

PROJECT SUMMARY: REGIONAL SENSIBLE SALTING MANUAL FOR PARKING LOTS AND SIDEWALKS
(September 27, 2018)

A Regional Sensible Salting Manual for Parking Lots and Sidewalks (Regional Manual) is being developed to serve the northeast Illinois region. The guide is necessary because the use of road salt and other chloride-based materials for winter snow and ice management activities is negatively impacting surface and groundwater resources, damaging infrastructure and landscaping, and potentially effecting human health. The primary goal of the Regional Manual is to reduce the amount of chlorides that are unnecessarily released 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 those involved in snow and ice management on how to implement Sensible Salting practices that maintain safety for pedestrians, drivers, and vehicles while reducing overall salt use.

Initially, the main benefit of a Regional Manual is having a single document that can be used to raise awareness about Sensible Salting practices for parking lots and sidewalks 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 can be used for extensive public outreach and training by a large number of agencies and organizations. The next step will be to develop a standardized Regional Sensible Salting Certification Program based on the Regional Manual. The Regional Manual and Certification can 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 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 Northwest Water Planning Alliance (NWPA); Engineering Enterprises, Inc.; Morris Engineering; Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital; Cornerstone Partners; Midwest Salt; McHenry County Department of Planning and Development, and Division of Transportation; Lake County Department of Health and Division of Transportation; Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) of Greater Chicago; Conservation Foundation; Illinois State Water Survey; Barrington Area Council of Government (BACOG); City of Aurora; Village of Spring Grove; Illinois Section American Water Works Association (ISAWWA); and others. We welcome the participation of other agencies and organizations with the preparation and use of the Regional Manual.