

Connie Fortin - Low Salt Strat fortin

I would like to see Low Salt Design recommended in this document and in all other chloride TMDLs issued in MN. It has emerged in 2022 as a strategy to advance infrastructure design for cold climates. It essentially improves winter performance, increasing safety through design and driving down our need for salt. If the Duluth area were to integrate Low Salt Design in new and redevelopment, it would increase winter safety, of roads, parking lots, sidewalks, trails (all of the areas we salt) and thus drive down the need for salt. With all of the winter safety challenges Duluth faces: the hilly topography, winter weather extremes, and climate change indicating a trend to more thaw/freeze cycles, and demand for good traction to accommodate the residents, students and visitors, winter maintenance strategies alone will struggle to reduce salt enough. Low Salt Design was included in MPCA stormwater manual in 2025 and should never be absent from the chloride TMDLs of today and the future. I would like to see Low Salt Design taught at UMD so that the engineers of the future start thinking about cold climate solutions. Here is a link for a free download of a Low Salt Design guide

<https://www.bolton-menk.com/news/get-your-own-free-copy-of-our-low-salt-design-guide/> which may be an addition resource for all to consider in addition to the MPCA stormwater manual section on Low Salt Design.