

PROJECT SUMMARY: REGIONAL SENSIBLE SALTING MANUAL FOR PARKING LOTS AND SIDEWALKS
(Draft - June 25, 2018)

A Regional Sensible Salting Manual for Parking Lots and Sidewalks (Regional Manual) is being developed to serve the northeast Illinois region. The primary goal of the Regional Manual is to reduce the amount of chlorides that are unnecessarily released to surface and ground water resources from salt use associated with the winter maintenance of parking lots and sidewalks. The Regional Manual will provide practical step-by-step guidance to inform winter maintenance operators on how to maintain safety for pedestrians, drivers, and vehicles while reducing overall salt use, regardless of the operator's current level of expertise.

Initially, the main benefit of a Regional Manual is having a single document that can be used to raise awareness about Sensible Salting throughout northeast Illinois. Having a single reference will provide for more effective outreach than multiple guides with differing messages. Once the Regional Manual is prepared, it could be used for extensive public outreach and training by a large number of agencies and organizations. The next step would be to develop a standardized Regional Sensible Salting Certification Program based on the Regional Manual. It could be used to help establish Local Ordinances aimed at requiring certified contractors for parking lot snow and ice control and ultimately it could be the cornerstone of legislation designed to provide limited liability protection for operators who go through the Sensible Salting training and earn Certification.

The Regional Manual is currently being developed in collaboration with representatives from the Northern Regional Water Planning Alliance (NWPA); McHenry County Departments of Planning and Development, and Division of Transportation; the Conservation Foundation; Illinois State Water Survey; Barrington Area Council of Government (BACOG); City of Aurora; Village of Spring Grove; Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) of Greater Chicago; Lake County Departments of Health, Division of Transportation and Stormwater Management; Illinois Section American Water Works Association (ISAWWA); Engineering Enterprises, Inc.; Morris Engineering; Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital; Cornerstone Partners; Midwest Salt; and others.