



Happy Winter & Happy New Year!

As winter weather arrives in Northern Virginia, we all want to ensure that our communities stay safe during snowy and icy conditions. But did you know that overuse of salt can harm the environment and infrastructure? The Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners are committed to protecting our local waterways, and we're asking you to join us in being *Salt Smart* this winter. By using less salt and only applying it where needed, we can help keep our creeks and streams clean while still making your pathways safe for use. In this edition, we'll share easy tips for effective snow and ice maintenance that benefit both your property and the environment, including best practices for applying salt or alternatives during winter weather events. Together, we can keep our community safe and waterways healthy this winter!



Winter Watershed Wellness

Frigid temperatures mean that wintry weather is here! Just because it's cold, however, doesn't mean we can forget our waterways. Snow, sleet, and freezing rain will eventually melt, increasing water flow into our waterways. Practice smart winter preparedness to prevent pollution!

[LEARN MORE](#)



Save your Salt!

Why do we care about being salt smart? It only takes one teaspoon of winter salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water! Winter salt that runs off of our sidewalks, driveways, and roads enters the environment causing:

- Elevated sodium levels in our drinking water and increased treatment costs.
- Harm to fish, plants, and other wildlife
- Corrosion of vehicles, roads, bridges, and parking lots that leads to costly maintenance and repairs over time.



Scoop the Slush!

How can we take action to reduce salt impacts? When it snows, take the following steps to ensure that you are staying safe, but taking smart salt actions:

- Clear snow by shoveling early and often.
- Make sure to clear snow 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.
- After the storm, sweep up the extra salt and use it again the next time winter weather hits.

Partner Highlights:

Here are some additional offerings from our #cleanwaterpartners for those who want to continue their conservation efforts.

[Conservation Assistance Programs](#)

The Conservation Assistance Programs (CAP) are urban cost-share programs that provide financial and technical assistance to property owners who would like to manage stormwater on their property using environmentally-friendly practices. These practices can be installed to address problems like erosion, poor drainage, or poor vegetation. Restrictions Apply.

[Flood Mitigation Assistance Program](#)

Funded by Fairfax County and administered by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) offers applicants 50% reimbursement—up to a maximum of \$5,000—for the costs of projects that protect their properties from flood damage. Projects on FMAP's [Approved List of Practices](#), or those approved on a case-by-case basis by the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District, are eligible for reimbursement.

[Stormwater Infrastructure Grant](#)

Stafford County Officially awarded four separate HOAs grant funding for the first two rounds of our Neighborhood Stormwater Infrastructure Grant program. Restrictions apply.

[Stafford County Cleanup Site Suggestions](#)

Stafford County invites their residents to fill out Stream Cleanup Area Interest Form for residents to identify good areas for trash pickups.

Partner Meetings and Events:

Rain Garden Workshop

When: Saturday, February 22, 9:30am-12:00pm

Where: Virtually or at Lubber Run Community Center, Arlington

[Learn More](#)

Native Seedling Sale

When: Thursday, February 27, 10:00am, 2:00pm, and 6:00pm

Where: NVSWCD Storefront

[Learn More](#)

Green Breakfast

When: Saturday, March 8th

Where: Virtual

[Learn More](#)

Wild and Scenic Film Festival

When: Saturday, March 15, Doors open at 5:30pm

Where: UMW University Center, Chandler Ballroom

[Learn More](#)



The Northern Virginia Clean Water Partnership is coordinated by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and funded in part by a grant from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.



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