



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: November 5, 2018
MEMO TO: Craig Taylor, Chair
Operations Committee
FROM: John E. Nelson
Director of Operations and Infrastructure

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Update on Winter 2018-19 Snow & Ice Removal Operations.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability, Conservation, Public Access & Connections

FINANCIAL DATA: Implementing these operational changes may result in some savings from the reduction in road salt consumed.

BACKGROUND: In 2017, the Des Plaines Watershed Workgroup (DRWW) completed a “Biological and Water Quality Assessment of the Upper Des Plaines River and Tributaries.” One of the conclusions of the assessment was that a high level of chlorides from road salting is a problem commonly found across all 69 sites sampled. It is therefore desirable that the District’s snow and ice removal operations be as judicious as reasonable with the application of road salt for deicing.

As such, staff will be performing two adjustments this coming winter to reduce the amount of road salt applied during snow and ice removal operations:

1. At sites where the public is generally expecting to encounter winter conditions, staff will not apply road salt on preserve roads and parking lots except for the most severe ice conditions.
2. At sites where public use decreases in the winter and multiple facilities exist, parking areas for certain areas will be left unplowed to encourage more concentrated use of other areas (i.e. in a preserve such as Van Patten with four picnic shelters, the parking areas for three of the four shelters will not be plowed).

It is anticipated that the resulting reduction in the use of road salt will have positive environmental and financial benefits. Also, a corresponding reduction in staff time managing snow and ice is expected to allow for an increase of staff time invested in winter clearing activities.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance.