



SALT WATCH™

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA



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Salt Watch Coordinator
Izaak Walton League of America

WSSC Water Salt Summit
January 23, 2024



Goals of Salt Watch

- To raise awareness in the general public about the connection between salt and stream health
- To identify chloride hot spots in freshwater
- To advocate for smarter application of road salt by sharing results with private landowners and local and state agencies



It only takes
1 teaspoon of salt



to **permanently pollute**
5 gallons of water



Salt Watch Kit

Includes:

- 4 Hach 30-600ppm chloride test strips
- Sample testing instructions
- Conversion chart
- Data uploading instructions



2018-2024 National



16,008 Data Points



29% Samples "Excellent" (between 0-30ppm)



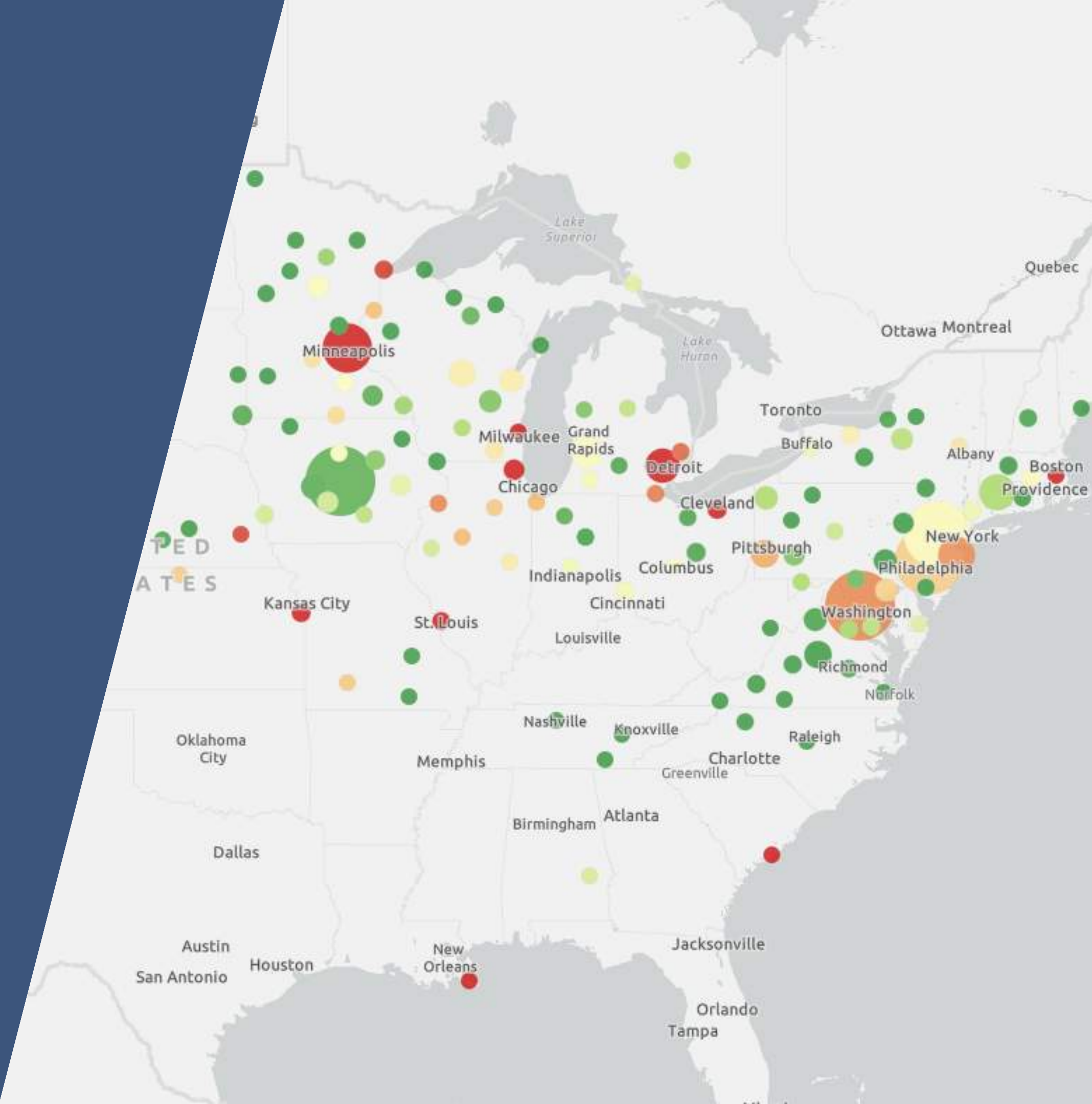
37% Samples "Good" (between 30-100ppm)



19% Samples "Poor" (between 100-230ppm)



15% Samples "Toxic" (230+ppm)



2018-2024 DC Metro Region



3,194 Data Points



14% Samples "Excellent" (between 0-30ppm)



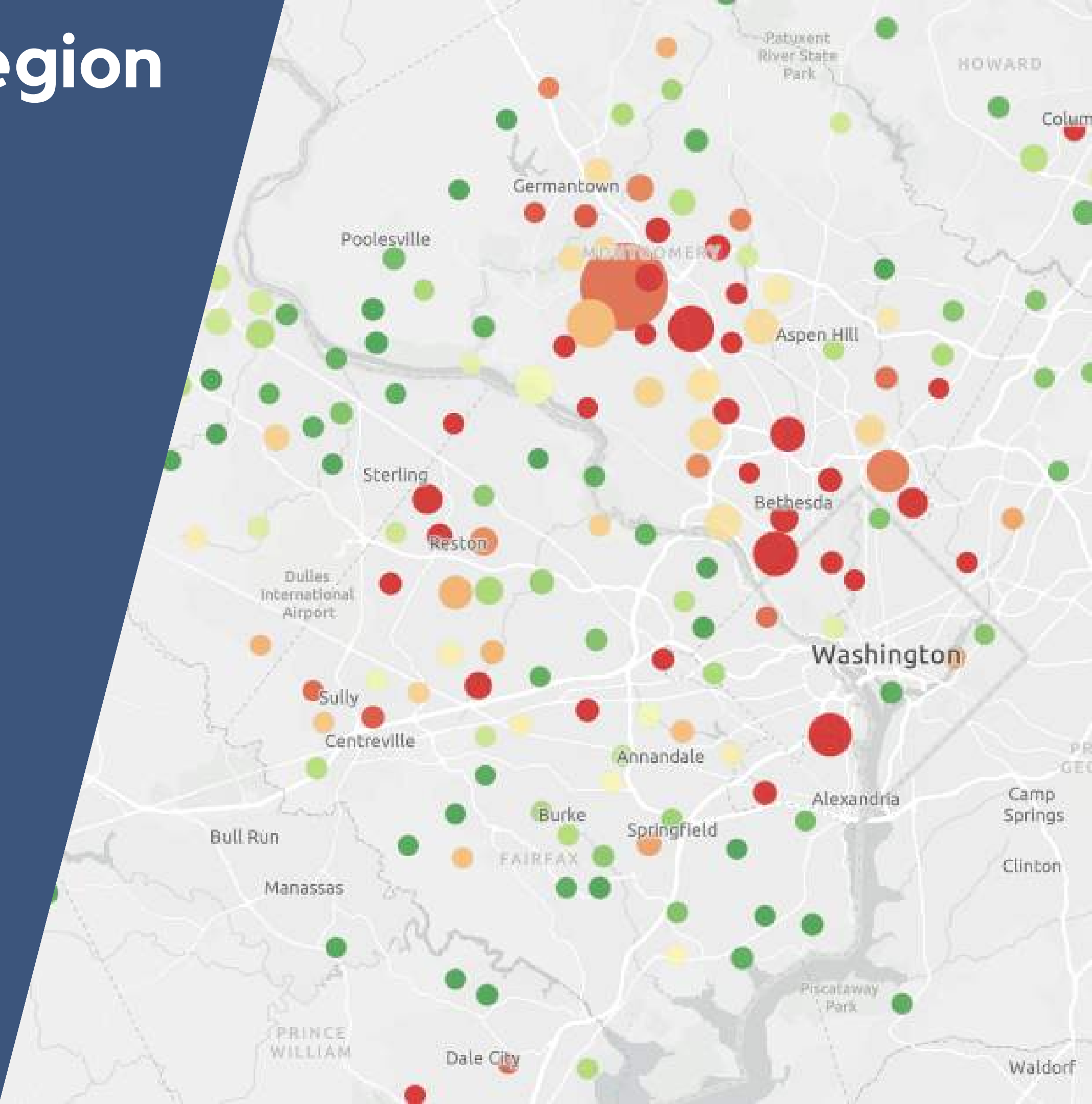
36% Samples "Good" (between 30-100ppm)



29% Samples "Poor" (between 100-230ppm)



21% Samples "Toxic" (230+ppm)





Clean Water Hub

www.CleanWaterHub.org

- National water quality database
- Publicly accessible
- Created with usability in mind
 - Data is meant to be easy to access, understand, and share
- Color-coded, interactive maps

Clean Water Hub™

Share the water quality data from your local streams. Make an impact in communities across the nation.

SIGN UP

SIGN IN

EXPLORE THE MAP





Clean Water Hub stats*

16337

stations

55036

samples

238

organizations

1828

members

***as of January 23, 2024**

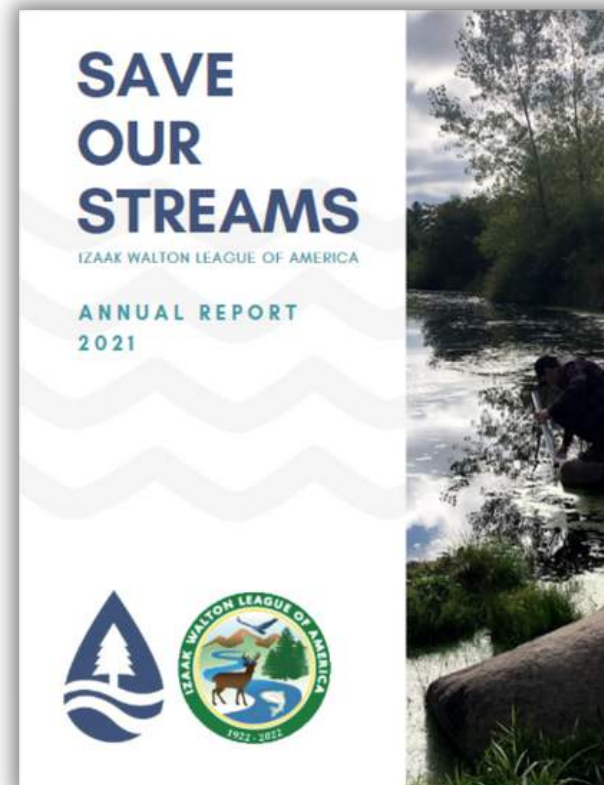
Data Use

Government Agencies

- Shared with US EPA annually
- Available to government agencies and water quality organizations to...
 - identify areas in need of further study, restoration
 - track impact of BMPs
 - track progress of restoration

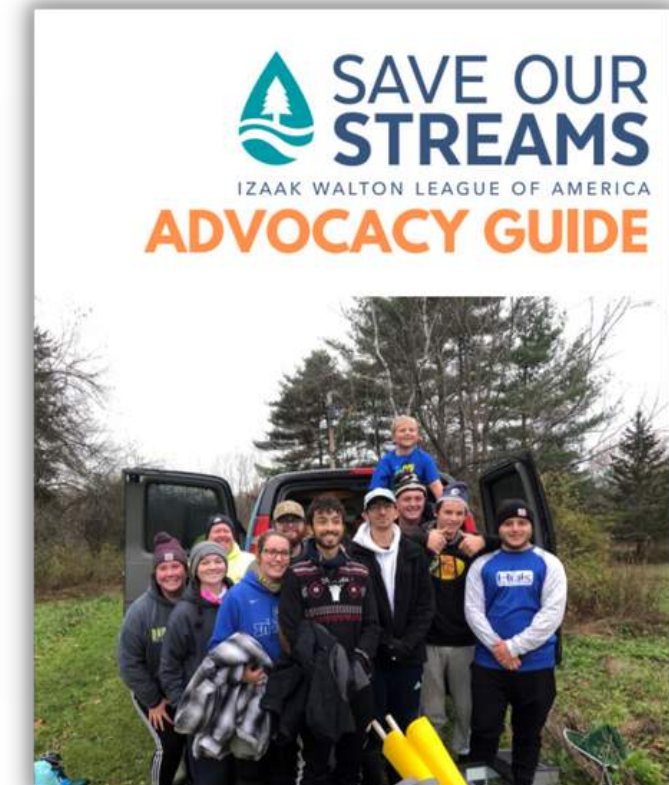
IWLA Clean Water Team

- Annual report
- Updates to SOS volunteers
- Outreach to media sources



Clean Water Advocates

- Letters to the editor
- Contacting local representatives
- Educating community members



What is Nitrate?

Healthy streams are vital to healthy communities. It's where our kids play and dogs splash. And some of these streams provide the water we drink. But is the water in these streams clean and safe? The truth is, for most local streams, no one knows. That's a problem – one the Izaak Walton League has been working on since 1969.

Nitrate

Nitrates are chemical compounds that can be found in nature. Nitrates are made up of *nitrogen* and other elements, which plants and animals need to grow and thrive. Now, the most common source of nitrates are artificial fertilizers used by farmers and homeowners for crops, lawns, and landscaping.

Although a small amount of nitrate is important for a healthy stream, too much nitrate can cause serious problems. Rain can wash fertilizer from farms and lawns into nearby streams, causing nitrate levels to spike. These spikes then cause bacteria and algae to grow into dramatic "blooms."

Blooms

Algae and bacteria live naturally in freshwater streams. However, when high nitrate levels let algae and bacteria "bloom," the stream suffers. Blooms block sunlight, starving aquatic plants below. As these plants die and decompose, the amount of oxygen in the water plummets. If untreated, blooms can choke a stream and kill off most of the underwater life.



The Little Creek earned a Good nitrate level. This means that the amount of runoff has not harmed the stream. However, the amount of nitrate in the stream has gone up over the past three years. This means that the Creek water quality will probably continue to degrade. The Friends of the Little Creek are working with farmers and landowners along the creek to try and reduce the amount of runoff washing into the stream.

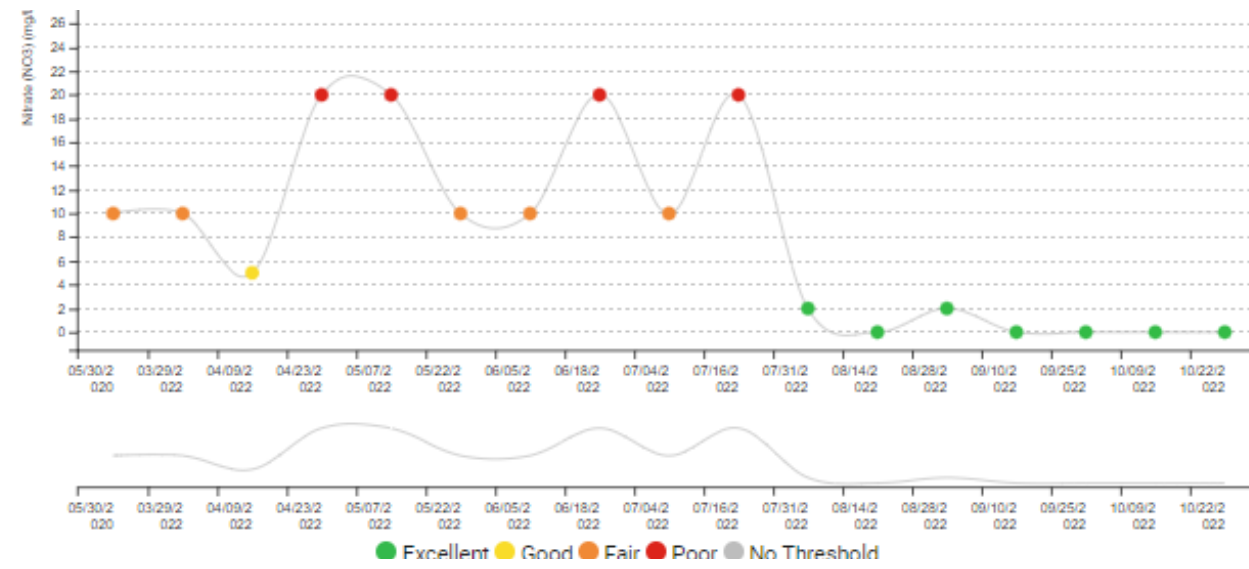
How can you help?

Anyone can be a stream health monitor! The data you collect will be used to restore and protect the creeks and streams in your own backyard.

Find your local chapter or contact the Izaak Walton League to organize a training event in your area!

Save Our Streams is a project of the Izaak Walton League of America

www.iwla.org



TTF Streamkeeper Testifies at Philadelphia City Council about Road Salt

Jamilee Hoffman

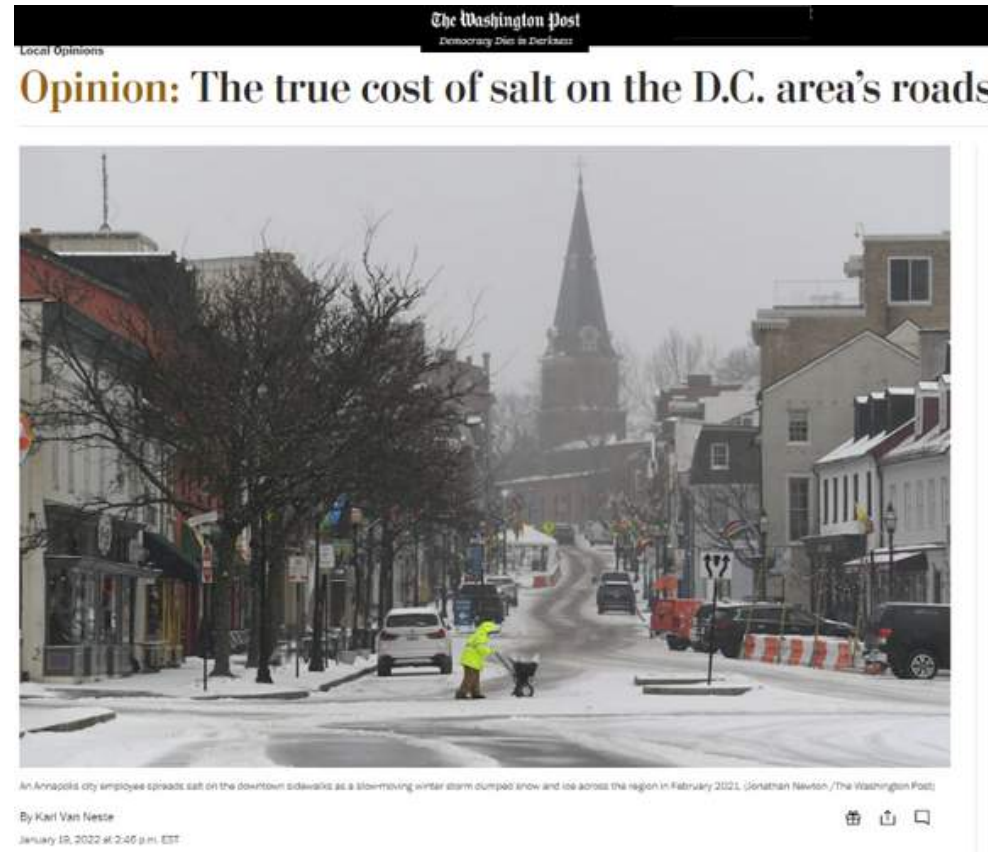
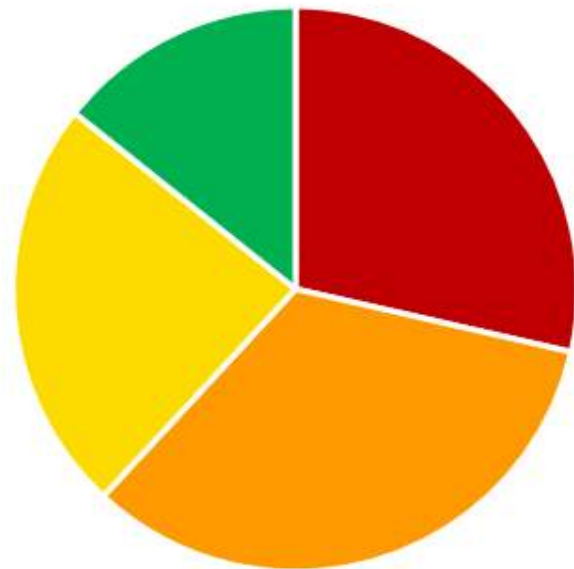
Mar 17, 2022



Data

Action

biological score



CLIMATE • CITIES

TIME

The U.S.' Addiction to Road Salt is Out of Control. These Cities are Trying to Cut Back



MPCA: 'Less is more' when salting walkways, waters are getting polluted

Quad-City Times

IOWA NEWS

Davenport tests effort to reduce salt on winter roads



NATIONAL

Michigan's Department of Transportation is cutting back on road salt

Salt Watch Advocacy Resources

Start at Home

1

Salt is really powerful when it comes to preventing ice from forming – all you need for a 20-foot driveway is ONE mugful (12 oz) of road salt.

2

You do not have to feel "the crunch" for salt to do its job. Salt lowers the freezing temperature of water so snow and ice can be more easily removed. Putting more salt on a surface does not make snow and ice melt faster or eliminate the need for plowing or shoveling.

3

Watch out for deicers labeled as "eco-friendly" or "pet-friendly"! Read the package more closely: If there is chloride in the product (sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, etc.), it is still a salt!

Get the Word Out

Write a Letter to the Editor

Start with our [template](#) and adapt it for educating YOUR

Hand Out Flyers

Use [these flyers](#) to educate your neighbors about their

Curb Salt Use In Your Community

Call Local Government

Call your city or county Department of Environmental Protection to report high chloride levels or large salt piles (either piles spilled on the road or uncovered stockpiles). Call your Department of Transportation to ask them to apply less salt on the roads.

Share Best Practices

Property managers, community leaders, and state agencies might not know where to start in curbing salt use in your area. Share the [Road Salt Best Practices](#) compiled from our partners already working to reduce salt use in their regions.

Write a Letter to Your State Legislator or City Council

Write to your representatives at the state and local level in support of salt reduction and smarter salt use in your community. You can start with our sample letters – but feel free to personalize them to your own perspective!



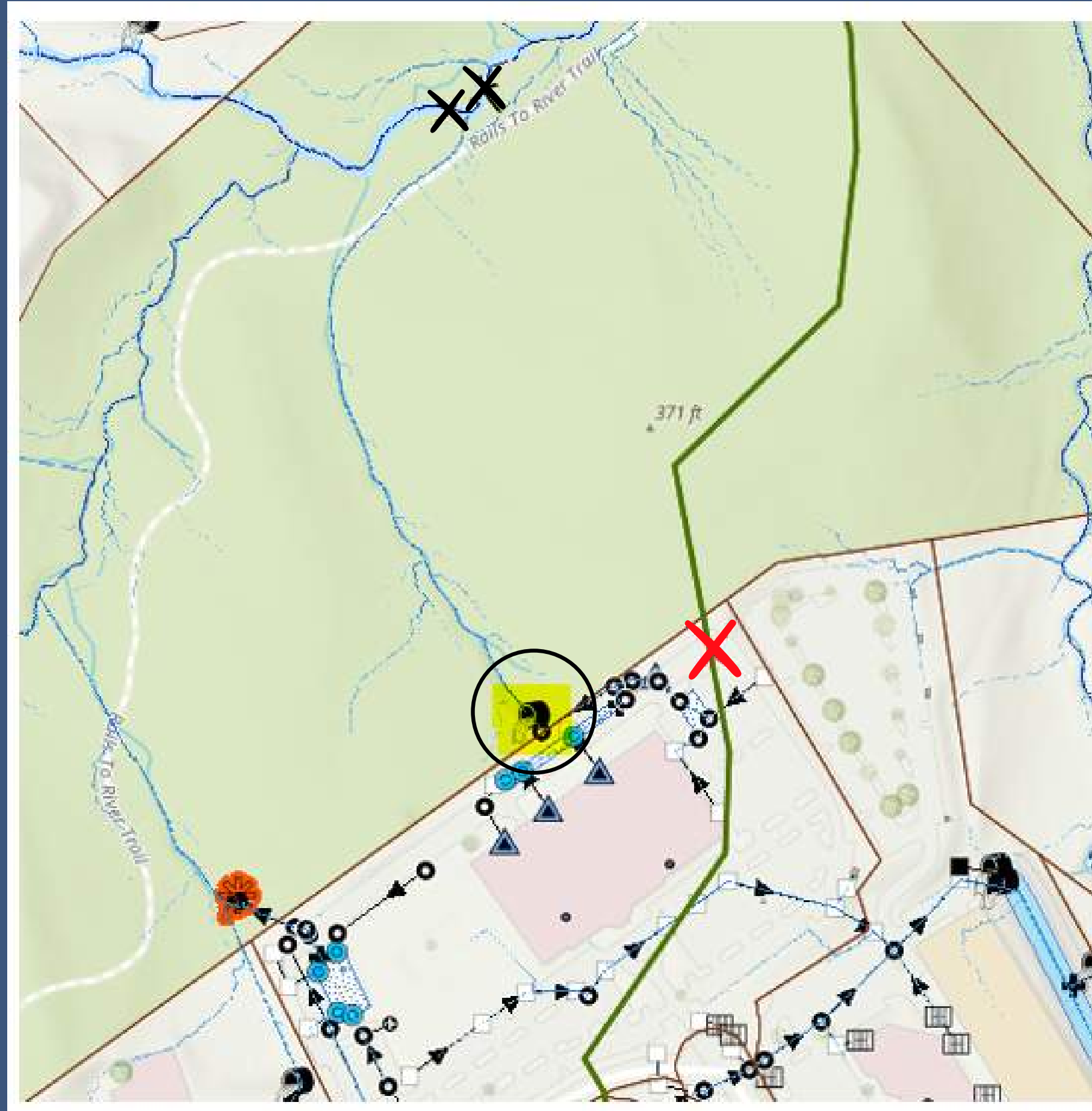
How to Start a Salt Watch Campaign in Your Community



Salt Spill Success



Salt Spill Success

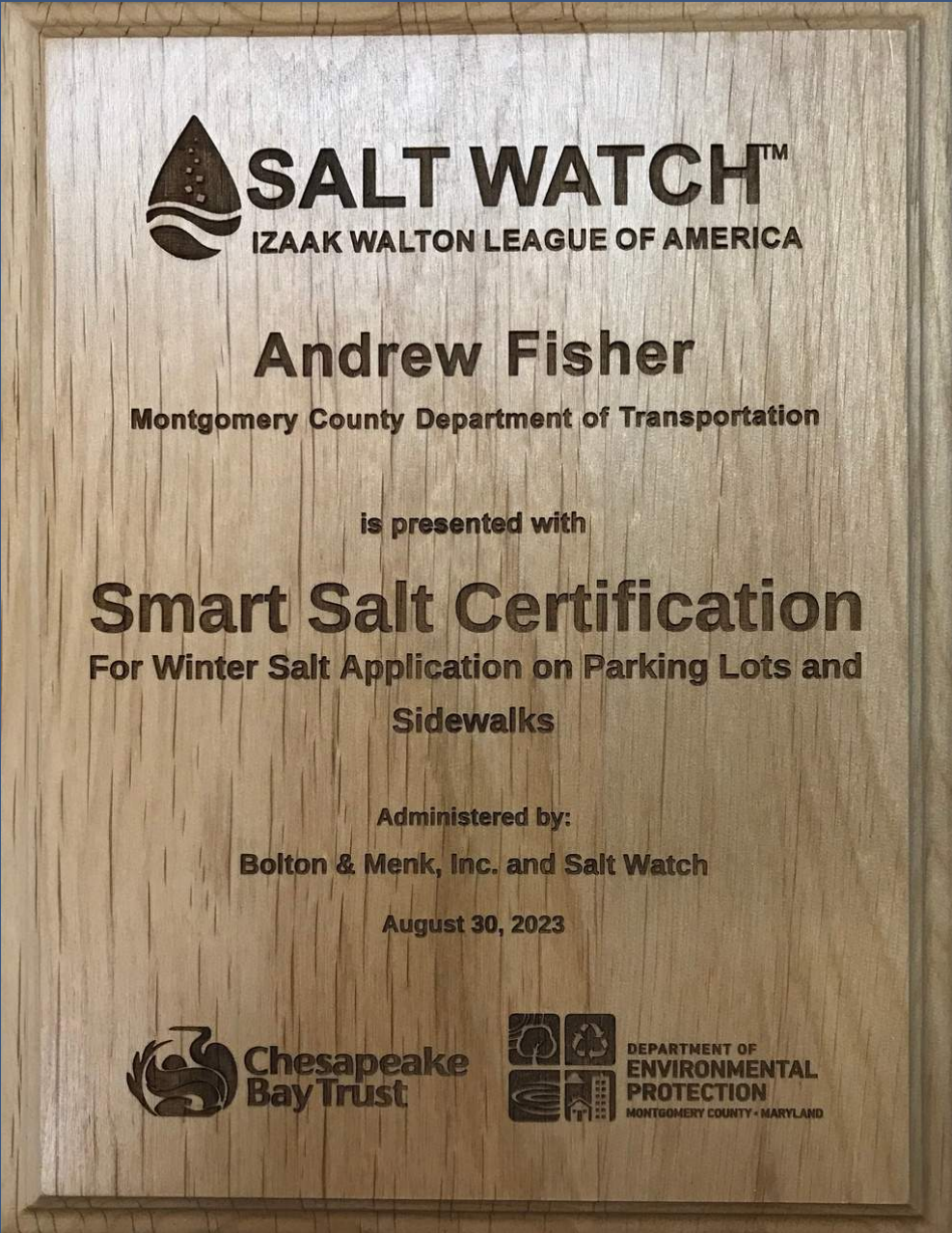


Smart Salt Certification

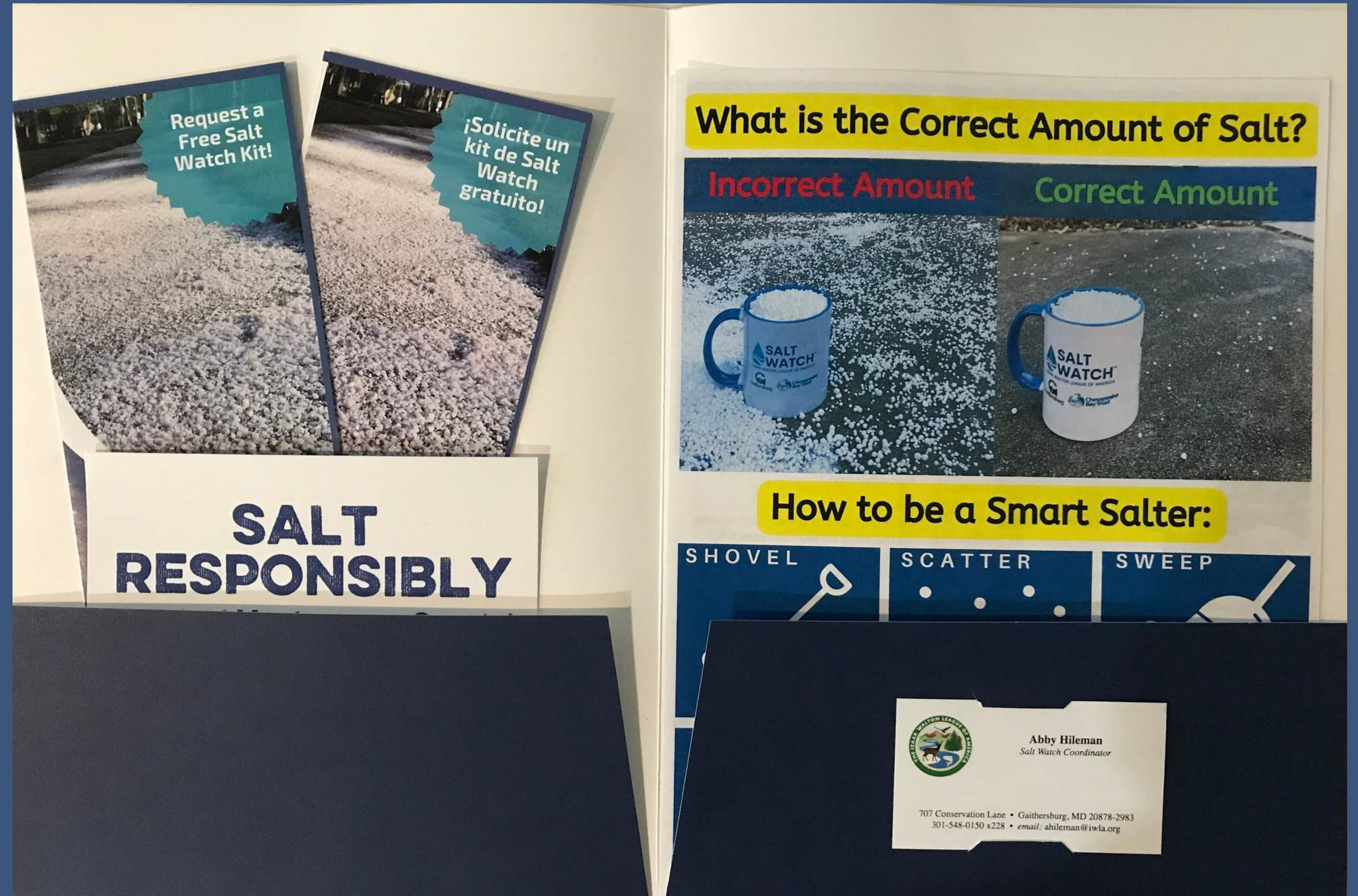
Smart Salting for Parking Lots & Sidewalks



August 2022



Salt Watch Business Outreach



Salt Watch Tabling



Salt Watch Gaithersburg

SALT RESPONSIBLY

PROTECT OUR:



DRINKING WATER



ROADS & SIDEWALKS



HABITAT & WILDLIFE



CARS



PETS





IZA AK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
WWW.SALTWATCH.ORG

SALT RESPONSIBLY

to protect Gaithersburg's

Streams - Wildlife - Pets
Drinking Water - Cars - Roads







Salt Watch Gaithersburg



**Walk in the Woods:
Let's be Smart
about Winter Salt**

JOIN OUR HIKE
SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 28
AT 10AM



REGISTER HERE!

NO CLEAN WATER



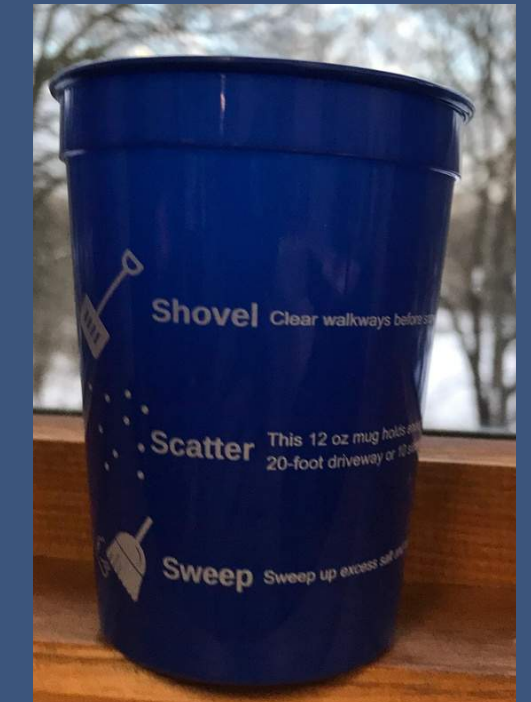
NO GOOD BEER

City of Gaithersburg Presents

Oktoberfest



Salt Watch MoCo



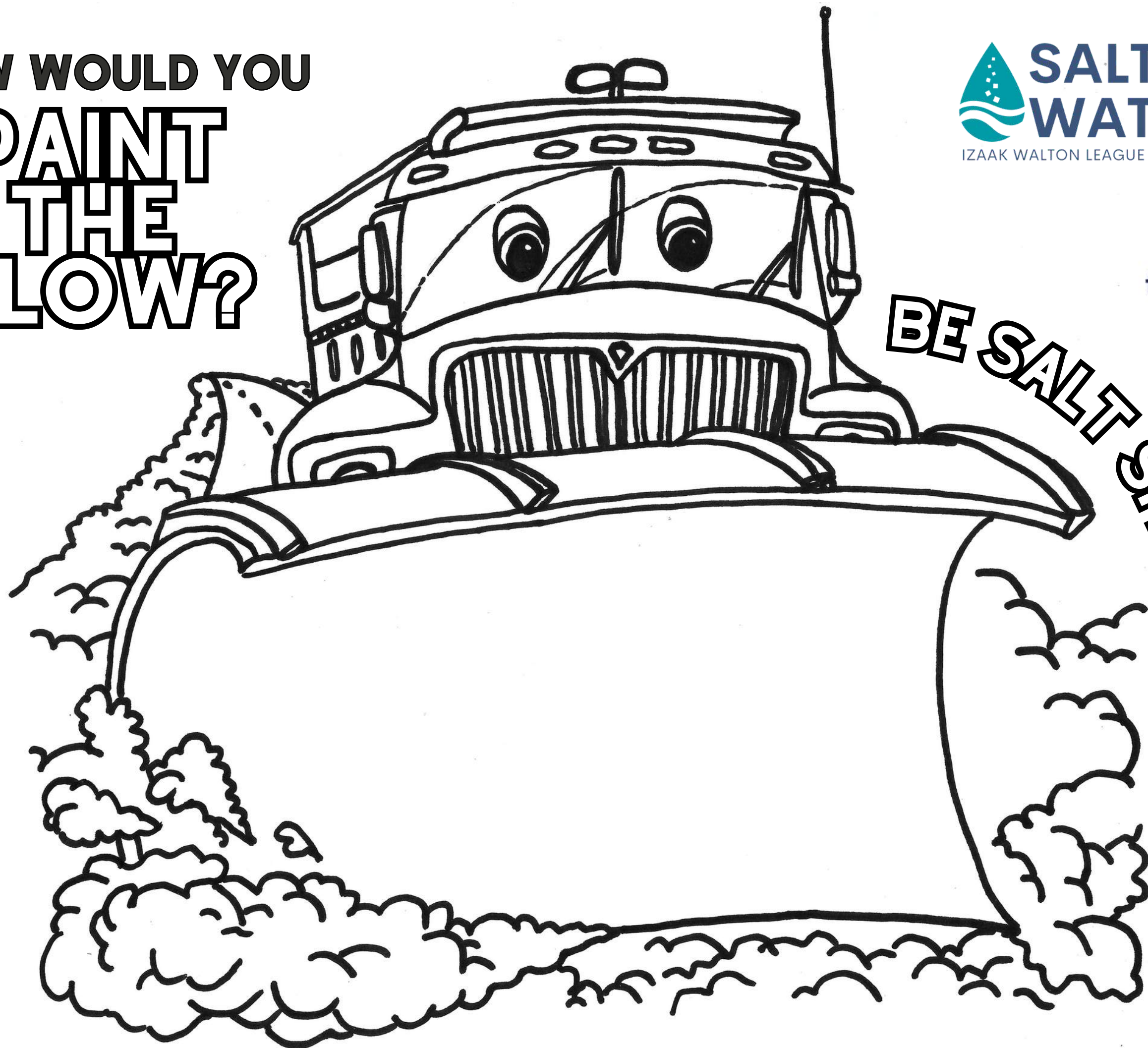
PAIN THE PLOW



HOW WOULD YOU
**PAIN
THE
PLOW?**



**BE SALT
SMART**



BE SALT SMART

#SAVE
Gary

Avoid
Salt
Pollution



Damascus
High
School

2138247

3247

Please

HOLD THE SALT!

Thanks

< Less is > MORE!

A white truck is carrying a large, colorful banner. The banner has a light blue background with a white border. On the left, there are several white salt crystals. In the center, a green cartoon tree with a smiling face and outstretched arms stands on a brown trunk. To the right of the tree, a red bird is flying. Below the tree, the words 'Less is' are written in red, flanked by red arrows pointing left and right. To the right of this, the word 'MORE!' is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a red outline. At the bottom right, there is a small illustration of a fish. The word 'Please' is written in a cursive font at the top left. The word 'Thanks' is written in a cursive font at the top right. The banner is held up by two red poles. The truck's front is visible above the banner, showing the grille and headlights. The number '2138247' is on the top of the truck, and '3247' is on the side of the door. The truck is parked on a street with trees in the background.

KÜPER

2138339

Devon Ln
Dorset Ave

LFWA.ORG

LESS SALT
MORE LIFE

KÜPER

KÜPER

KÜPER



IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

SALTAWATCH



Shovel

Clear walkways before snow turns to ice.



Scatter

A 12 oz mug holds enough salt to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares.



Sweep

Sweep up excess salt and reuse it!



Thanks to Our Sponsors



Raines Family Fund

SALT RESPONSIBLY



Visit:
www.saltwatch.org

Email:
saltwatch@iwla.org