down to earth

Environmental Restoration Quarterly • Winter 2026

Tim Hare, Environmental Inspection Manager Retires

By: Janet O'Meara, Division Manager

Tim Hare is retiring after 37 years of service to the residents of Carroll County. Tim was hired as a Permits Examiner in 1988 working in the Bureau of Permit & Inspections, he was soon promoted to Erosion & Sediment Control Inspector. As an inspector Tim worked with contractors to ensure their construction sites complied with county and state regulations. In April 2008 Tim was promoted to the position of Environmental Inspection Manager.

As a supervisor his knowledge of the county, the contractors and regulations has been instrumental as he's taught numerous employees and interns about the county's code. His leadership and experience have been instrumental in the county maintaining delegated authority from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for Erosion and Sediment Control.

We wish Tim all the best in his retirement, and thank him for his dedicated service to the residents of Carroll County!

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https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/resourcemanagement/

Protecting and managing Carroll County's natural resources for the pleasure and enjoyment of its Citizens

Monocacy River Board—Tree Maintenance & Stream Cleanup

By: Byron Madigan, Water Resources Manager

The Monocacy River Board collaborated with the Patapsco Chapter of Trout Unlimited and organized a community volunteer event on Saturday morning, November 15 in the headwaters of Upper Big Pipe Creek at Westside Memorial Park in Manchester, Maryland. Volunteers performed maintenance of the tree planting at the park, as well as did a stream cleanup through and downstream of the park. The Town of Manchester assisted with the effort by removing all of the trash and tree tube debris following the cleanup.

The River Board has an overall goal of serving as advocates for the Monocacy River, its watershed and the varied resources contained within, meeting once per month in the evenings. If you would be interested in promoting the enhancement of natural resources within the Monocacy River Watershed, contact Byron Madigan at 410-386-2167 for additional information.

Grant Funding Update

The Resource Management Division was awarded $600,000 from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund for construction of Hampstead Valley 4 Restoration. This project constructs a new surface sand filter stormwater management facility in an open space area between Century Street and Downhill Trail in the Roberts Field Subdivision in Hampstead.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Maryland's Salt Reduction *Strategies*

By Glenn Edwards, Environmental Coordinator, NPDES, Watershed Restoration Office, Resource Management Division

Chloride Pollution Reduction Strategy: In 2024, Maryland introduced a Chloride Pollution Reduction Strategy to address rising chloride levels in our local waterways. Maryland has determined that the most effective way to safeguard its freshwater resources is to implement a widespread reduction in the use of road salt (primarily sodium chloride) across roadways, parking lots, and driveways, developing five strategies aimed at achieving that goal highlighted in this article through best management practices.

This article provides highlights; the complete strategy can be found at MDE's 411 on Salt website.

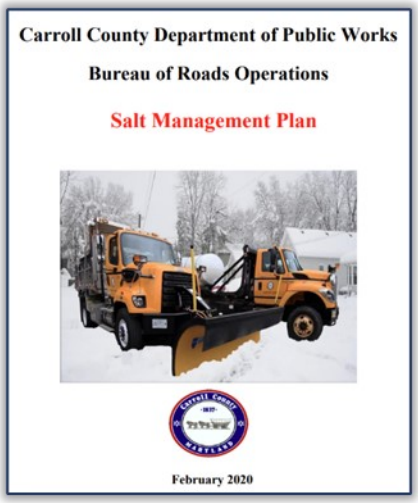
Strategy #1
State Law/State Highway Administration Salt Management Plan

In 2010, the Maryland State Legislature passed two bills, House Bill 0903 and Senate Bill 0775, which required the establishment of a Statewide Salt Management Plan (SMP) developed by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) in collaboration with the Maryland Department of the Environment. The plan is maintained annually and implemented by SHA

and employs proactive strategies to reduce road salt use while keeping roadways safe.

Strategy #2
MS4 Permit Jurisdictions

Maryland's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permits cover over 90% of Maryland's impervious surface area. Jurisdictions including Carroll County



and its 8 municipalities are required to reduce the use of winter weather deicing and anti-icing materials, without compromising public safety, by developing their own Salt Management Plans using the MDOT SMP as a guide. Although SMP submittals were required in 2025 and formal implementation beginning with the 2025/26 winter weather season, Carroll County Roads Operations and our municipal public works operations began plan development and salt reduction measures including the use of salt brine applications since 2020 and earlier. Plans include equipment calibration, tracking and reporting, employee and contractor training, outreach as well as evaluation of new methods and strategies.

Strategy #3
Commercial Applicator Training and Certification

Maryland has developed a statewide voluntary private applicator training and certification program. Private applicators learn best practices to help improve

effectiveness and efficiency and reduce salt application while maintaining safety. For more info on the training you can go to MDE's webpage at: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/UtRAwXJ/SmartSalting

Strategy #4
Public Awareness

As previously mentioned MDE maintains a winter salt website at 411 on Salt providing an excellent array of *Smart Salting* resources developed for salt applicator professionals to homeowners. MDE's Office of Communications periodically posts excerpts on social media. MDE is also working with the University of Maryland Extension to develop outreach products to be used for homeowners and seasonal winter

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Restoration News By: Claire Hirt, Watershed Restoration Manager

At the start of 2026, we are wrapping up construction at two retrofit projects. Magstone has completed the Melstone Valley submerged gravel wetland, which improves water quality, reduces thermal impacts, and decommissions the roadway embankment. Kibler Construction Co. has completed the Century High School surface sand filter, which improves water quality and quantity, reconfigures storm drains, and improves maintainability for staff. We look forward to starting up a few new construction projects this spring!

Melstone Valley

Century High School

Meet the Staff - Promotion

Robin Hill, Environmental Inspection Manager

This winter Robin Hill was promoted from Environmental Specialist II to Environmental Inspections Manager. Robin grew up in Manchester, MD and earned her AA in General Studies at Carroll Community College. She has worked as a Grading and Sediment Control inspector/plan reviewer for 7 years. Robin has been employed with Carroll County Government for almost 22 years. She has raised 2 daughters, who are now adults and has been married to Mike for 5 years. In her free time Robin enjoys being around nature especially laying on the beach or swimming in the Ocean.

Maryland's Salt Reduction Strategies (continued from page 3)

maintenance workers. In addition, MS4 permits contain a requirement for jurisdictions to develop and distribute information on best salt management practices to their residents. Carroll County and its MS4 permit municipal co-permittees provide information and links on their websites for the public. Developed resources are also generously shared so MS4 jurisdictions can adapt for local customization of public awareness materials including this example presented to the right.

Strategy #5:
Permit Requirements for Other Potential Point Sources of Chloride

In permitting municipal and industrial facilities, the potential to discharge chloride, as well as instream impairment, are considered in determining requirements for monitoring and/or limits. These source loads are small compared to contributions from winter salt.

Anticipated Progress

Achieving consistent instream chloride reductions will likely take many years. Fortunately, with the increasing recognition of winter salt impacts to water quality, more efficient application techniques and the introduction of new and promising technologies should enable steady, incremental reductions into the foreseeable future.

Source: Maryland Department of the Environment