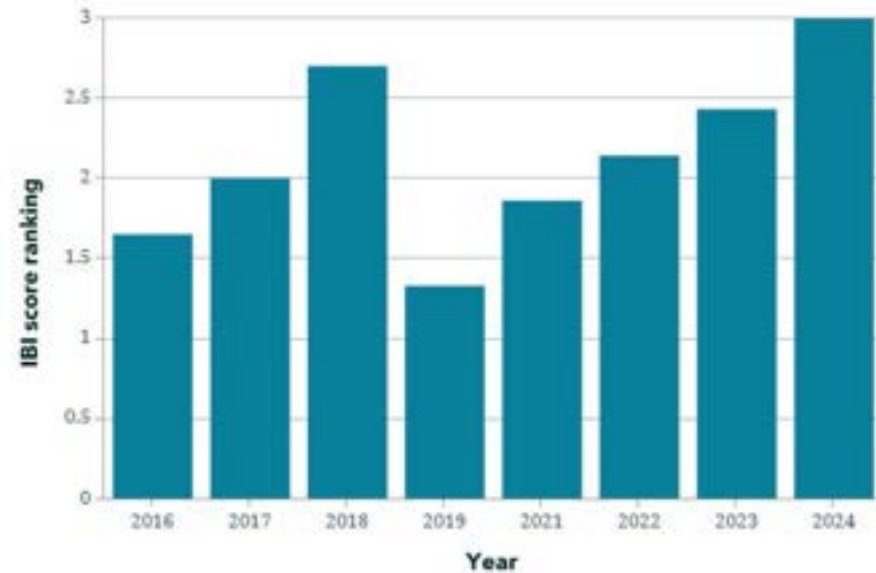
- Stream Waders



KC Sweet Hours Conductivity over time



KC Sweet Hours IBI Scores over Time



# Future Actions

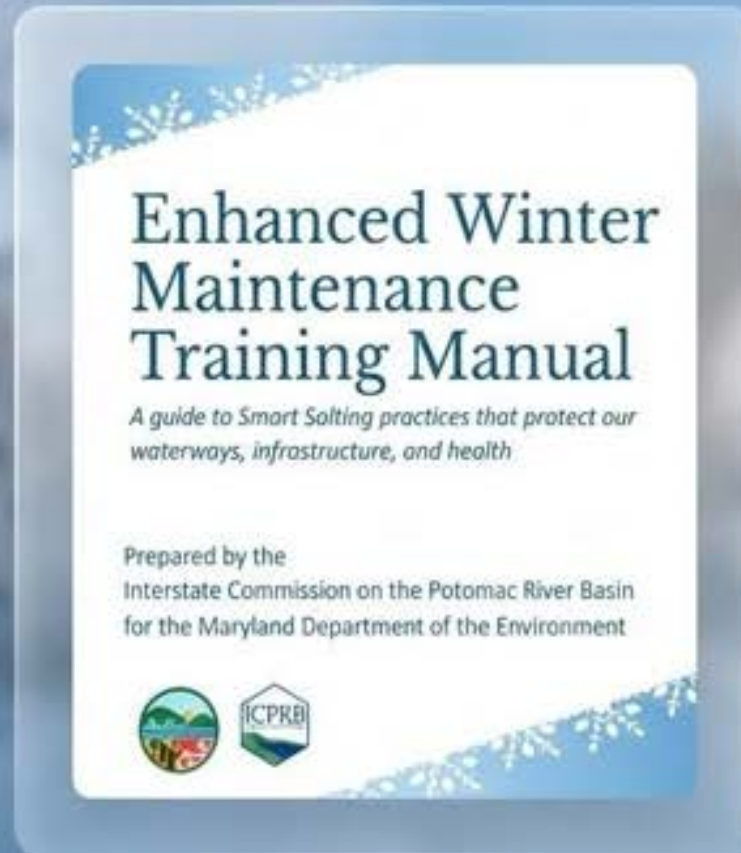
- Prioritize salt reduction in WRAP
- Prepare a Salt Management Strategy
- Work with HOAs/Property Management companies to restructure existing contracts (NOT based on amount of salt used)
- Engaging residents with Salt Watch - use this as a tool to identify future target areas

# Questions? Thank you!

[janine.pollack@columbiaassociation.org](mailto:janine.pollack@columbiaassociation.org)

# MDE's Smart Salting

## Enhanced Winter Maintenance Training



[camryn.arnstein@maryland.gov](mailto:camryn.arnstein@maryland.gov)

# Winter Salt Week 2026



MONDAY  
JAN 26  
1:30 ET

**Freshwater Salinization  
Causes, Consequences, and Trends**  
Dr. Megan Rippey and Dr. Stan Grant, Virginia Tech

TUESDAY  
JAN 27  
1:30 ET

**Salt Wise Stories**  
Phill Sexton, WIT Advisors  
Aron Rodman, Extra Mile Snowplowing LLC

WEDNESDAY  
JAN 27  
1:30 ET

**Smart Salting Contracts**  
Martin Tirado, Snow and Ice Management Assn  
Jim Turcan, Cornerstone Partners Hort. Serv. Co.

THURSDAY  
JAN 29  
1:30 ET

**Engineering Solutions**  
Connie Fortin, Bolton & Menk  
Wilf Nixon, Professional Showfighters Association

FRIDAY  
JAN 30

*Virtual Conversation Table Options:* **Advocating for Change (12-1pm ET)** hosted by Abby Hilleman and Mary Rooney; **Salt Monitoring 101 (1-2pm ET)** hosted by Lauren Eaton and Paige Vichiola

[www.wintersaltweek.org](http://www.wintersaltweek.org)





JOIN US FOR THE

# WINTER SALT WEEK

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY  
JANUARY 31  
10:00AM TO 1:00PM



# RAFFLE TIME!

Two winners will  
receive a

**32" DeWalt  
Carbon Steel Blade  
Ice Scraper**



Raffle prizes provided by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

Winners: Please contact [rbourassa@icprb.org](mailto:rbourassa@icprb.org)

# Questions?

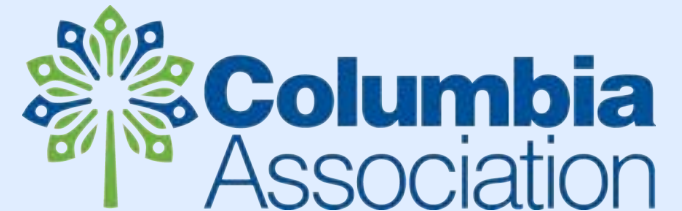


**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

[camryn.arnstein@maryland.gov](mailto:camryn.arnstein@maryland.gov)



[brhoades@reston.org](mailto:brhoades@reston.org)



[janine.pollack@columbiaassociation.org](mailto:janine.pollack@columbiaassociation.org)

# Winter Salt Week 2026



MONDAY  
JAN 26  
1:30 ET

**Freshwater Salinization  
Causes, Consequences, and Trends**  
Dr. Megan Rippey and Dr. Stan Grant, Virginia Tech

TUESDAY  
JAN 27  
1:30 ET

**Salt Wise Stories**  
Phill Sexton, WIT Advisors  
Aron Rodman, Extra Mile Snowplowing LLC

WEDNESDAY  
JAN 27  
1:30 ET

**Smart Salting Contracts**  
Martin Tirado, Snow and Ice Management Assn  
Jim Turcan, Cornerstone Partners Hort. Serv. Co.

THURSDAY  
JAN 29  
1:30 ET

**Engineering Solutions**  
Connie Fortin, Bolton & Menk  
Wilf Nixon, Professional Showfighters Association

FRIDAY  
JAN 30

*Virtual Conversation Table Options:* **Advocating for Change (12-1pm ET)** hosted by Abby Hilleman and Mary Rooney; **Salt Monitoring 101 (1-2pm ET)** hosted by Lauren Eaton and Paige Vichiola

[www.wintersaltweek.org](http://www.wintersaltweek.org)

