



Nine Mile Creek Chloride Impairment

Overview

Nine Mile Creek is impaired for chloride, meaning the creek has unhealthy levels of chloride in it. A clean-up plan (TMDL) was developed to identify where the chloride was coming from and to determine the reduction in chloride needed for the creek to be considered healthy again.

How does chloride get into the creek?

There are no significant natural sources of chloride in the creek. The chloride in the creek is coming from road salt applied to our streets, parking lots, driveways and sidewalks in the winter.

Why is chloride in the creek bad?

High chloride levels can be harmful or toxic for aquatic life.

What must be done?

For Nine Mile Creek to be considered healthy, salt applications in the watershed need to be reduced by 62%. This will require cities, the county, commercial and private applicators to both reduce salt application rates and improve winter management practices.

What is the Watershed District's role?

The District offers classes for salt applicators— from city and county plow drivers to homeowners— on reducing salt use. In addition, District grants are available for retrofitting and upgrading equipment that results in decreased salt application rates. The District also requires a chloride management plan for permit applicants under the stormwater management rule for land disturbing activity on property other than single-family home sites.

Learn more at: ninemilecreek.org/get-involved/learn/salt-reduction

Salt Reduction Tips

Follow these tips to protect Nine Mile Creek.

Shovel. Clear walkways before snow gets compacted or turns to ice. Apply salt only if needed.

Scatter. More salt does not mean more melting. Aim for 3 inches of space between salt granules. Use salt only where critical.

Switch. Common deicers don't melt ice below 15° F. Use a small amount of sand for traction, when it is too cold.

Sweep. Clean up leftover salt and sand on dry pavement, so it doesn't wash into the creek. Reuse it as needed.

About Nine Mile Creek

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is a public entity that works to protect and restore the water and natural resources in the land area draining to Nine Mile Creek. We have state authority to protect and manage water resources in our district for everyone's benefit. We serve the residents, property owners and visitors of the cities in our district: Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Richfield.



Nine Mile Creek Photo by: J. Magnoski



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