



Programs that support HOAs

Water Wise: Lawn Water Wisdom

Low Salt No Salt

HOA Leadership Meeting

6/17/2025

Valerie Neppl, Groundwater Protection Supervisor

Carter Anderson, MN GreenCorps



Water Wise: Lawn Watering Wisdom



Visit www.dakotacounty.us
and search lawn watering wisdom.

Water Wise: Lawn Watering Wisdom

Take the Pledge!



Adjust when you water



Watch the Weather



Check sprinklers monthly



Cycle and soak



Reimagine your lawn



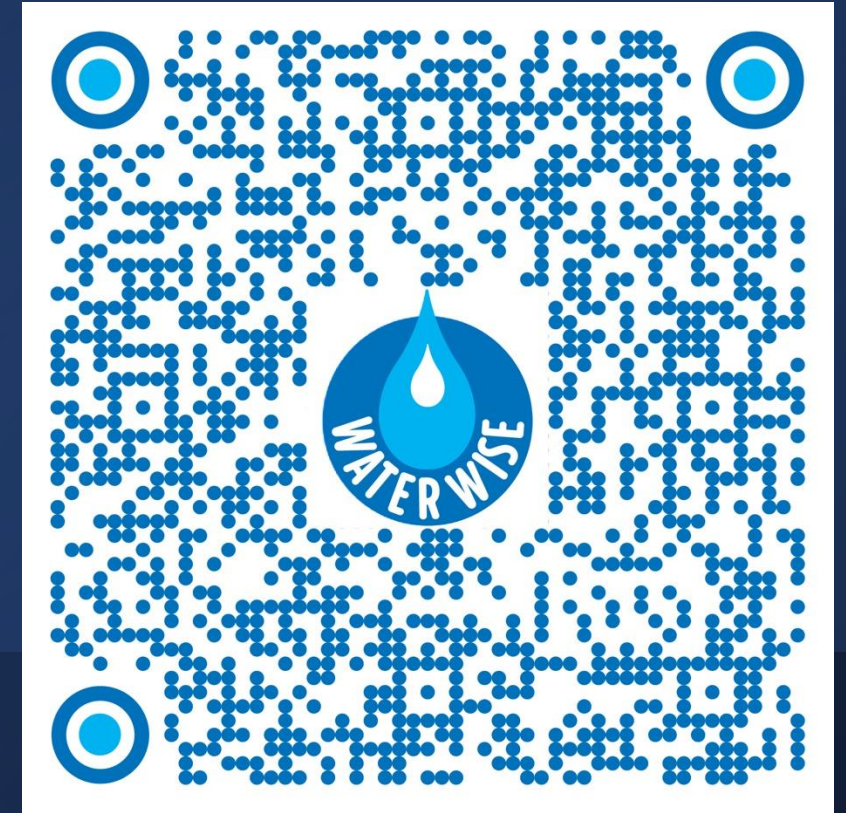
Install native landscaping or rain gardens



Harvest Rainwater



Aerate, mow higher, & leave clippings



www.dakotacounty.us
search Water Wise



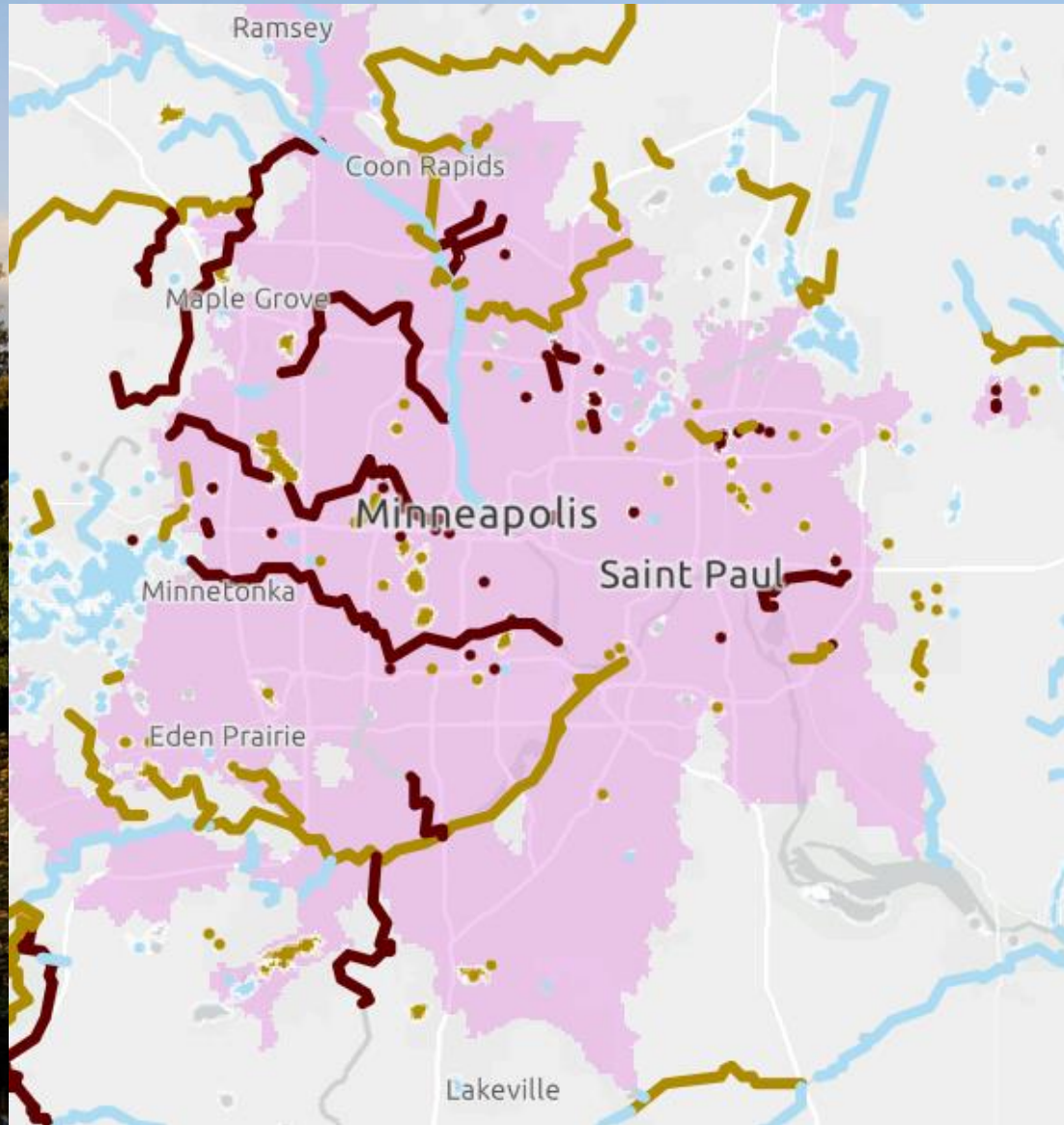
LOW SALT. **NO** SALT.
MINNESOTA



Clearing a Path to Safety, Savings and Sustainability **Using Less Salt**

Salt is a *permanent*, invisible pollutant
and it is being overused.





Salt pollutes our lakes and streams and harms aquatic species.

ONE TEASPOON
OF SALT POLLUTES
5 GALLONS OF WATER
FOREVER



You can keep
community
members safe,
save money,
and preserve
the environment
while using
less salt.



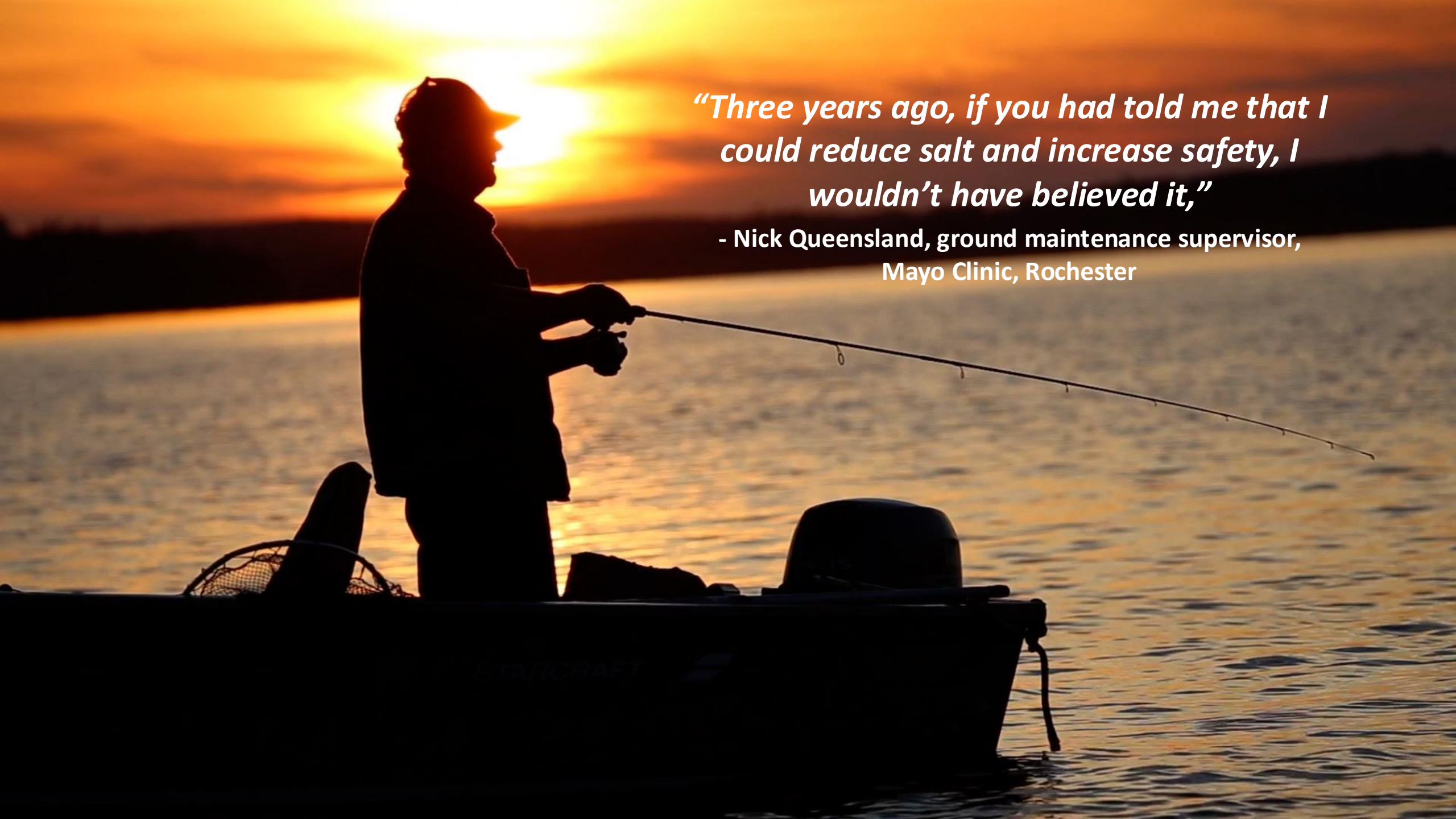
Advantages of Best Practices in Winter Maintenance





LOW SALT. NO SALT.
MINNESOTA

**Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota
Video (4min 45 sec)**

A silhouette of a person wearing a cap and holding a fishing rod, standing in a small boat on a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water. The person is facing right, and the boat is in the foreground.

***“Three years ago, if you had told me that I
could reduce salt and increase safety, I
wouldn’t have believed it,”***

**- Nick Queensland, ground maintenance supervisor,
Mayo Clinic, Rochester**

An aerial photograph of a lush green park. A winding river flows through the center, bordered by dense trees and vegetation. To the left, there is a playground with colorful equipment and a picnic shelter with a dark roof. A paved path winds through the park, and a wooden bridge is visible in the foreground. The overall scene is a well-maintained natural area.

*“It’s better for the environment,
it saves the association money,
and saves on repairs in the long run.
It’s a plus all the way around for us.”*

— Condo/townhome association board member



***“It’s a good story: cleaner environment
and less costly.”***

- Condo/townhome association board member

USE DE-ICING SALT
ONLY WHEN NEEDED

Additional best practices

**Get Smart Salting training for yourself
and/or hire trained contractors**

Available through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

A word about liability

- ❖ Everyone's top concern is for safety, but liability is also a worry
- ❖ Training in best practices, and solid documentation on the use of these practices are important to be able to demonstrate "due care" in winter maintenance*

*Not a substitute for advice from your attorney.
Seek legal counsel regarding your site and circumstances.

MICHAEL WELCH

Attorney, Smith Partners PLLP



Prepare for winter

- ❖ Sites and circumstances differ
- ❖ Work with us to find the best solutions for your site
- ❖ Many of you are already doing a lot to ensure effective low salt, no salt winter maintenance
- ❖ We learn from you – please share your ideas



Complete the pledge form!

Choose what smart salting actions you'll pledge to do!

- ❖ Winter Maintenance Basics
- ❖ Outreach Actions
- ❖ Planning actions
- ❖ Reasonable Care & Liability Actions
- ❖ Training/Monitoring Actions

To access and complete the pledge form,
email DCLowSaltNoSalt@co.dakota.mn.us

Dakota County Low Salt - No Salt Pledge Form



Take the pledge to reduce your salt use while maintaining safety! The chloride in de-icing salt permanently harms the health of our waters, and using less salt helps curb chloride pollution in your neighborhood!

To participate in the *Low Salt No Salt* program, please provide your site information and the actions you'll commit to effectively reduce your salt use.

If you have questions about or need assistance in completing this form, please email DCLowSaltNoSalt@co.dakota.mn.us

**With Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota,
you can keep your community members safe
while using less salt.**



SAFETY



Salt reduction best practices are well-established in Minnesota and do not compromise safety.

Stay safe while using less salt.

- ❖ **You can confidently and safely prevent slips and falls while using less salt**
- ❖ **Shoveling and sweeping are more effective than salt at preventing icy sidewalks and roads/parking lots**
- ❖ **Salt doesn't melt ice when temperatures reach 15°F or colder**

SAVINGS

Save money by using less salt.

- ❖ You can confidently and safely cut winter maintenance costs using low salt, no salt solutions
- ❖ Using less salt reduces costly damages to landscaping, flooring, and hard surfaces
- ❖ More salt does not mean more melting, so use less salt and save money
- ❖ Sweep up excess salt for reuse, before it washes into our waterways



SUSTAINABILITY

Preserve Minnesota's lakes and rivers by using less salt.

❖ **Protect nature's creation, and prevent harm to landscaping and infrastructure**

Q&A



LOW SALT. **NO** SALT.
MINNESOTA



***“Safe and environmentally responsible;
that’s a win, win.”***

– Property manager



For More Information Contact:

Local City, Watershed District, or the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

OR email DCLowSaltNoSalt@co.dakota.mn.us