



SALT WATCH® ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Salt Watch is a crowd-sourced community science project of the Izaak Walton League of America. This program, launched in 2018, mobilizes volunteers across the country to monitor and report chloride levels in the waterways they care about and the drinking water they rely on.

Chloride is a component in road salt and other conventional deicers used to melt snow and ice on sidewalks, parking lots, and roadways. After winter thaw and rain events, salt is often washed into waterways, soil, groundwater, and drinking water. After being applied, salt can cause damage to infrastructure, vehicles, appliances, and habitats, and harm freshwater aquatic life and plants.

We need to use salt to stay safe during winter weather events. However, we can be smarter about how much salt to apply and when we use salt, striking a better balance between environmental protection and safety.

THE GOALS OF SALT WATCH ARE...

- **Raise awareness** about the impacts of road salt (chloride) pollution on the environment and human health
- **Identify hotspots** of chloride pollution
- **Advocate for solutions** that reduce road salt pollution

For more information about road salt pollution and the Salt Watch program, visit saltwatch.org.

This report will summarize the results and participation that Salt Watch has seen from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025.



2024-25 YEAR REVIEW

Salt Watch had the highest number of data submissions this year to date with 8,689 readings reported across the country! Many Salt Watchers also reported oversalting events or salt spills and worked to get them cleaned up. Oftentimes, Salt Watchers worked with businesses and neighbors to address the issues of oversalting and offer salting best practices, while meeting people where they are.



Photo Credit: Valerie Fitton-Kane

This year, Salt Watch officially became a registered trademark (see our updated logo below). Additionally, the Izaak Walton League of America (and Salt Watch) transitioned to a new website. Resources, requests for Salt Watch kits, and more can be found at saltwatch.org.

As we continue into a new year of Salt Watch monitoring, we hope that you continue to have meaningful conversations with your community about smart salting practices. Together, we can reduce road salt pollution and maintain safety.

Thank you for monitoring with Salt Watch.



NEW RESOURCES

This year saw the rollout of our new Izaak Walton League of America website. Salt Watch resources can be viewed in the [Resource Library](#).

FAITH-BASED ACTION KIT

Salt Watch staff partnered with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake to produce a Faith-Based Action Toolkit called "Inspiring at Home Actions: Making a Difference Faithfully: A Steward's Guide to Reducing Road Salt". This guide provided faith-based communities with both actions to take as a congregation and individual at-home actions that will protect water and the environment.

[Explore the Action Kit](#)



INSPIRING

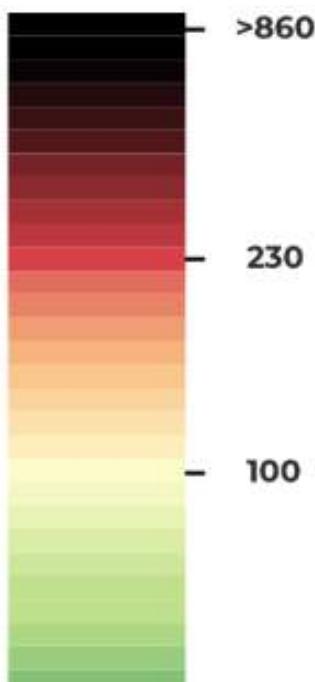
AT HOME ACTIONS:

[Making a Difference Faithfully: A Steward's Guide to Reducing Road Salt](#)

ACTION KIT



GOING FORTH

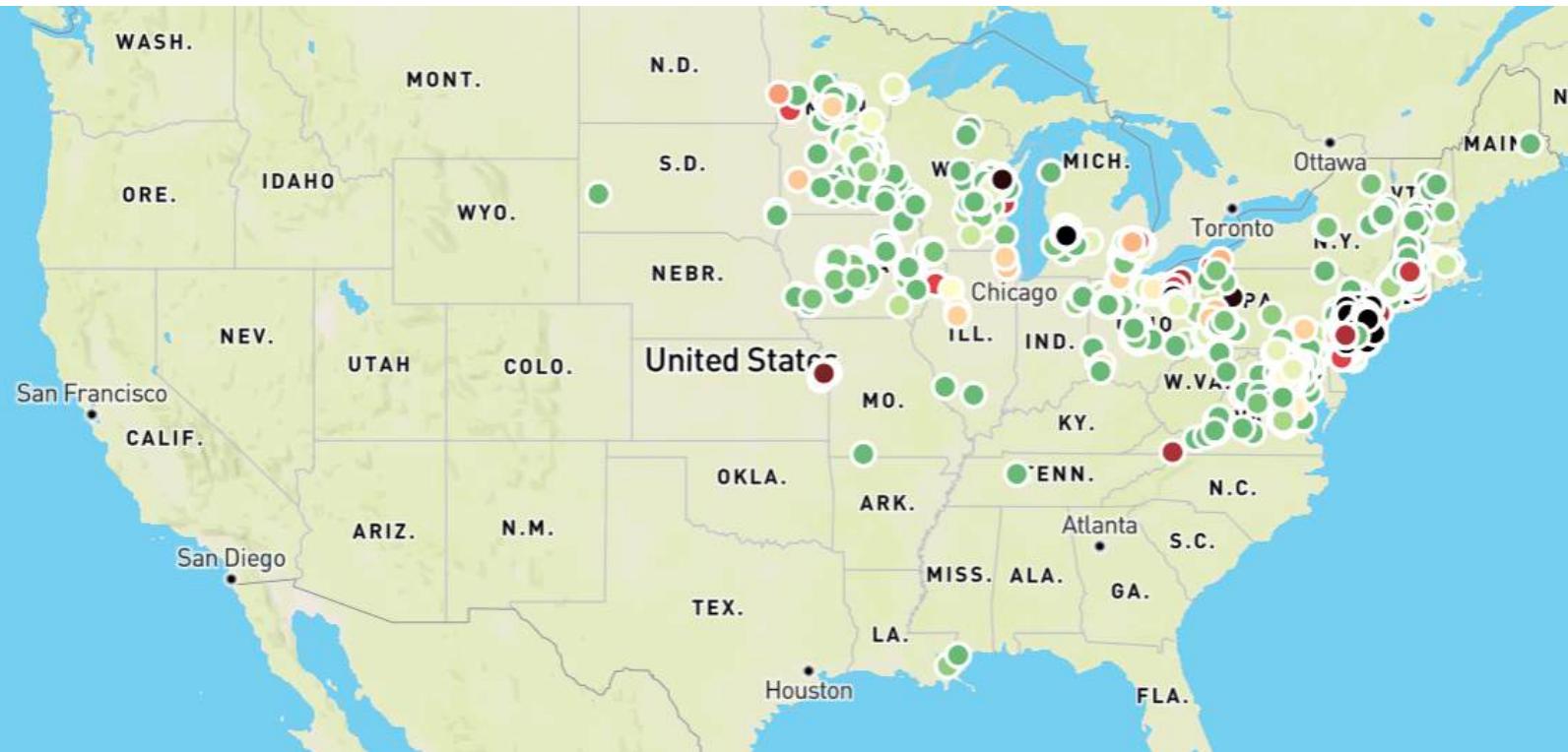


SCALE ON THE CLEAN WATER HUB

The chloride scale on the Clean Water Hub has been updated. Particularly within the past two years, more and more Salt Watch partner organizations have begun using high-range test strips as their readings have been "off the charts" of strips provided in Salt Watch kits. The scale has been adjusted to allow better visualization of these high chloride readings.

SALT WATCH® RESULTS NATIONWIDE

Staff distributed 6,007 Salt Watch kits to volunteers across the country. On the following pages, you can view results from states that contributed over 200 Salt Watch results. To view Salt Watch results, visit cleanwaterhub.org.



Total chloride readings: **8,689**

- 0-30 mg/L: **1,617**
- 30-100 mg/L: **3,663**
- 100-230 mg/L: **1,811**
- 230+ mg/L: **1,598**

0-30 mg/L

18.6%

230+ mg/L

18.4%

100-230 mg/L

20.8%

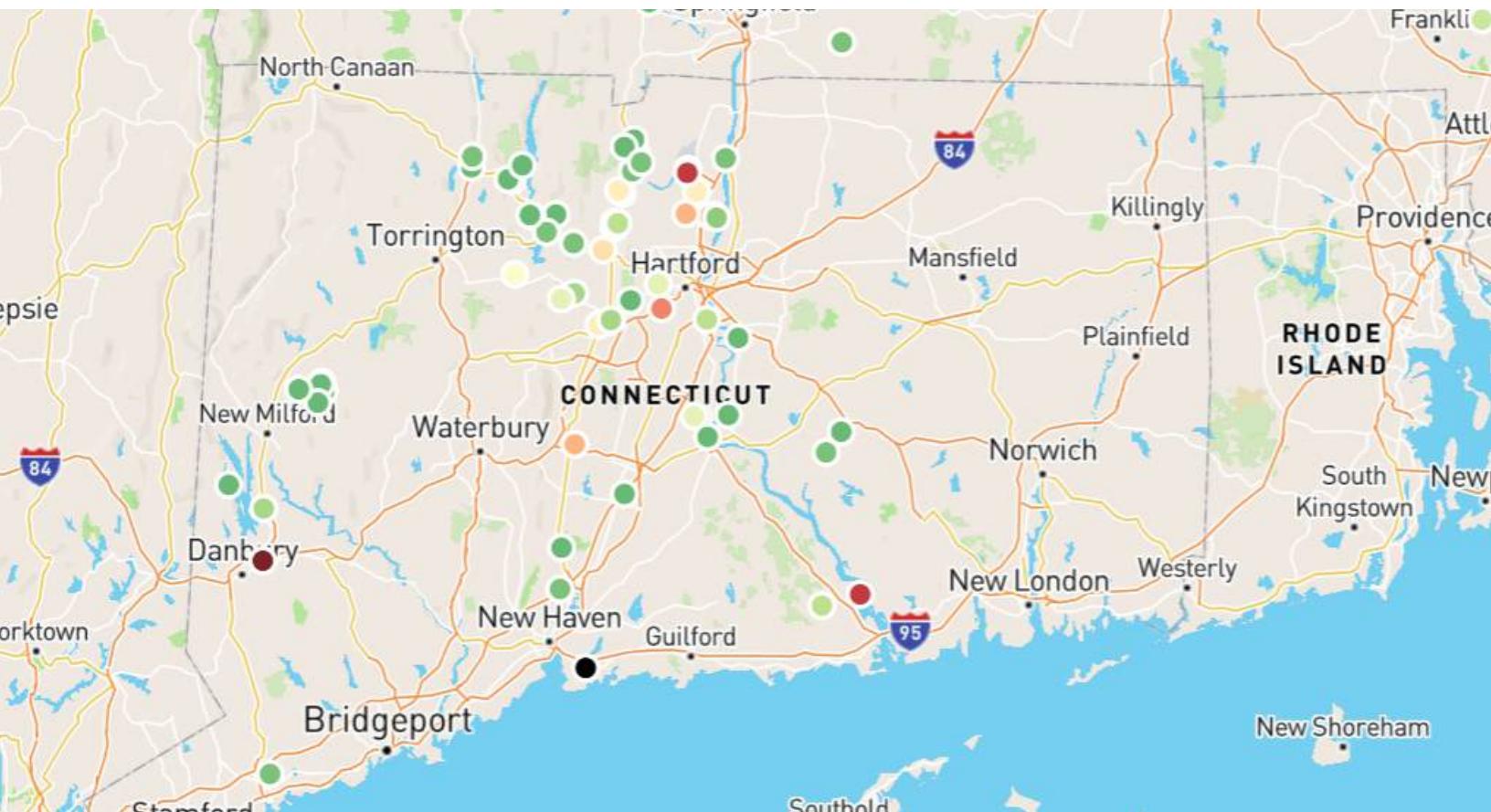
30-100 mg/L

42.2%

SALT WATCH® RESULTS CONNECTICUT

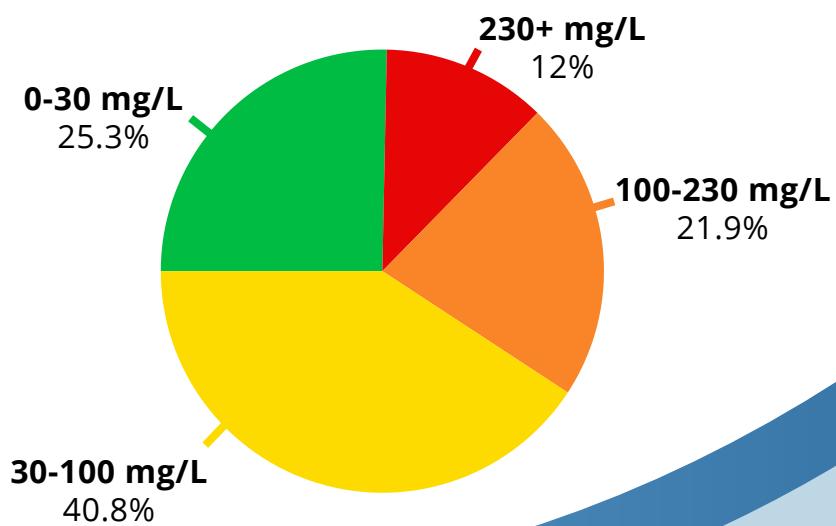


Staff distributed 54 Salt Watch kits to residents in Connecticut.



Total chloride readings: **233**

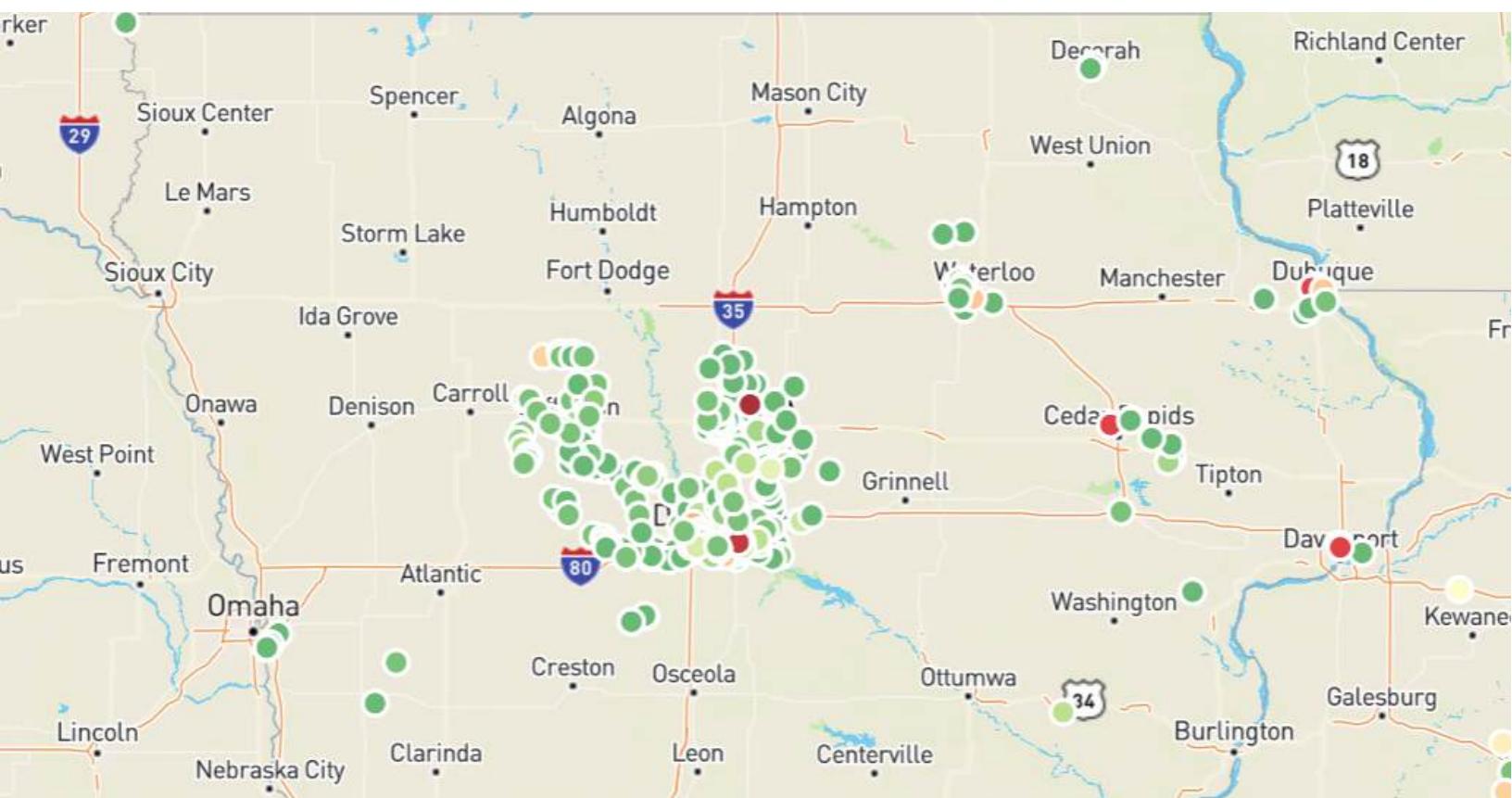
0-30 mg/L:	59
30-100 mg/L:	95
100-230 mg/L:	51
230+ mg/L:	28



SALT WATCH® RESULTS IOWA

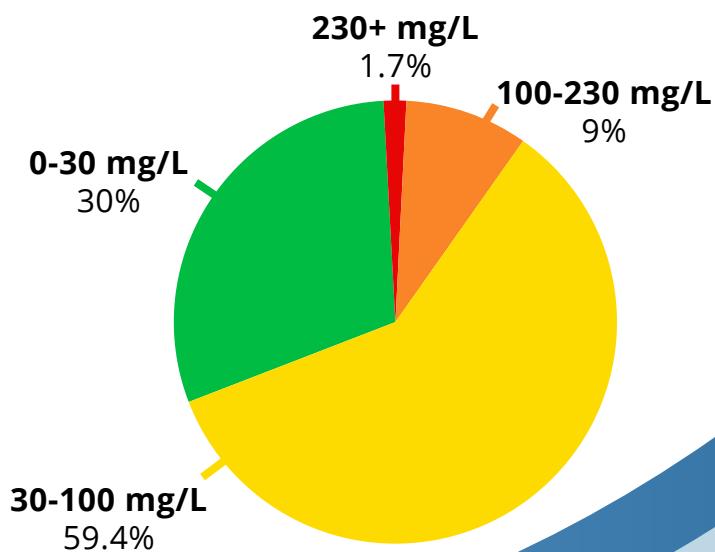


Staff distributed 583 Salt Watch kits to residents in Iowa.



Total chloride readings: 1,636

0-30 mg/L:	491
30-100 mg/L:	971
100-230 mg/L:	147
230+ mg/L:	27

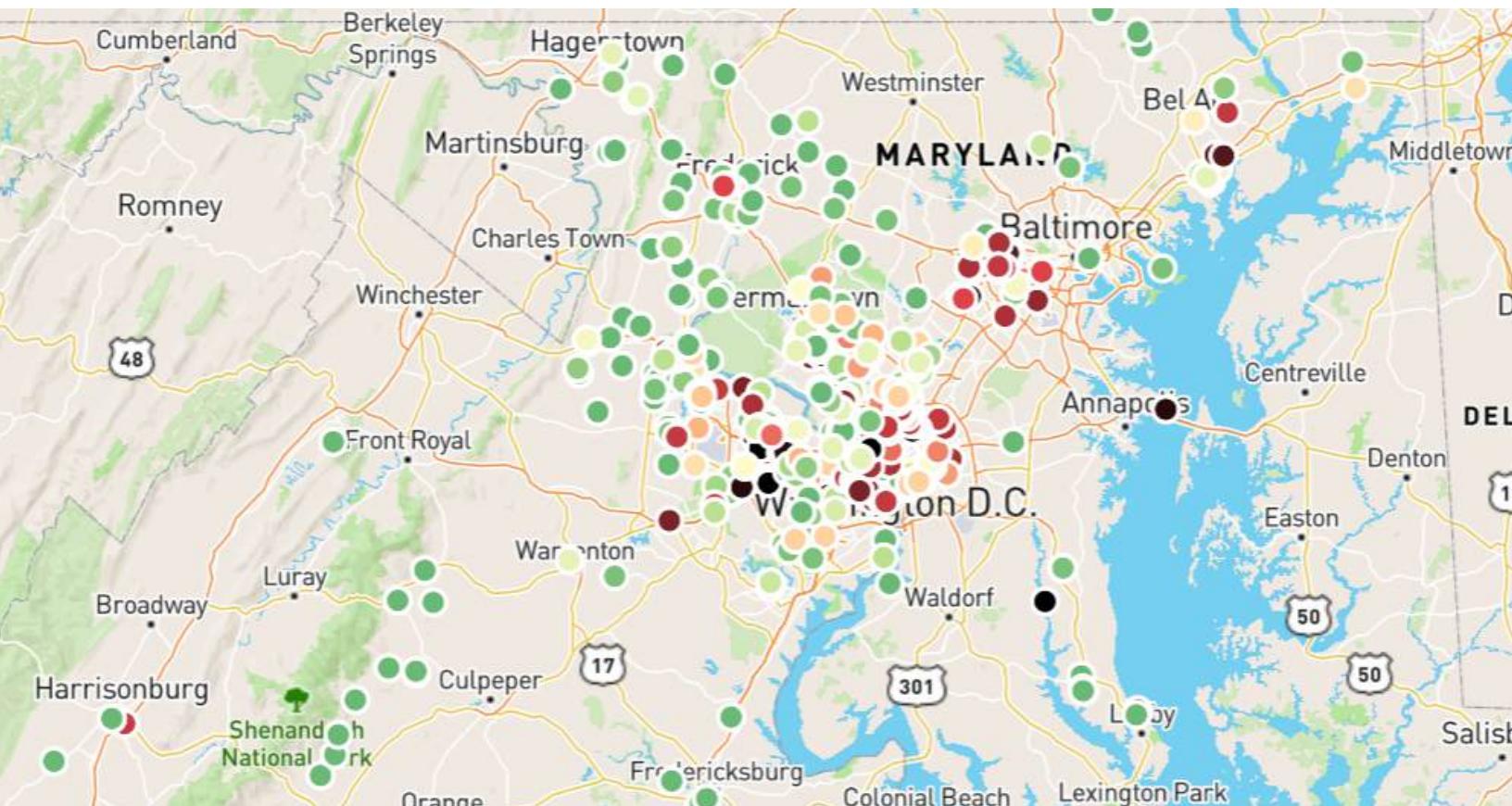


SALT WATCH® RESULTS

MARYLAND

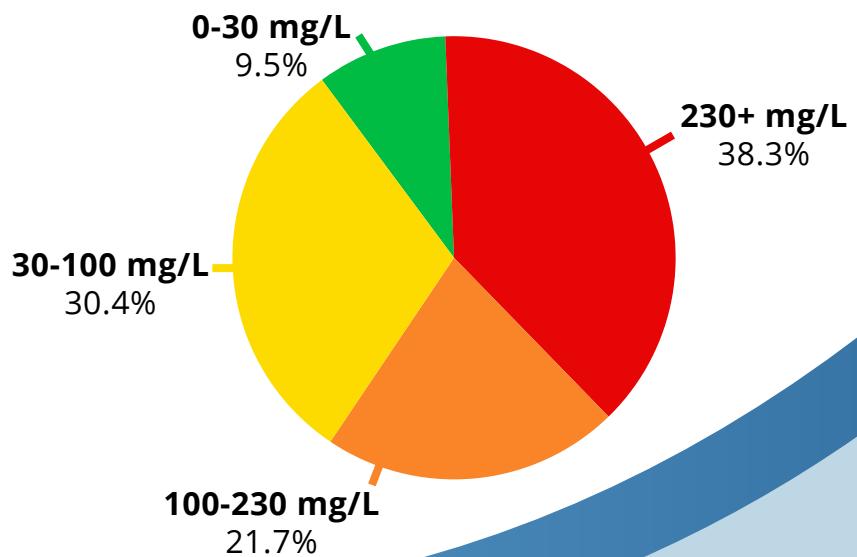


Staff distributed 2,192 Salt Watch kits to residents in Maryland. View City of Gaithersburg and Montgomery County reports in the addendum.



Total chloride readings: **1,437**

0-30 mg/L:	137
30-100 mg/L:	437
100-230 mg/L:	312
230+ mg/L:	551

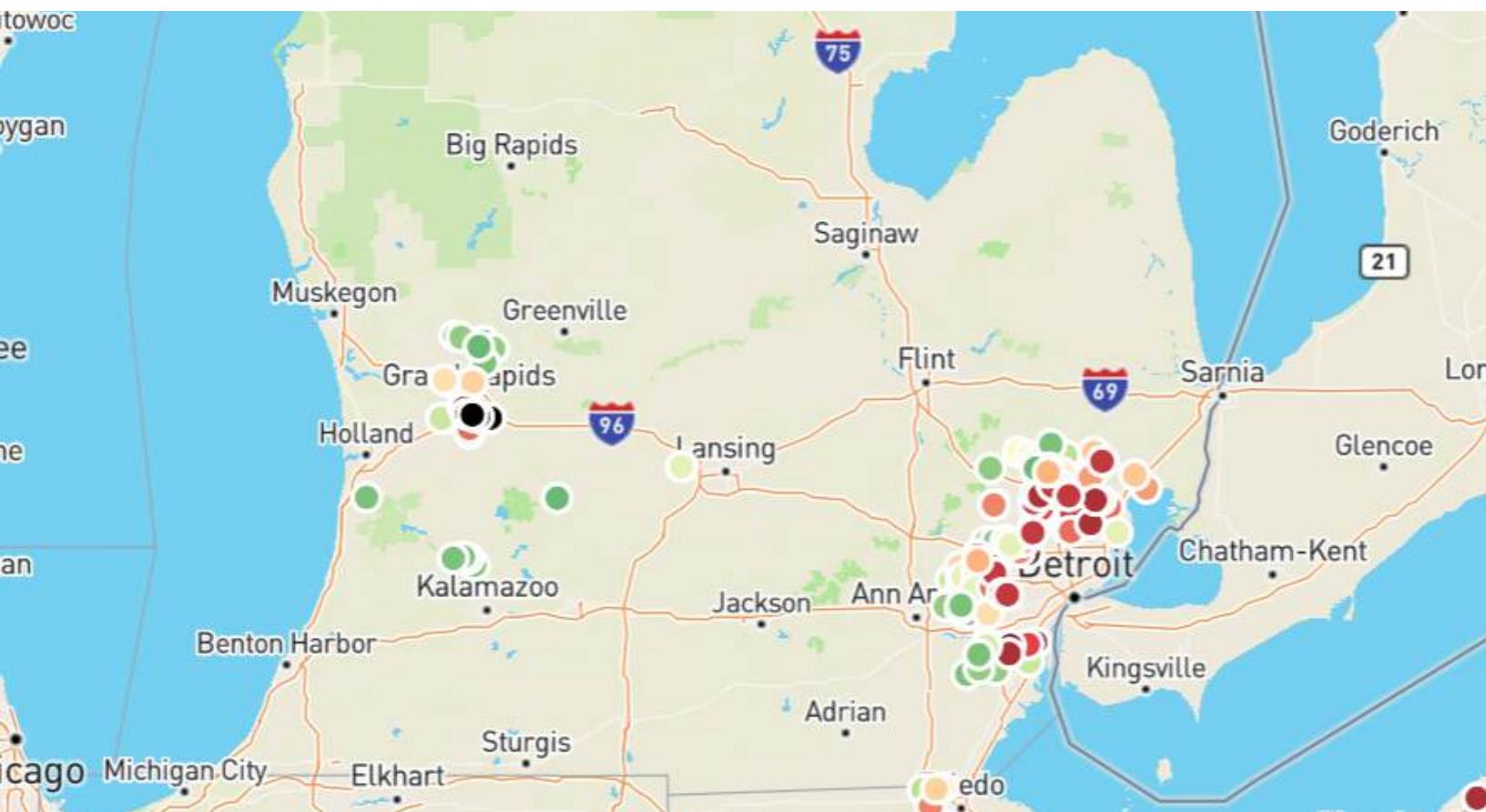


SALT WATCH® RESULTS

MICHIGAN

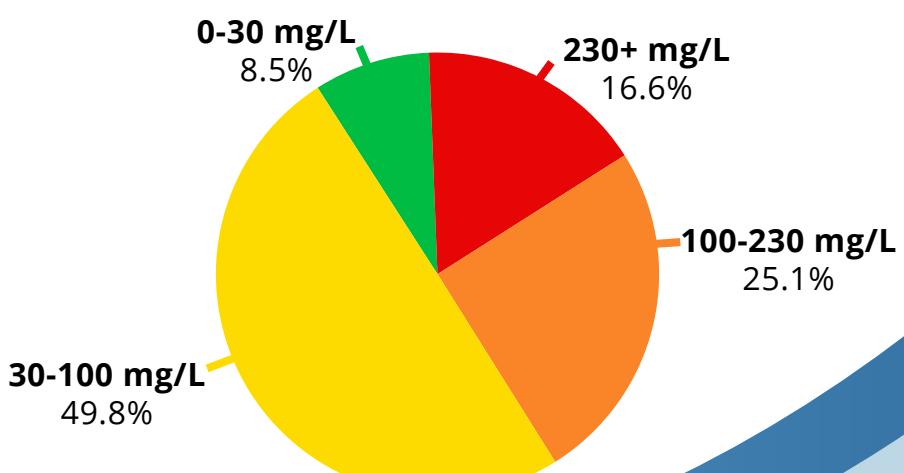


Staff distributed 187 Salt Watch kits to residents in Michigan.



Total chloride readings: **283**

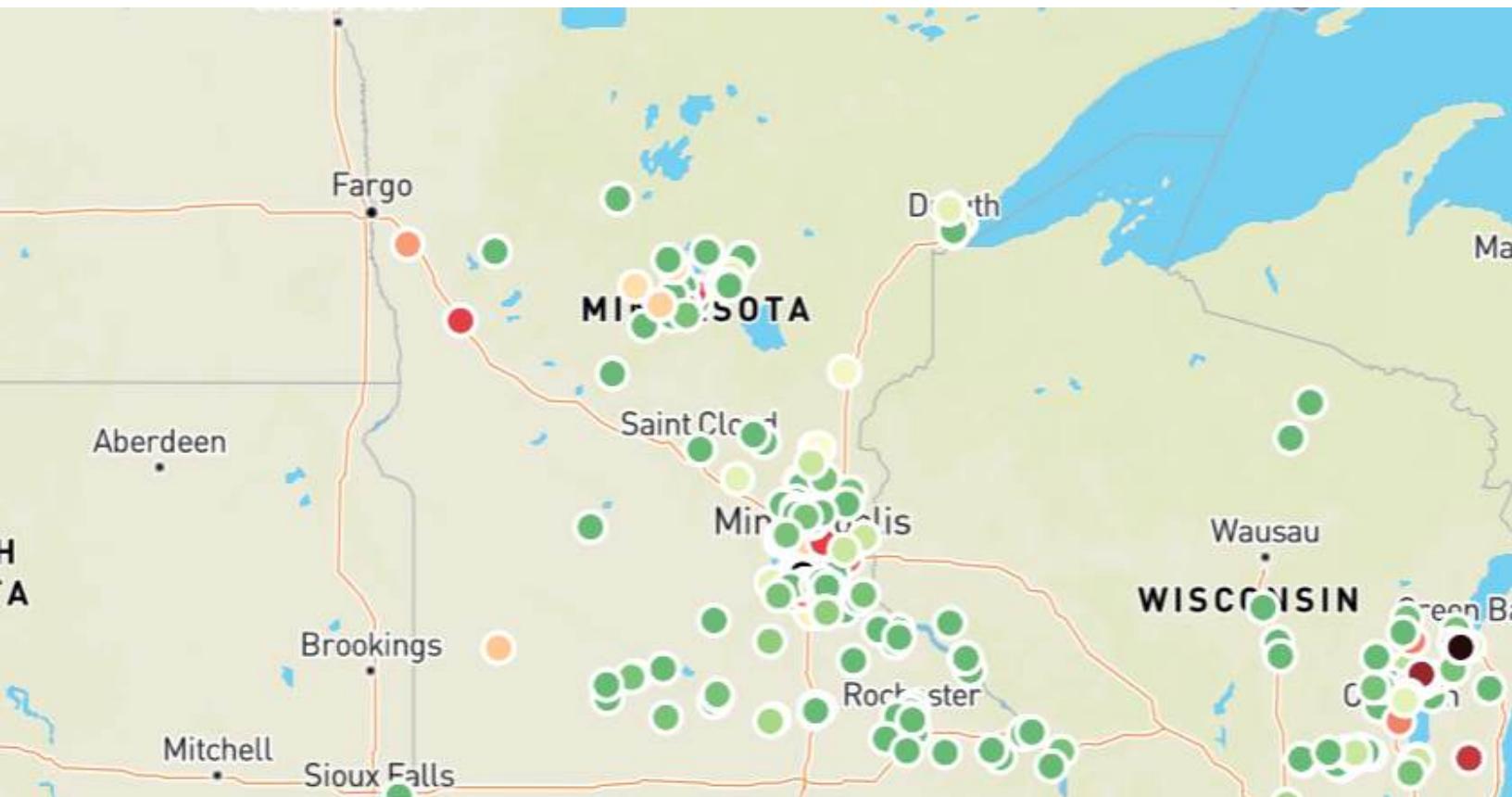
- 0-30 mg/L: **24**
- 30-100 mg/L: **141**
- 100-230 mg/L: **71**
- 230+ mg/L: **47**



SALT WATCH® RESULTS

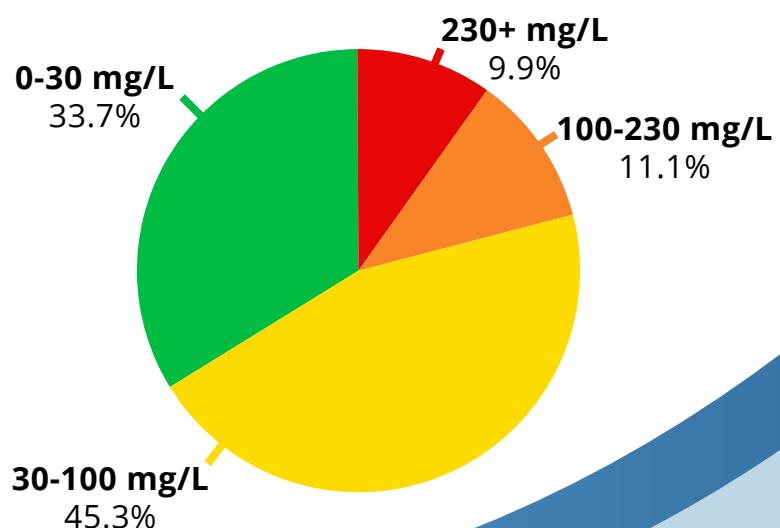
MINNESOTA

Staff distributed 523 Salt Watch kits to residents in Minnesota.



Total chloride readings: **433**

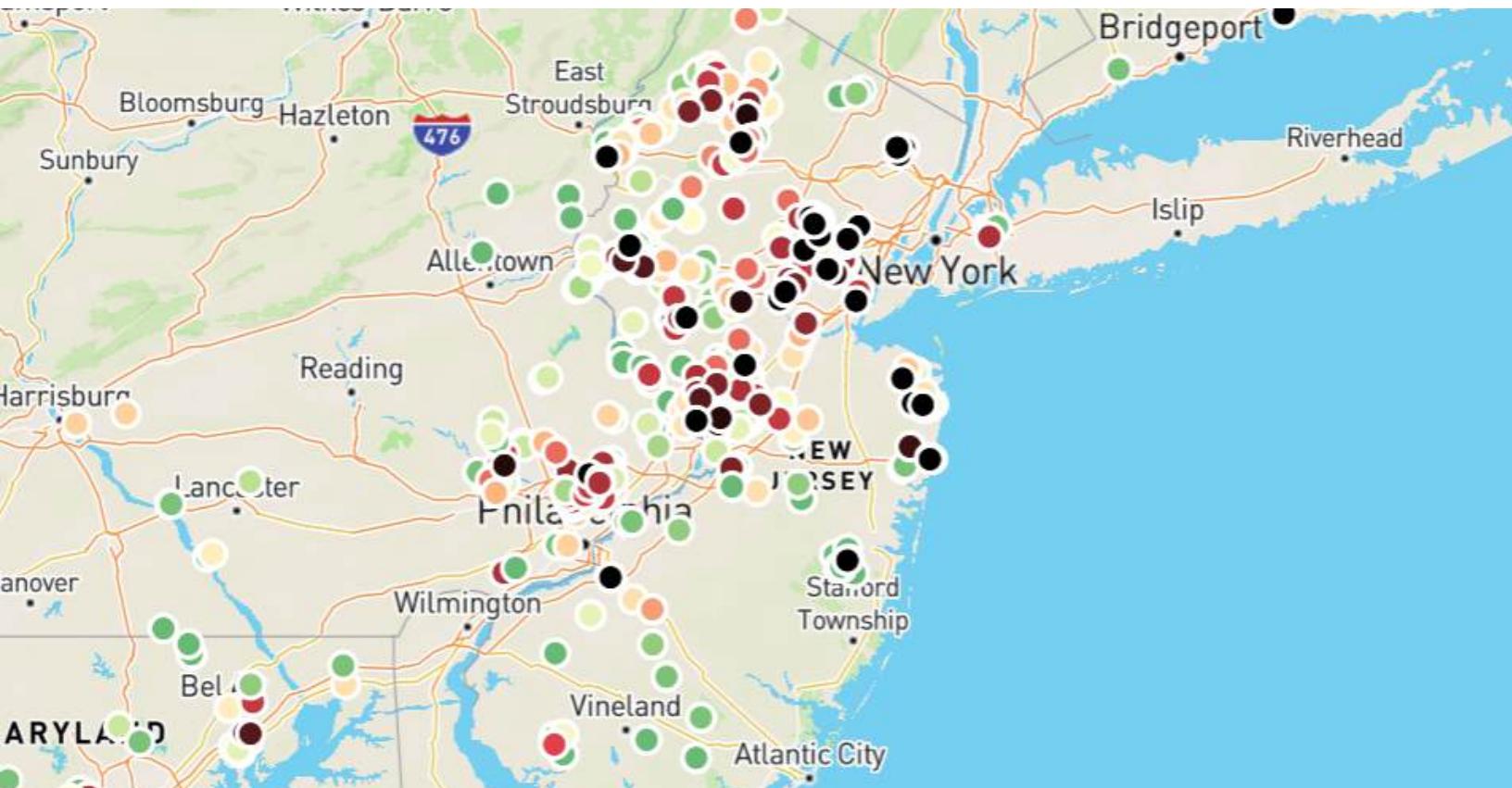
- 0-30 mg/L: **146**
- 30-100 mg/L: **196**
- 100-230 mg/L: **48**
- 230+ mg/L: **43**



SALT WATCH® RESULTS

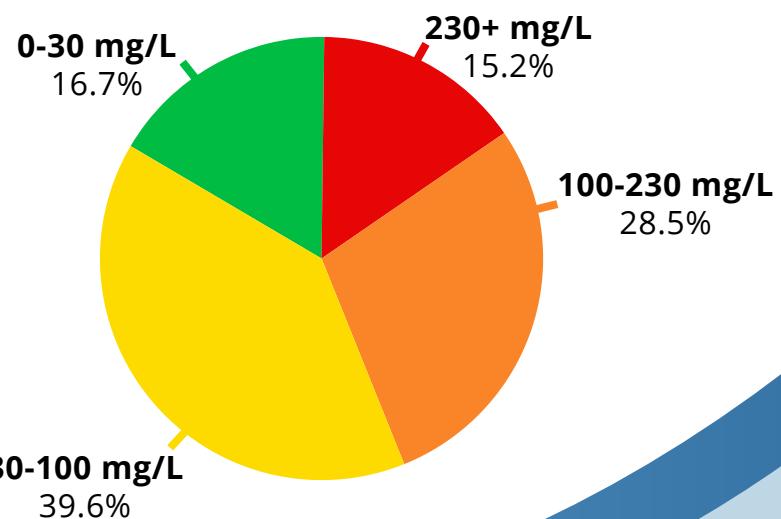
NEW JERSEY

Staff distributed 26 Salt Watch kits to residents in New Jersey.



Total chloride readings: **1,130**

0-30 mg/L:	189
30-100 mg/L:	447
100-230 mg/L:	322
230+ mg/L:	172



SALT WATCH® RESULTS

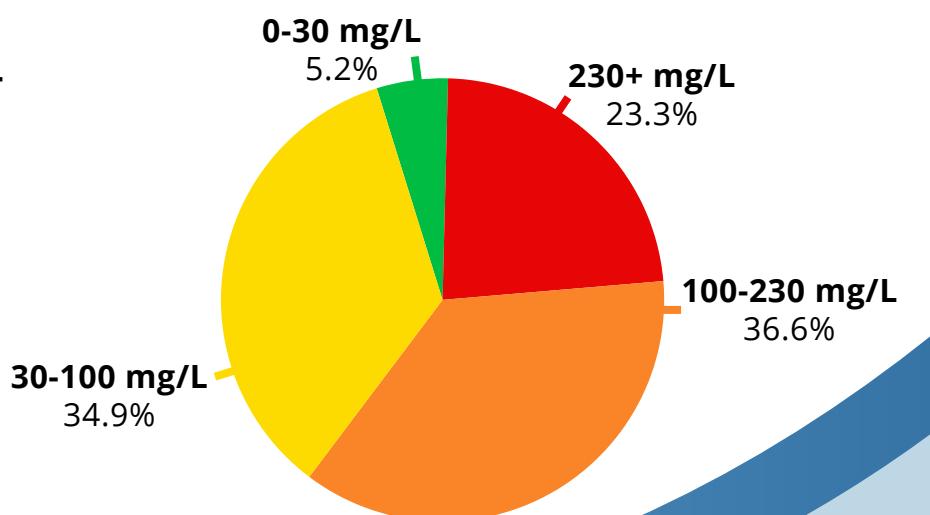
OHIO

Staff distributed 523 Salt Watch kits to residents in Ohio.



Total chloride readings: 1,174

0-30 mg/L:	61
30-100 mg/L:	410
100-230 mg/L:	430
230+ mg/L:	273



SALT WATCH® RESULTS PENNSYLVANIA

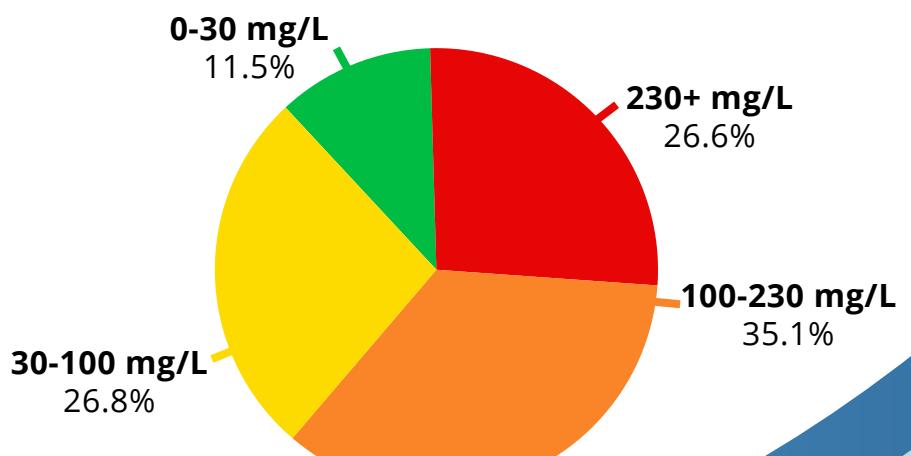


Staff distributed 294 Salt Watch kits to residents in Pennsylvania.



Total chloride readings: **410**

0-30 mg/L:	47
30-100 mg/L:	110
100-230 mg/L:	144
230+ mg/L:	109

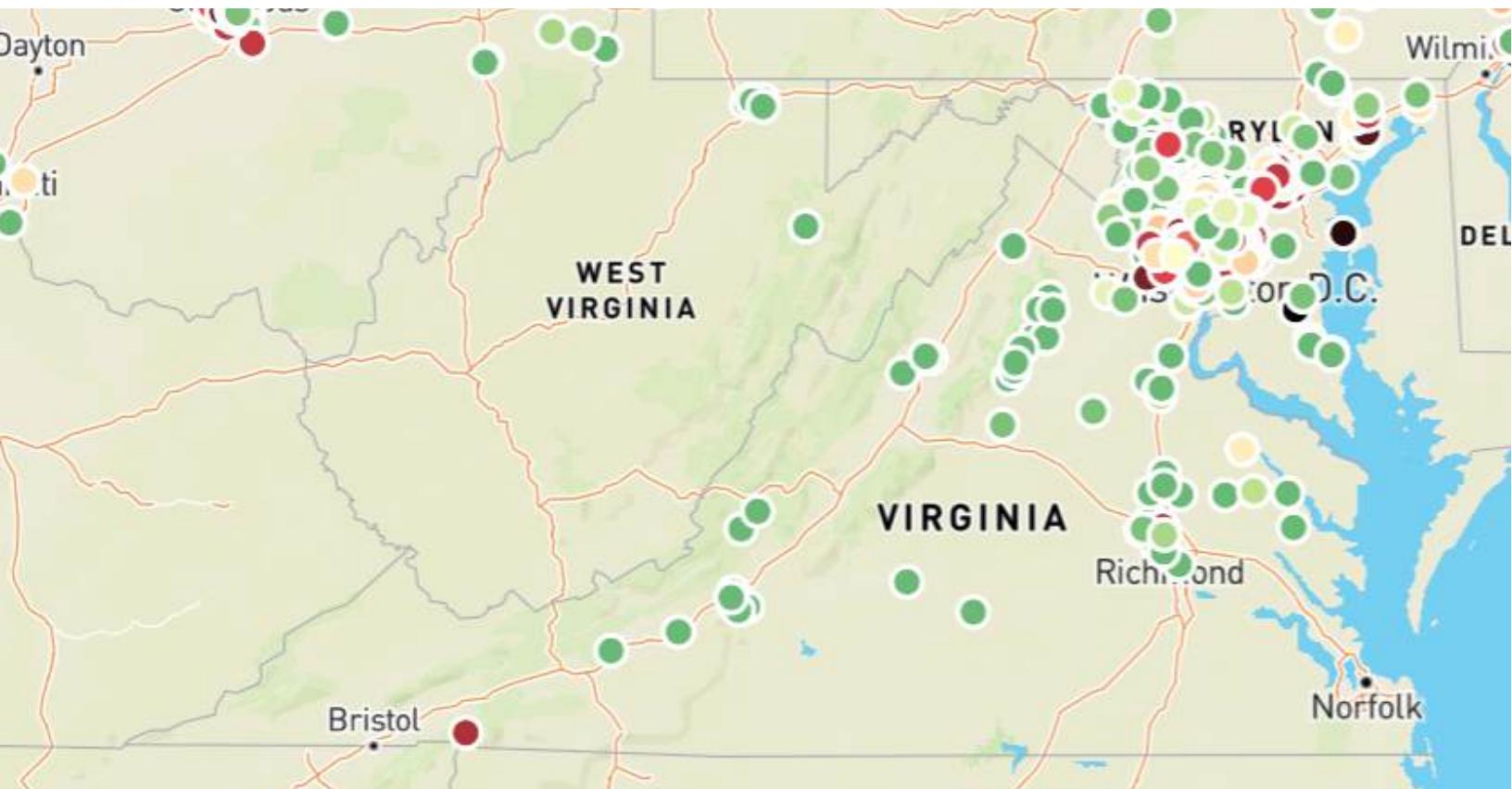


SALT WATCH® RESULTS

VIRGINIA

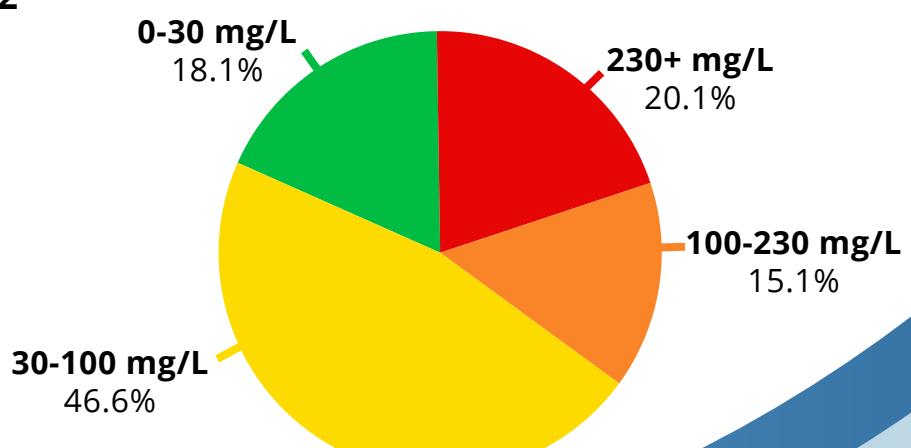


Staff distributed 873 Salt Watch kits to residents in Virginia.



Total chloride readings: 1,182

0-30 mg/L:	214
30-100 mg/L:	551
100-230 mg/L:	179
230+ mg/L:	238

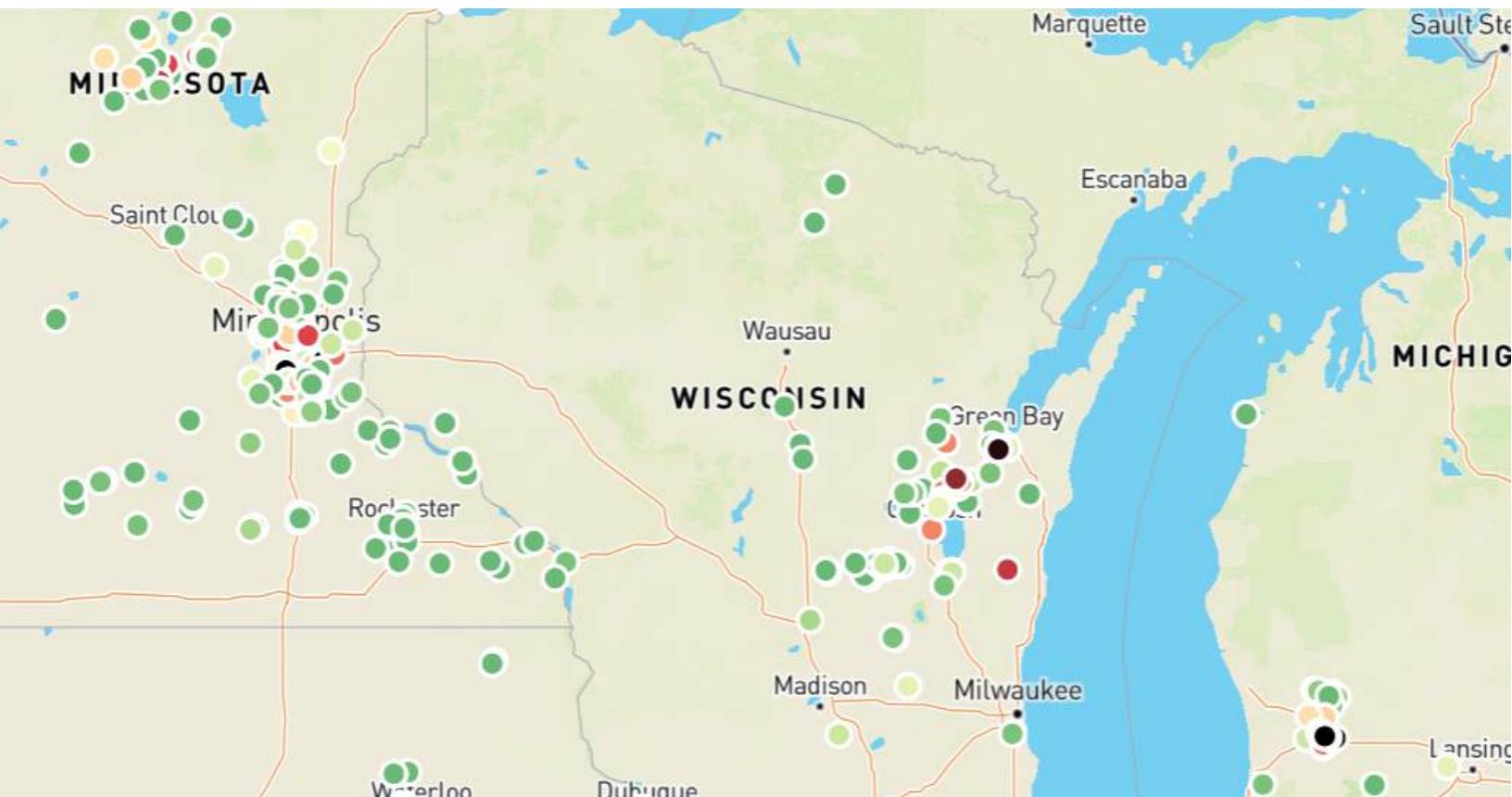


SALT WATCH® RESULTS

WISCONSIN

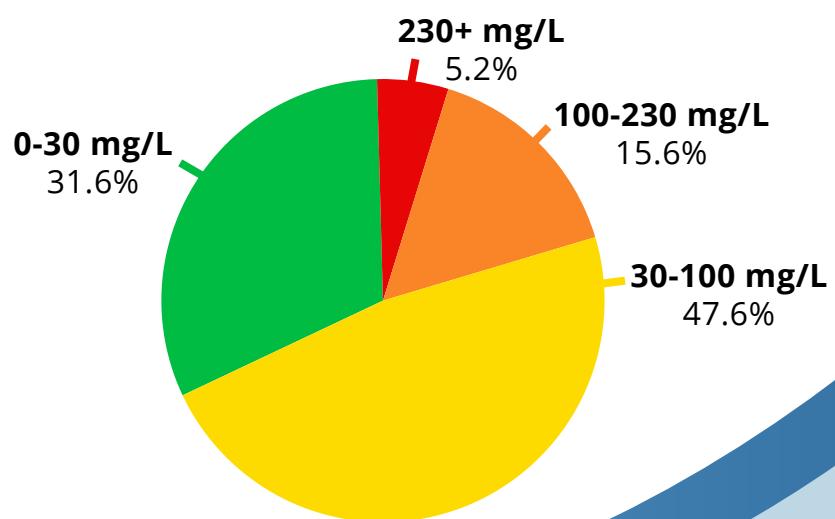


Staff distributed 331 Salt Watch kits to residents in Wisconsin.



Total chloride readings: 250

0-30 mg/L:	79
30-100 mg/L:	119
100-230 mg/L:	39
230+ mg/L:	13



STATE POLICY



MARYLAND

HB1360

Delegate Qi introduced a bill that would prohibit salt from being stored uncovered outside and allow the Maryland Department of the Environment to adopt regulations to establish proper outdoor storage requirements for road salt and penalties for noncompliance. This bill died in committee.



MINNESOTA

SF492 and HF793

These bills made another attempt at establishing a certification program for road salt applicators in the state of Minnesota where certified applicators following best practices and keeping written records would be given limited liability protection against slips and falls. These bills died in committee.



WISCONSIN

Assembly Bill 50/Senate Bill 45

Modeled off of Ohio's H2Ohio grant program, Wisconsin Salt Wise worked to promote a "Winter road safety improvement grant program" in the Wisconsin Governor's 2025 - 26 biennial budget. This would provide financial assistance to municipalities to update snow removal and salt spreading equipment and salt storage facilities. Unfortunately, this funding was struck from the budget.

WINTER SALT AWARENESS WEEK

From January 27-31, 2025, groups across the U.S. and Canada held discussions to raise awareness about the dangers of and solutions to road salt pollution during Winter Salt Awareness Week 2025, hosted by Wisconsin Salt Wise.

On January 31, the Izaak Walton League of America hosted a public open house event at the League's Headquarters in Gaithersburg, Maryland to raise awareness around the issue of road salt pollution. Local and regional partner organizations attended and tabled at the event including Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB), Rock Creek Conservancy, Nature Forward, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Maryland Department of the Environment, WSSC Water, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

During the open house event, speakers from the Izaak Walton League, ICPRB, and Montgomery County discussed local and regional initiatives to reduce road salt pollution, the accomplishments made thus far, and the road ahead.



WINTER SALT AWARENESS WEEK



PATAPSCO HERITAGE GREENWAY (MD)

Patapsco Heritage Greenway hosted a Salt Watch Snapshot to wrap up Winter Salt Awareness Week! 11 individuals attended an in-person training session and then headed out to test chloride levels in local streams. [Learn more.](#)

FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY (MN)

Friends of the Minnesota Valley trained students from five schools to monitor for chloride pollution in local waterways. Some of the students were able to monitor with River Watch during Winter Salt Awareness Week. These students then started planning an advocacy campaign to initiate smart salting on their school property. [Learn more.](#)



TOOKANY/TACONY-FRANKFORD WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP (PA)

TTF conducted salt blitzes on two tributaries, trying to get a better picture of how salt enters waterways. During this monitoring effort, water samples were collected and tested for chloride and conductivity levels. [Read the report.](#)

WISCONSIN SALT WISE (WI)

We would be remiss if we didn't include Wisconsin Salt Wise.

WI Salt Wise created and ran Winter Salt Awareness Week!

Allison Madison of WI Salt Wise brought together stakeholders, coordinated speakers, created a website, and so much more!

To get ready for Winter Salt Awareness Week 2026, be sure to tune into wintersaltweek.org.



SALT WATCHERS OF THE MONTH



DECEMBER: CHARLIE KARL

Last winter, Charlie noticed several improperly stored salt piles in parking lots and near buildings throughout his community and set to work getting the piles covered and contained to prevent salty runoff. He's been a nature lover for many years and wanted to learn more about the effects of road salt pollution on the environment and what can be done to mitigate the issue.

JANUARY: MARY PARTIN

Mary was nominated as a Salt Watcher of the Month by Elizabeth Hiser at Cleveland Metroparks, who says, "In addition to her routine monitoring at multiple locations throughout northeast Ohio, Mary took on the added task of bringing her Salt Watch findings to members of the Euclid Creek Watershed Council...Mary shared her work and the concerning chloride findings from the headwaters of Euclid Creek. This resulted in an engaging conversation about the difficulties of winter road salt management. We hope this leads to adaptive management in the future in this watershed."



FEBRUARY: LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

February Salt Watchers of the Month are a group of Salt Watchers who discovered and responded to an oversalting event in a Sheetz parking lot in Loudoun County, VA. They were able to work together and educate the employees of the store about the impacts of oversalting and the store employees cleaned up the spill.

[Continue reading.](#)



SALT WATCHERS OF THE MONTH



MARCH: FRIENDS OF SLIGO CREEK

Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC), an Official Salt Watch Partner located in Maryland, was March's Salt Watcher of the Month! This winter, FOSC did a tremendous job of monitoring local waterways and sending letters to local and state government agencies, raising concern over extremely elevated chloride levels. [Read a press release about their story.](#)

APRIL: BILL BURKE

In March 2025, Bill Burke of Maryland wrote a wonderful letter to his local Homeowners Association (HOA), letting them know about his observations of road salt overapplication within the HOA, the damage road salt can cause, and his Salt Watch results taken from nearby streams (which were quite elevated). He also gave the HOA recommendations to help reduce excess road salt next year while maintaining safety for residents.



SUBMIT SALT WATCHER OF THE MONTH NOMINATIONS

To submit nominations for Salt Watcher of the Month, or to let us know of advocacy actions in your area, please email saltwatch@iwna.org. In your email, tell us your nominee's name, email, state, organization (if applicable), and why they should be the Salt Watcher of the Month! Individuals selected for Salt Watcher of the Month will receive a goodie bag of Salt Watch swag, opportunities to be part of our webinars and blogs, and will receive recognition on our website and social media for their great work.

MEET A MONITOR

A new blog series through the Izaak Walton League of America where water monitoring volunteers from across the country are highlighted. “Meet a Monitor” provides a platform where stories can be shared and voices can be heard.



Alyvia, a 6th grader in Maryland used Salt Watch for her science fair project! [Read more](#) about Alyvia and her project!

Aisha and Sasha, 6th graders in Maryland, used Salt Watch for their research project that was debuted on STEM night at their middle school.

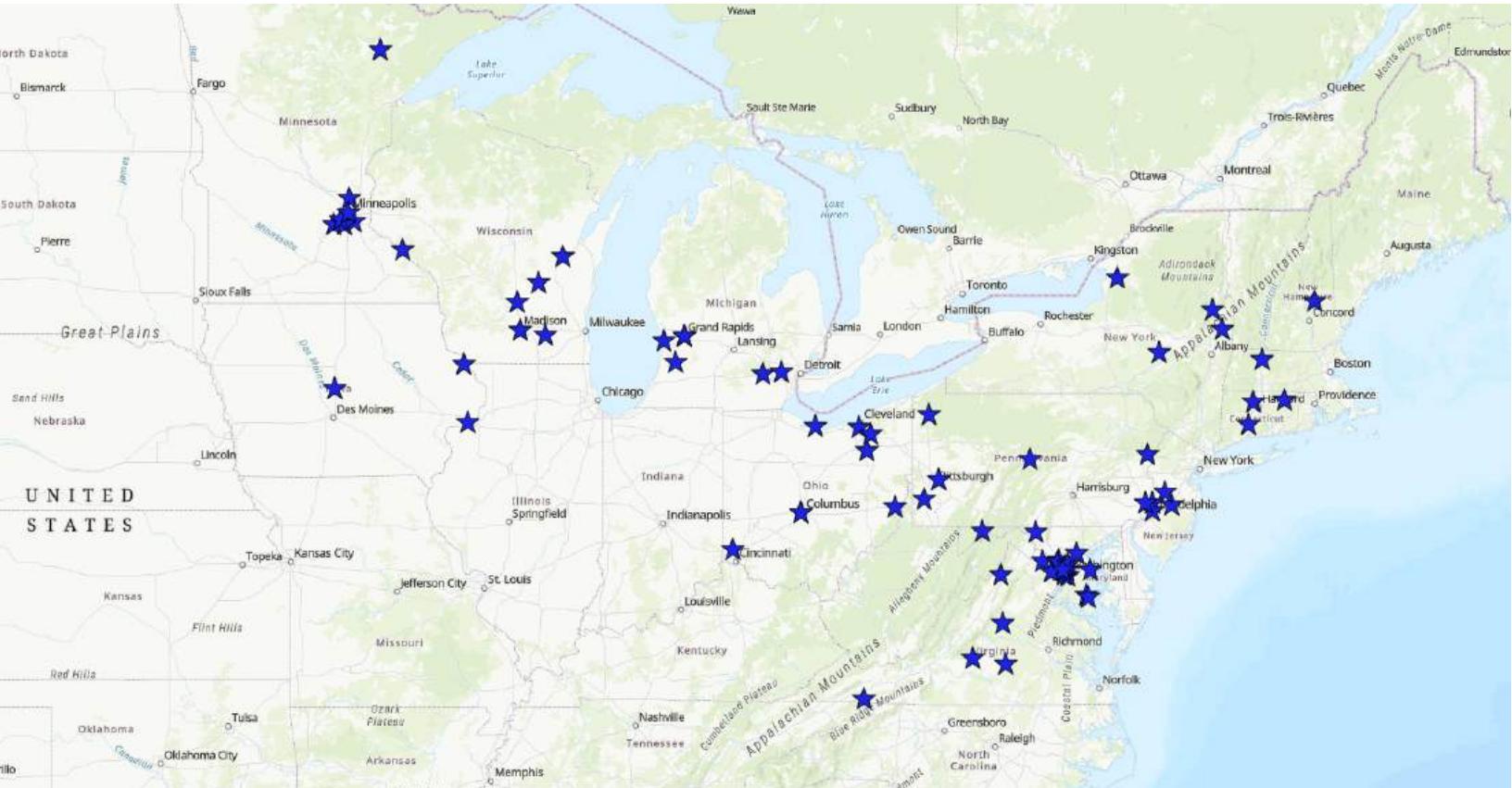
[Read more](#) about Aisha and Sasha's great work!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR STORY TO INSPIRE OTHERS?

We would love to hear from you and highlight your work! To submit to our “Meet a Monitor” blog, or to let us know of advocacy actions in your area, please email saltwatch@iwna.org.

SALT WATCH PARTNERS



We want to thank our Salt Watch Partners for making Salt Watch possible. At the close of the 2024-2025 season, **72 Official Salt Watch Partners** and over **700 participating organizations** took part in sampling local waterways for road salt pollution and raising awareness about smart salting practices. Many partners hosted Salt Watch events in their communities, spread the word about Winter Salt Awareness Week, advocated for change in winter salting practices, cleaned up salt spills, and had meaningful conversations with community members about smart salting.

Special welcome to new Official Salt Watch Partners this season: Monroe County Conservation District, The Field Trip Academy, Arlington County Government, Calvert Nature Society, Summit Soil and Water Conservation District, Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance, City of Wabasha, Partners of Scott County Watersheds, Connecticut River Conservancy, Erie Conservation District, Lake Winnipesaukee Alliance, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, Otsego County Conservation Association, Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center, and Twin Cities Trout Unlimited.

If you are interested in your organization becoming an Official Salt Watch Partner, please email saltwatch@iwla.org.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

FARMINGTON RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (CT)

Monitoring chloride since 2021, FRWA been utilizing conductivity loggers to calculate chloride using reference conductivity and chloride values from a multiparameter meter, to determine conditions when staff are not present. With this, FRWA was able to accurately identify twenty-two acute conditions and eleven chronic conditions over the winter.



CALVERT STEWARDS (MD)

This was the kickoff year for the Calvert Stewards volunteer program. There are currently three groups of volunteers actively monitoring chloride levels at spots throughout Calvert County. Salt Watch has been a great initiative to include in the Calvert Stewards volunteer program to spread awareness on reducing winter salt use in Calvert County.

FRIENDS OF SLIGO CREEK (MD)

Friends Of Sligo Creek (FOSC) wrote several letters to local officials responsible for road treatment and environmental protection about high chloride results in waterways tested by volunteers. FOSC has also had to purchase high-range test strips because of consistent results "off the charts" of the Salt Watch kits. [Read their letters and responses.](#)

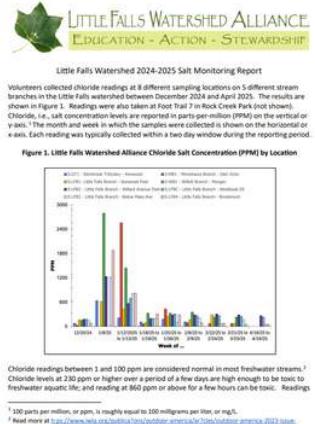


PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

LITTLE FALLS WATERSHED ALLIANCE (MD)

The winter of 2024-25 was the first year that Little Falls Watershed Alliance used both low-range and high-range test strips for their monitoring as they saw incredibly high readings at many of their sample site locations.

Read their final report.



PATAPSCO HERITAGE GREENWAY (MD)

Patapsco Heritage Greenway hosted a number of events with a focus on Salt Watch, allowing for outreach to around 100 individuals. Events included: Salt Watch Snapshot, PHG & Under Armor Salt Watch Lunch & Learn, Vernal Pool Guided Hike and Salt Watch Event, PHG Education Event-Girl Scouts, and Cleanup & a Salt Watch/Water Quality Event.

ROGUE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS (MI)

This spring, Rogue River Watershed Partners conducted a stream study with 41 students on Nash Creek where they discussed water quality, watershed health, and ways to monitor water quality. Students monitored with Nitrate Watch and Salt Watch and were sent back to the classroom with resources to do a deeper dive into learning about water quality!

Date Data were Recorded:	10/10/18	Location:	East
Name of Water Test:	East	Water Condition:	Cloudy
Salt & Nitrate/Nitrite Data Sheet (Master)			
1) Salt Watch Use the space below to record concentrations of salt (salt watch) in the water sample.			
2) Nitrate/Nitrite Watch Use the space below to record concentrations of Nitrate/Nitrite in the water sample.			

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

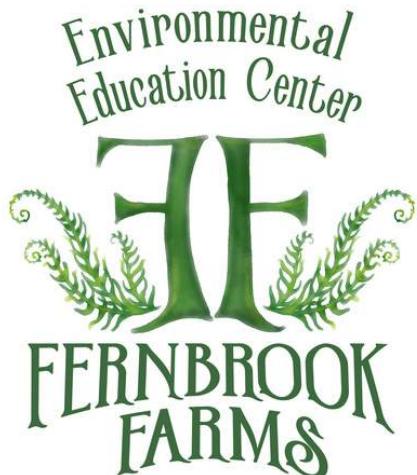


FRIENDS OF THE ROUGE (MI)

Friends of the Rouge completed a report about a project comparing multiple different methods of salt sampling. Through their project, they found that Salt Watch test strips provide reliable, accurate data and this sampling could easily be incorporated into participatory science programs.

NORTH ST. LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (MN)

North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District held a seminar workshop in January at the Virginia, Minnesota Public Library which focused on smart salting efforts and Salt Watch!



FERNBROOK FARMS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER (NJ)

At the end of the winter semester, students wrote letters to the New Jersey Governor to ask for less salt to be used throughout the state. Each mailed letter was handwritten by students and included Salt Watch data collected by students and a letter written by their instructor.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

NEW JERSEY WATERSHED WATCH (NJ)

Salt Watch data collected by volunteers through New Jersey Watershed Watch's water monitoring program was presented by The Watershed Institute in Puerto Rico at the Society for Freshwater Science Conference!



CREEK CONNECTIONS (PA)

Creek Connections has been sampling with an after-school group for several years in Meadville, PA and has been working to get other schools more involved. This year, Creek Connections started working with a new after-school group in Titusville, PA.

RESTON ASSOCIATION (VA)

Several Salt Watchers were able to engage with neighbors about oversalting events and encouraged sweeping up of the excessive salt. 12 new Salt Watchers joined Reston Association's monitoring program. Salt Watch data was used in a presentation at the Capital Area Natural Resource Management Symposium in August 2024 and for a poster presented at the North American Lake Management Society Symposium in November 2024. Reston Association also held a Winter Management Workshop in coordination with Northern Virginia Regional Commission and Fairfax County in December 2024. Within the umbrella of Reston Association, there are over 160 sub-associations who each manage some level of private road, driveway, or parking area. Reston Association has been working on engaging them in smart salting practices and Salt Watch to raise awareness of chloride pollution. Watch [this video](#) Reston released in December 2024.



SALT WATCH IS EASY!



Find a waterway



Test a sample



Submit data to the Clean Water Hub

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to the following organizations, foundations, and municipalities for making the Salt Watch program possible and accessible to community members across the country.



**Chesapeake
Bay Trust**

**Raines
Family Fund**



**DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY • MARYLAND



**Change Happens
FOUNDATION**



Gaithersburg



**Roy A Hunt
Foundation**

TRANSAMERICA®



**HORNE FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

**City of
Rockville**
Rise Together



**Fairfax
Water**



SALT WATCH®
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

For more information, visit saltwatch.org.

ADDENDUM A: GAIthersburg, MD

Note: Dates of this report reflect results from November 15, 2023 - May 31, 2025.



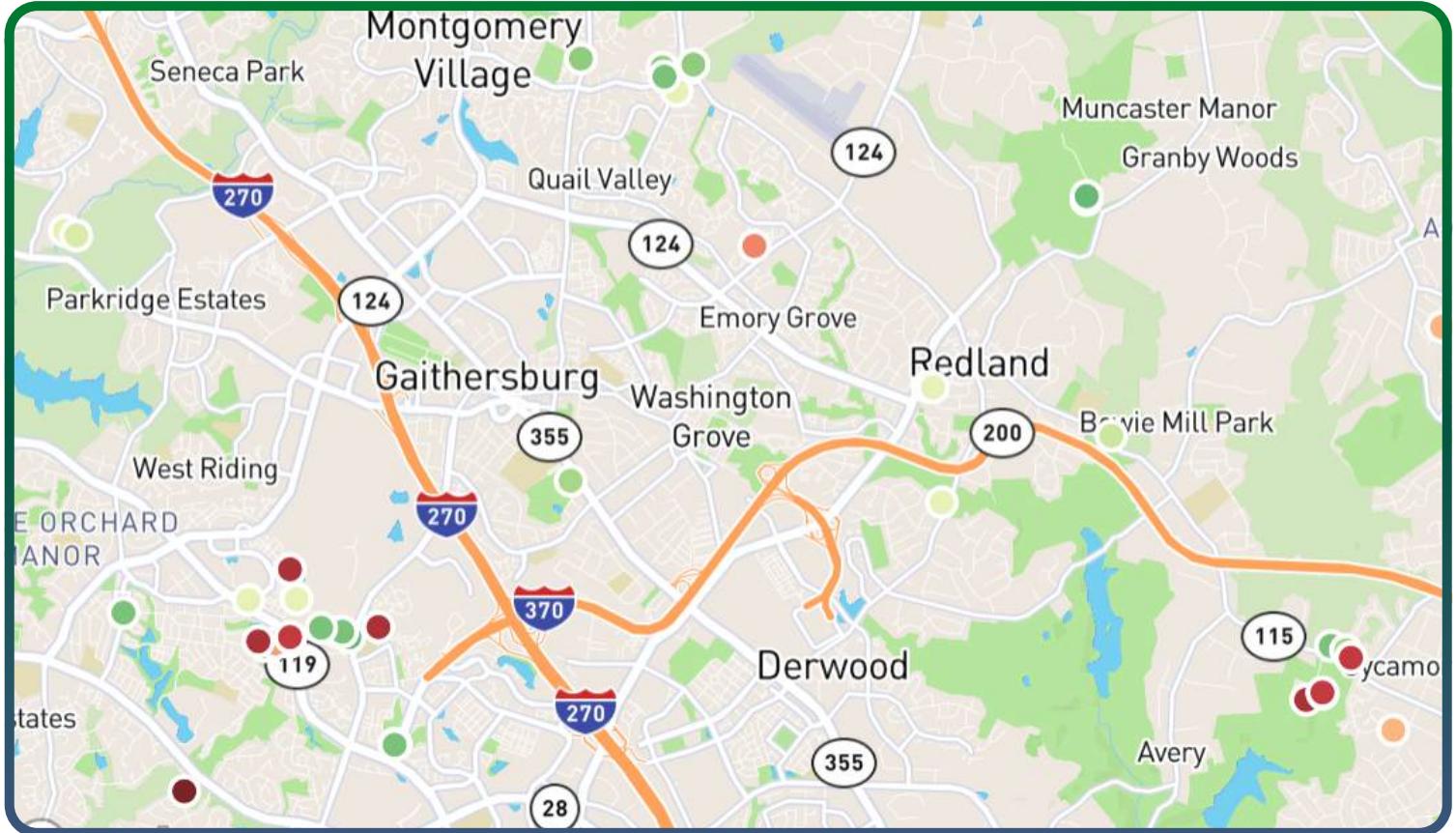
CITY OF GAITHERSBURG SALT WATCH® ANNUAL REPORT

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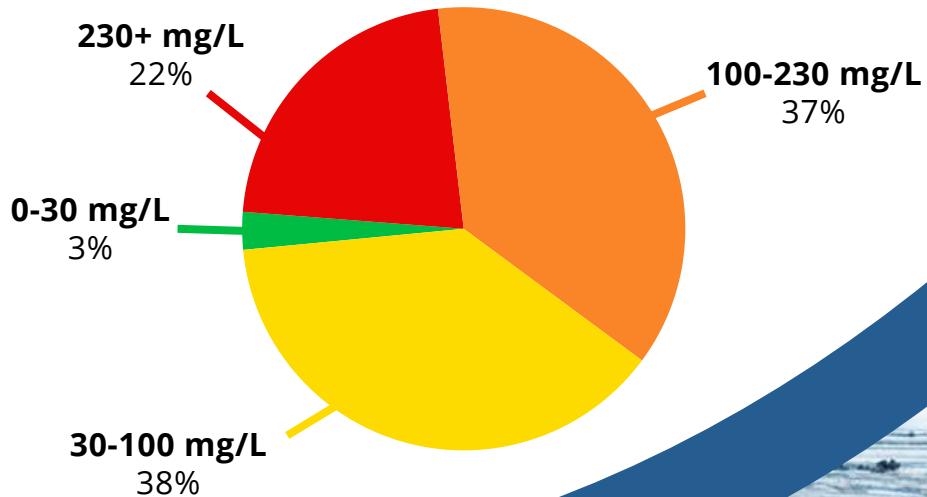
SALT WATCH® RESULTS

This was the fourth year the Izaak Walton League of America promoted Salt Watch monitoring during outreach in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Staff distributed 892 English/Spanish Salt Watch kits to residents from November 15, 2023 - May 31, 2025.



Total chloride readings: **73**

● 0-30 mg/L:	2
● 30-100 mg/L:	28
● 100-230 mg/L:	27
● 230+ mg/L:	16



OUTREACH

This is the fourth year the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) has been funded for community and business outreach and engagement with the Salt Watch program and the first year of doing outreach with the Nitrate Watch program within the City of Gaithersburg. Special thanks to the City of Gaithersburg and the Chesapeake Bay Trust for funding these projects.

IWLA staff attended 30 Casey and Main Street Farmers Markets and attended three faith-based events - with Fairhaven United Methodist Church, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, and a webinar with the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC). Staff also promoted Salt Watch in the City of Gaithersburg at six conferences, nine webinars, and by hosting or attending ten events within the City. These events and webinars included Gaithersburg Sustainability Summit for Homeowners and Civic Associations, Gaithersburg Oktoberfest, Gaithersburg Active Aging Expo, AstraZeneca Sustainability Showcase, an applicator training program for road salt applicators, and a Walk in the Woods event hosted by IWLA and Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin staff. IWLA staff also worked with IPC staff to develop a guide to help congregations reduce road salt pollution during the winter while maintaining safety.

During these events, IWLA staff spoke with over 4,200 individuals and distributed 892 bilingual (English/Spanish) Salt Watch kits, 97 Nitrate Watch kits, 475 Salt Watch brochures or post cards, 71 Nitrate Watch post cards, 406 Salt Watch cups, and 107 Salt Watch magnets.

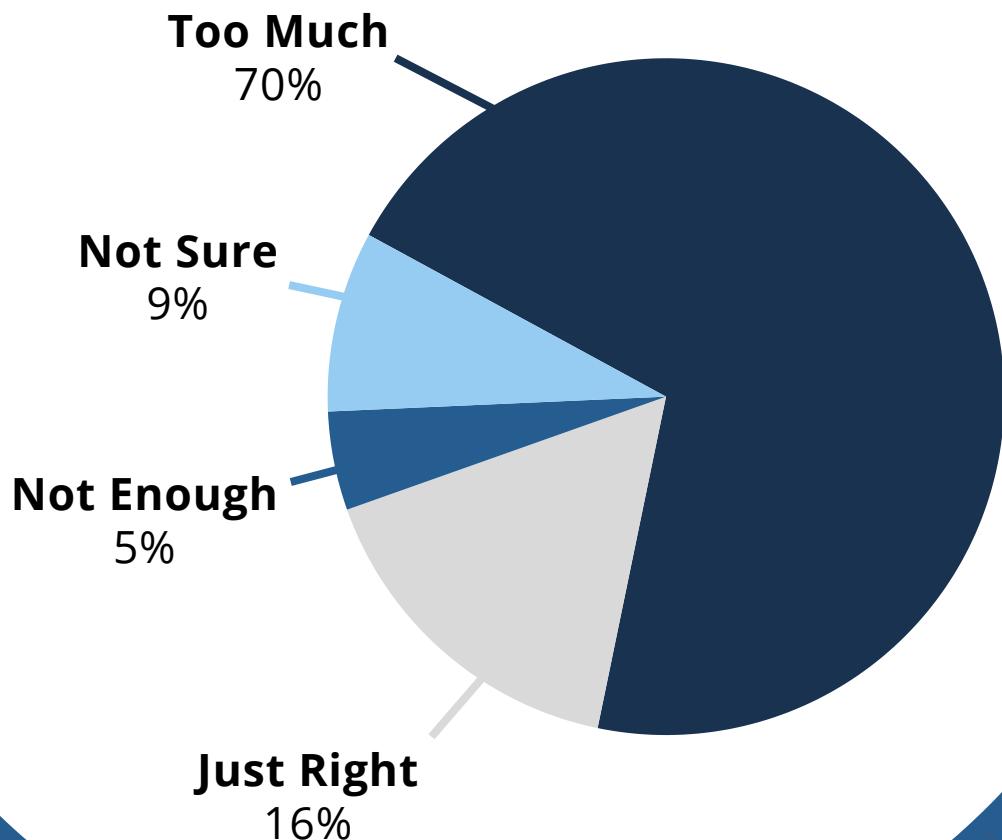
At a recent Main Street Farmers Market, one market attendee who at an earlier market received a salt cup told IWLA staff that she was so grateful to have the cup to help her measure out road salt during the winter. The cup helped her to use the proper amount of salt and reduce road salt pollution on her property.



IN-PERSON POLL RESULTS

Throughout events in Gaithersburg, IWLA Salt Watch staff asked audiences to answer the question "How much road salt is used in Maryland?" to gauge the general perception around road salt use in the state. The answer choices to this question were "too much", "just right", "not enough", and "not sure". Almost 870 people answered this question; their responses are below.

HOW MUCH ROAD SALT IS USED IN MARYLAND?



SURVEY RESULTS

Salt Watch staff also sent out a survey to Salt Watchers in Maryland to learn more about their participation in the program, how Salt Watch has changed their perspectives on road salt pollution, and if they have done any advocacy or education in their community around the issues of road salt pollution.

All of the respondents had some concern about road salt pollution with 34.8% being very concerned about road salt pollution. When asked how often they notice oversalting in their community after winter weather events, 21.7% sometimes noticed oversalting, 43.5% often noticed oversalting, and 34.8% always noticed oversalting.

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GUIDE FOR FAITH-BASED COMMUNITIES

On September 5, 2024, Salt Watch staff teamed up with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) to speak during an IPC Learning Lab webinar ([view the recording here!](#)). Before this webinar, Salt Watch staff and IPC staff worked collaboratively to craft an action kit for faith-based communities to learn how to reduce road salt pollution while maintaining safety. This guide or action kit called ["Inspiring at Home Actions: Making a Difference Faithfully: A Steward's Guide to Reducing Road Salt"](#) includes a background on road salt pollution and its impacts on fresh water, road salt best practices, actions a congregation can take as a community, actions congregation members can take individually, and information on the significance of water to different faith traditions. In addition to the webinar, the guide was shared via email connections that IPC facilitated between each Gaithersburg congregation they've worked with and IWLA staff.

IPC and IWLA staff continued to collaborate and offer resources like this guide to congregations across the City of Gaithersburg and beyond. Through these collaborations, IWLA staff tabled at an Earth Day event with Fairhaven United Methodist Church and offered an in-person presentation to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

INSPIRING AT HOME ACTIONS:
Making a Difference Faithfully: A Steward's Guide to Reducing Road Salt

ACTION KIT

GOING FORTH

ROAD SALT FACTS: WHY REDUCE OUR USE?

Road Salt is the most popular option used to de-ice roads and highways. Road salt is everywhere during winter months. It keeps us safe on roads and sidewalks, but it can also pose a threat to fish and wildlife as well as human health. Towns, cities, businesses, and individuals dump roughly 10-20 million tons of salt every year, depending on the winter weather conditions. As snow melts or rain falls, that salt gets washed into our storm drains, our streams, and even into our drinking water.

"Pet friendly" or "environmentally safe" salts are becoming more and more popular - but these products are made of salts that still put chloride on the ground and into our water. Even if we quit using road salt today, the salt already in the ground can persist for decades, and the salt content in our streams will rise as salt continues to percolate through the soil.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

In the environment, chloride can dry out and kill vegetation, compact soil, and become toxic to fish and bugs that live in the 150 freshwater streams that all lead to the Bay!

HUMAN HEALTH IMPACT

Road salt pollution may also cause health issues for people who are prescribed low-sodium diets for pre-existing health issues. Water utility services are not able to remove sodium or chloride from the source water, so it is critical to focus on the prevention of road salt pollution. High sodium levels can affect people with high blood pressure, and high chloride levels can be toxic to some fish, bugs, and amphibians. [Help your community by taking the Salt Watch Pledge and GET YOUR FREE kit by clicking this link!](#)

PUBLIC SAFETY

It can damage roadways, bridges, vehicles, and other infrastructure including parking lots and sidewalks. Almost 15% of bridges across the US are structurally deficient due to corrosion, which is made worse by road salt.

WINTER SALT AWARENESS WEEK

From January 27-31, 2025, groups across the U.S. and Canada held discussions to raise awareness about the dangers of and solutions to road salt pollution during Winter Salt Awareness Week 2025, hosted by Wisconsin Salt Wise.

On January 31, IWLA hosted a public open house event at the Izaak Walton League of America Headquarters in Gaithersburg, Maryland to raise awareness around the issue of road salt pollution. Local and regional partner organizations attended and tabled at the event including Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB), Rock Creek Conservancy, Nature Forward, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Maryland Department of the Environment, WSSC Water, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

During the open house event, speakers from IWLA, ICPRB, and Montgomery County discussed local and regional initiatives to reduce road salt pollution, the accomplishments made thus far, and the road ahead.





APPLICATOR TRAINING



This is the third year that the Izaak Walton League of America has contracted with Bolton and Menk, Inc. to host a training for road salt applicators who apply salt within the City of Gaithersburg. Held on September 17, 2024, the applicator training was offered both in-person and virtually to increase accessibility, and had 16 attendees, 12 of which took and passed the certification exam.

Attendees of the applicator training were also asked to complete an assessment to determine if they took any useful information to their businesses and coworkers. Below are the results of the assessment.

ROAD SALT APPLICATOR TRAINING FOLLOW-UP SURVEY RESULTS:

Of the survey respondents, 66.7% applied salt professionally over the winter and 90.5% of the respondents used information and techniques learned in the training in snow removal and application practices. The following smart salting practices were implemented this past winter by respondents:

- 71.4% calibrated equipment (14.3% for the first time)
- 47.6% used brine
- 66.7% removed snow before applying salt (19% for the first time)
- 33.3% took pavement surface temperature (19% for the first time)
- 71.4% implemented proper salt storage (9.5% for the first time)
- 19% updated equipment (14.3% for the first time)
- 71.4% applied less salt per winter weather event (52.4% for the first time)

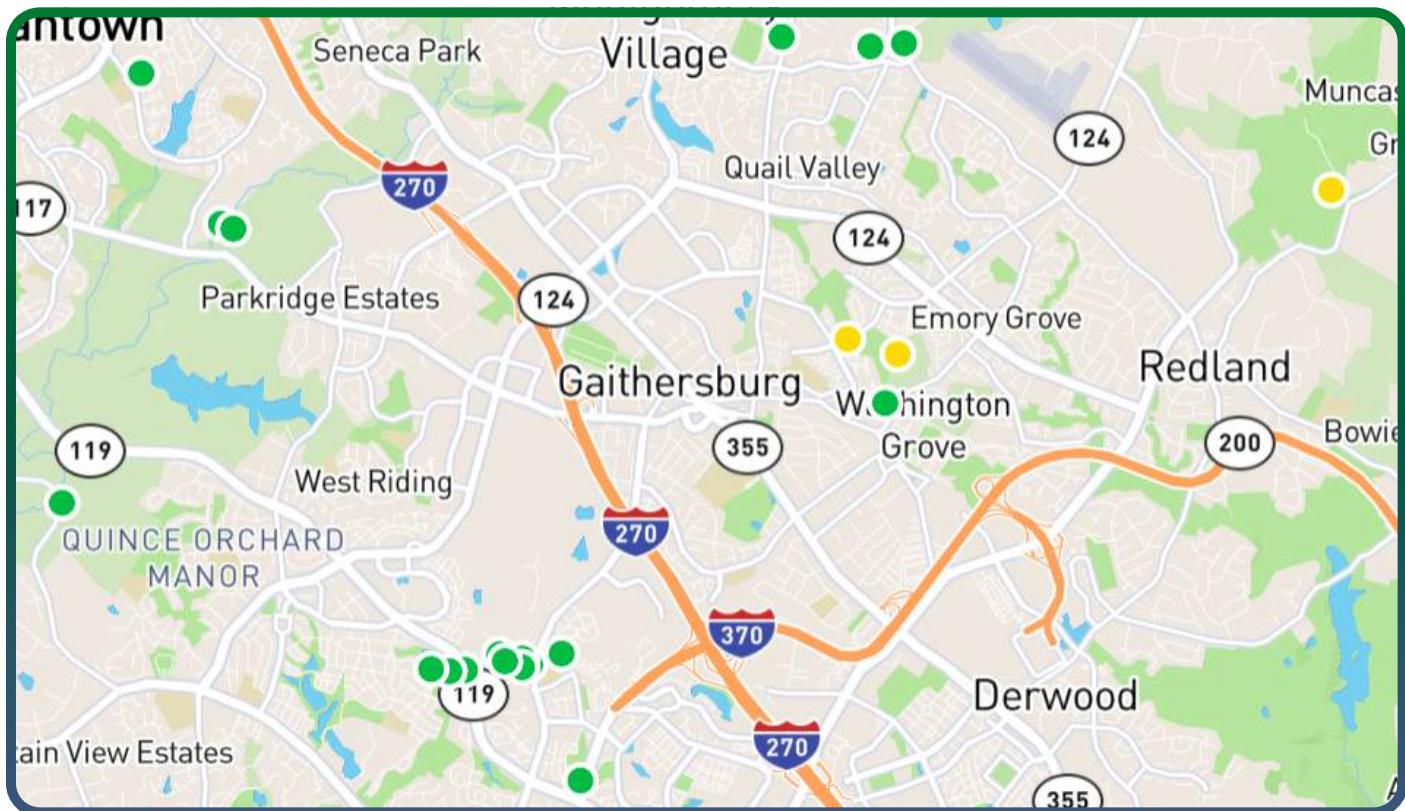
What is preventing you from implementing smart salting techniques, if anything?

- "Public's perception that all surfaces must be completely free and clear of any snow or ice; liability, as we are a heavily trafficked public facility."
- "Absolutely nothing. I believe anyone who is responsible for snow removal should go through some sort of a "Smart Salt" training course."
- "Nothing, smart salting techniques should be used industry and state wide to protect the environment. My biggest challenge is the client and their expectations. Knowledge is power!"
- "It would be great to get hands-on training at our maintenance yards to help staff calibrate equipment"

NITRATE WATCHSM

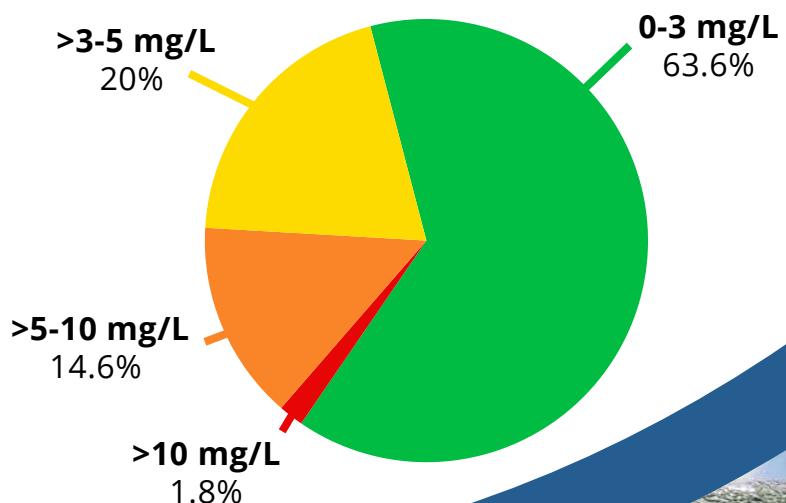
RESULTS

This was the first year the Izaak Walton League of America introduced Nitrate Watch during outreach in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Staff distributed 97 Nitrate Watch kits (each containing 25 test strips) and 69 post cards with information about nitrate pollution and how to become involved in Nitrate Watch.



Total nitrate readings: **55**

● 0-3 mg/L:	35
● >3-5 mg/L:	11
● >5-10 mg/L:	8
● >10 mg/L:	1



THANK YOU!

Special thanks to the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the City of Gaithersburg for making the Salt Watch and Nitrate Watch programs possible and accessible to community members of the City of Gaithersburg.



SALT WATCH®
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

For more information, visit saltwatch.org.

ADDENDUM B: MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Note: Dates of this report reflect results from February 14, 2024 - July 15, 2025.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY SALT WATCH® ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025

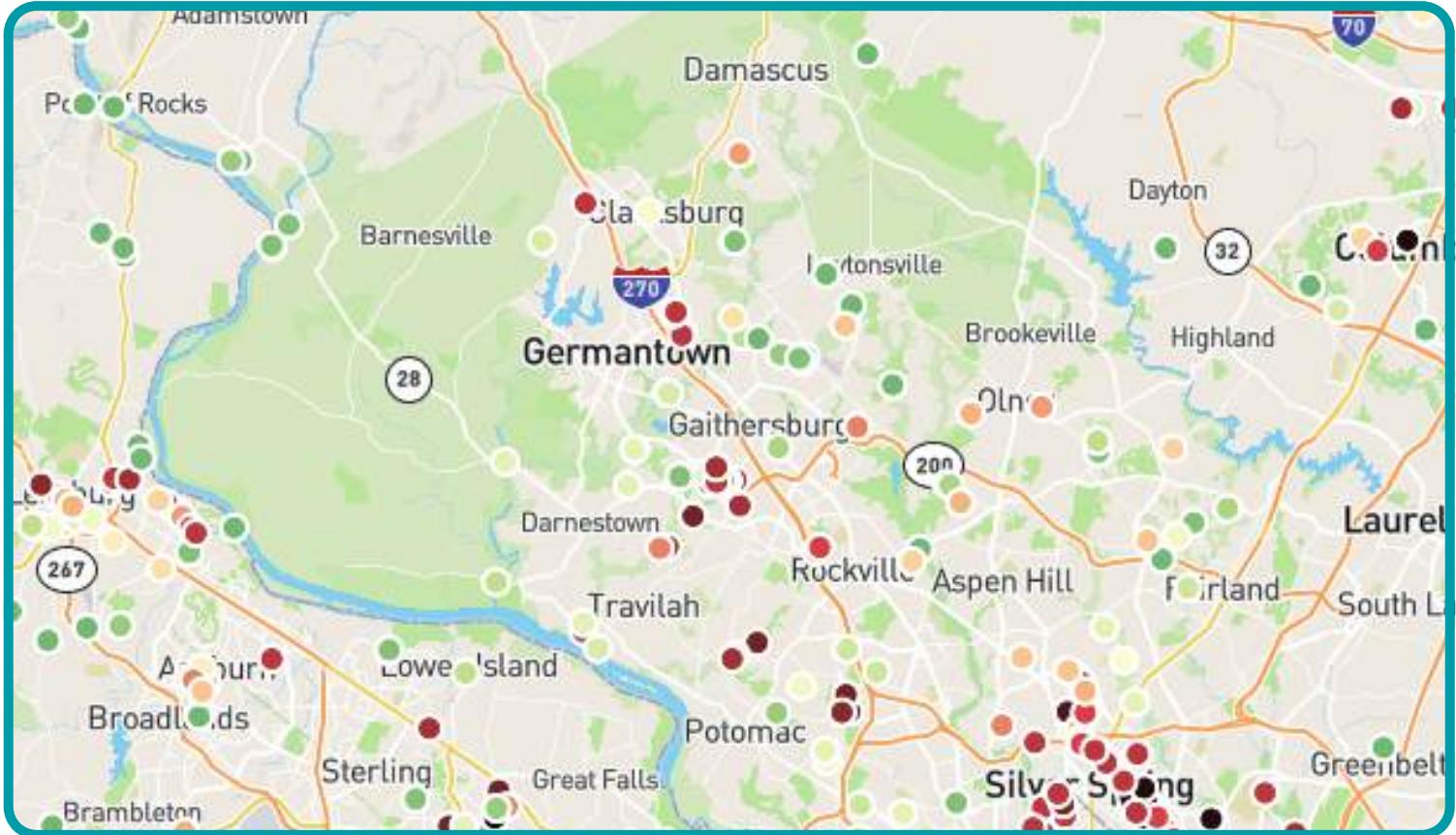


DEPARTMENT OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY • MARYLAND



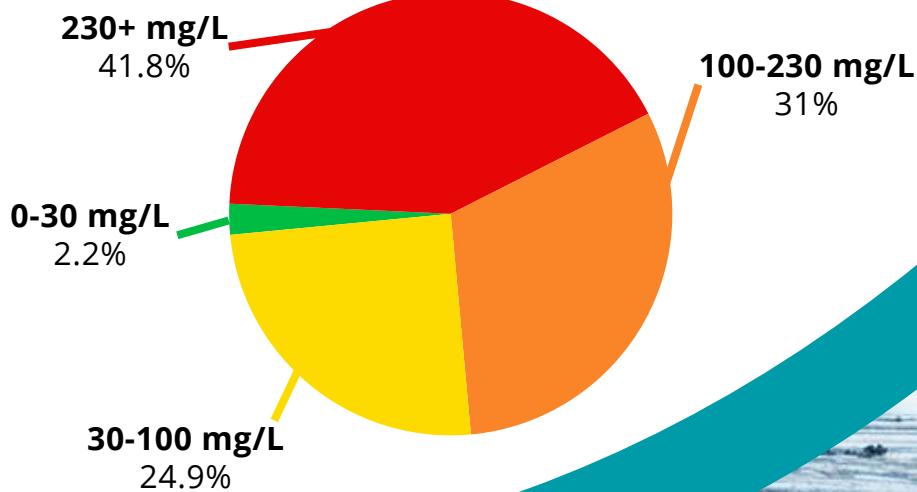
SALT WATCH® RESULTS

This was the second year the Izaak Walton League of America promoted Salt Watch monitoring during outreach in Montgomery County, MD. Staff distributed 1,289 English/Spanish Salt Watch kits to residents from February 14, 2024 - July 15, 2025.



Total chloride readings: **1,203**

● 0-30 mg/L:	27
● 30-100 mg/L:	300
● 100-230 mg/L:	373
● 230+ mg/L:	503



OUTREACH

This is the second year the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) has been funded for community and business outreach and engagement with the Salt Watch program within Montgomery County, Maryland. Special thanks to the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and the Chesapeake Bay Trust for funding these projects.

IWLA staff attended 11 farmers markets (Crossroads and FRESHFARM Silver Spring) and 10 library events at the Potomac, Davis, Quince Orchard, Germantown, Wheaton, Maggie Nightingale, Long Branch, Brigadier General Charles E. McGee, Olney, and Marilyn J. Praisner libraries. Staff also promoted Salt Watch in Montgomery County at four school events, two teacher professional development opportunities, three webinars, and by attending outreach events like Montgomery County GreenFest.

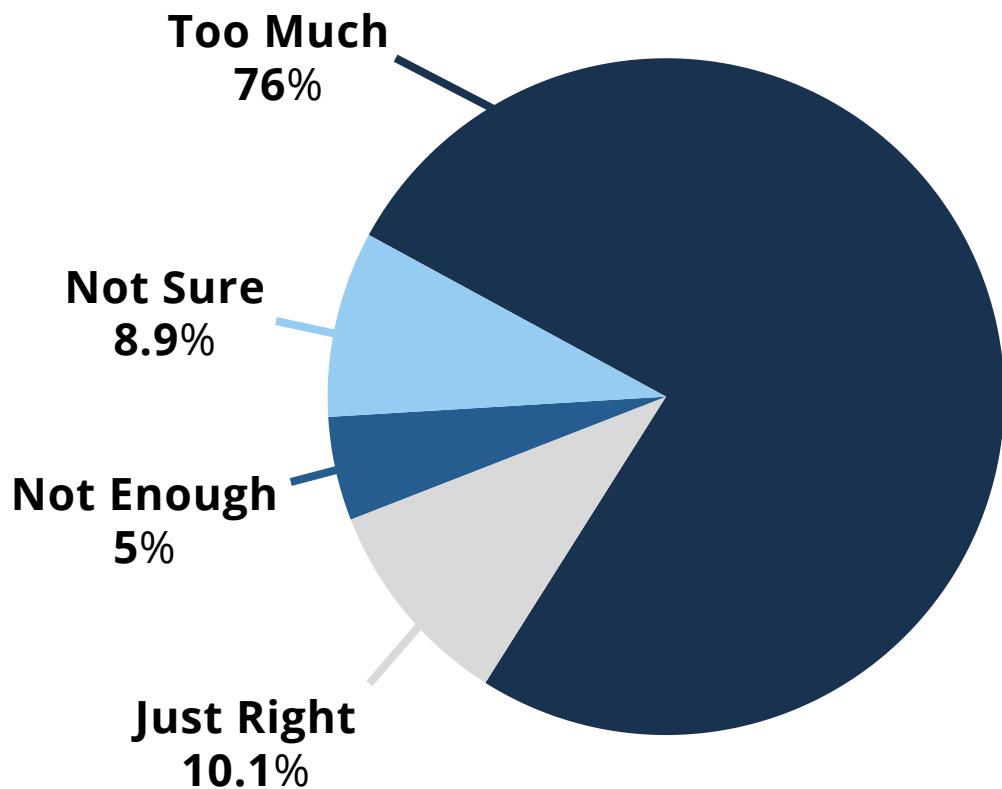
During these events, IWLA staff spoke with over 2,499 individuals and distributed 1,288 bilingual (English/Spanish) Salt Watch kits, 310 Montgomery County-specific Salt Watch brochures or post cards, 576 Salt Watch cups, and 96 Scoops from the Montgomery County DEP.



IN-PERSON POLL RESULTS

Throughout events in Montgomery County, Maryland, IWLA Salt Watch staff asked audiences to answer the question "How much road salt is used in Maryland?" to gauge the general perception around road salt use in the state. The answer choices to this question were "too much", "just right", "not enough", and "not sure". 484 people answered this question; their responses are below.

HOW MUCH ROAD SALT IS USED IN MARYLAND?



SURVEY RESULTS

Salt Watch staff also sent out a survey to Salt Watchers in Maryland to learn more about their participation in the program, how Salt Watch has changed their perspectives on road salt pollution, and if they have done any advocacy or education in their community around the issues of road salt pollution.

All of the respondents had some concern about road salt pollution with 34.8% being very concerned about road salt pollution. When asked how often they notice oversalting in their community after winter weather events, 21.7% sometimes noticed oversalting, 43.5% often noticed oversalting, and 34.8% always noticed oversalting.

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On January 31, IWLA hosted a public open house event at the Izaak Walton League of America Headquarters in Gaithersburg, Maryland to raise awareness around the issue of road salt pollution. Local and regional partner organizations attended and tabled at the event including Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB), Rock Creek Conservancy, Nature Forward, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Maryland Department of the Environment, WSSC Water, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

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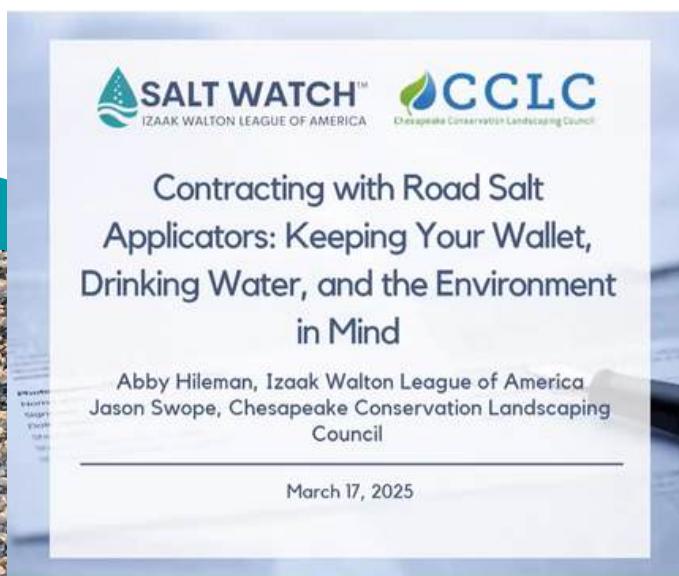
BUSINESS OUTREACH

This is the second year the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) has been funded for community and business outreach with the Salt Watch program within Montgomery County, Maryland. Special thanks to the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and the Chesapeake Bay Trust for funding these projects.

Salt Watch staff hosted or attended five business outreach-related events in Montgomery County during this grant period, reaching 387 individuals (most of whom are road salt applicators or oversee road salt applicators).

These events included: hosting a road salt applicator training (see next page), hosting a [webinar](#) to teach Homeowners/Condo Association Board Members, Business Managers, and property managers how to put performance-based practices into contracts with road salt applicators (which at the time of this report had over 158 views), hosting an open house for winter salt awareness week (see page before), and presenting at a Salt Summit hosted by WSSC Water and at the Northern Regional Fall Forum hosted by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Through outreach and awareness campaigns tailored to applicators and businesses, the individuals applying salt and the organizations contracting road salt applicators were made more aware of the cost savings, time savings, and environmental benefits associated with following road salt best practices and only applying what is needed. And all of this can be done without sacrificing safety.



APPLICATOR TRAINING



This is the second year that the Izaak Walton League of America has contracted with Bolton and Menk, Inc. to host a training for road salt applicators who apply salt within Montgomery County, MD. Held on October 3, 2024, the applicator training was offered both in-person and virtually to increase accessibility, and had approximately 55 attendees, 40 of which took and passed the certification exam. Attendees who took and passed the certification were representing the following organizations: The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Town of Poolesville, City of Rockville, Montgomery County DEP, Montgomery County Public Schools, and SBC Outdoor Services.

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THANK YOU!

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