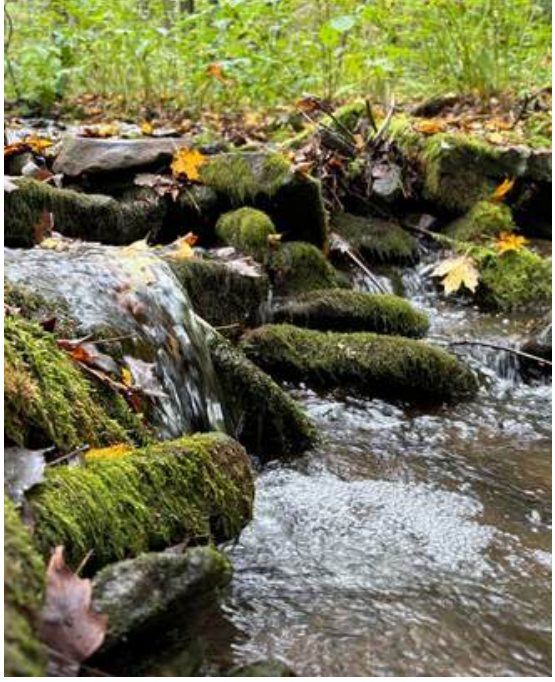
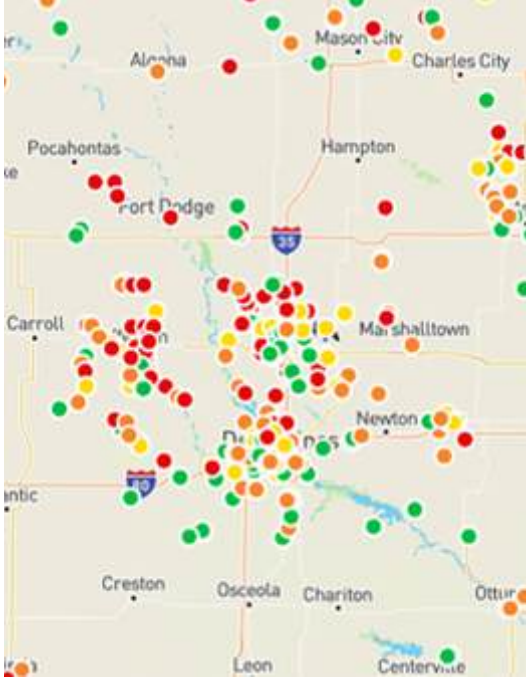




SAVE OUR STREAMS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CONTENTS


John Burchett

Cover Photo Credits: Abby Hileman, Kadra Casseday, Clean Water Hub, Maggie Dombroski, Serena Moncion

INTRODUCTION

Audrey Tan

Diane Jennings

The Izaak Walton League was founded over a century ago on the principle of sustainable stewardship, with a mission to conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife. Today, that mission comes to life through 200 chapters nationwide and our staff at national headquarters, all working in concert to conserve our most precious resources.

For the Clean Water Program, 2025 was a year of unprecedented growth and momentum. Our volunteers are more than just participants; they are the backbone of our advocacy and the eyes and ears for our waterways. Their dedication led to a banner year of data-driven success, including a 270% increase in Nitrate Watch participation and over 10,000 Salt Watch readings reported.

Whether monitoring water quality or advocating for better environmental policy and real clean water solutions, our volunteers proved that local action drives national impact.

MEET THE TEAM





Save Our Streams Coordinator, Mid-Atlantic | Maggie Dombroski

Salt Watch Coordinator | Abby Hileman

Chesapeake Monitoring Outreach Coordinator | Matthew Kierce

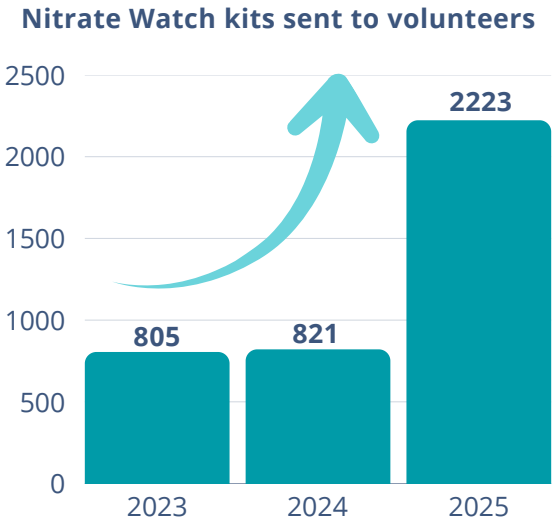
Clean Water Program Director | Samantha Puckett

Save Our Streams Coordinator, Midwest | Heather Wilson

NITRATE WATCH

In 2025, the Nitrate Watch program saw a dramatic surge in participation. As the graph on this page shows, we sent **2,223 kits** to volunteers in 2025, which represents a roughly **270% increase** compared to the number of kits supplied in 2024. 2025 also saw a marked increased in Nitrate Watch data reporting and an uptick in news coverage of the program and its volunteers.

See below for a snapshot of key stats for Nitrate Watch in 2025.



6,681
nitrate readings reported

38
states reporting data

2,008
sample locations

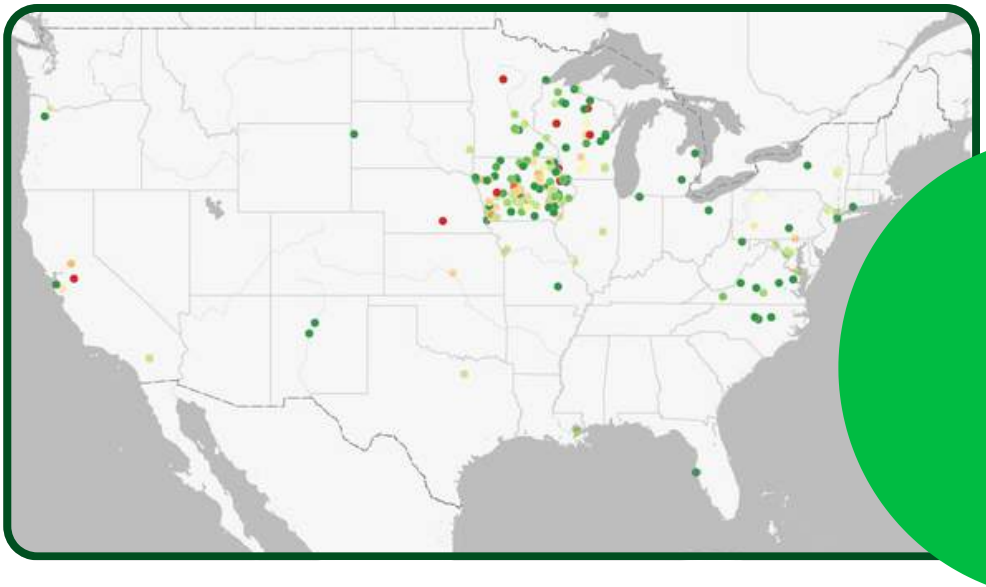
9
new partner organizations engaged

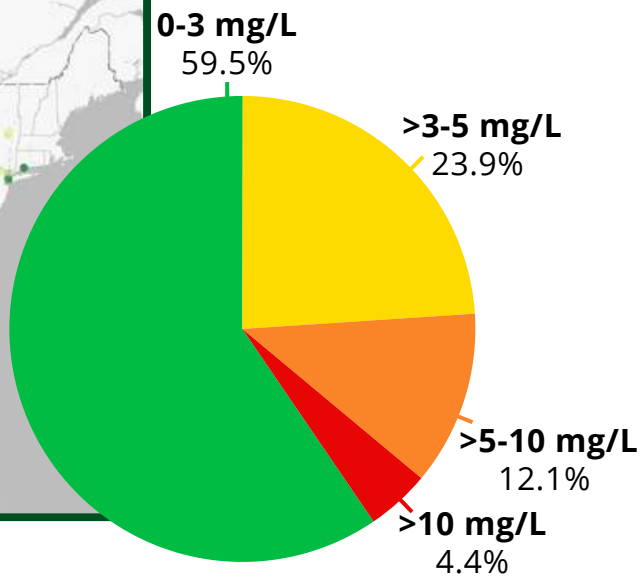
2,223
kits sent to volunteers

23 news articles highlighting the Nitrate Watch program or featuring volunteer testimonials

NITRATE WATCH RESULTS
NATIONWIDE

DRINKING WATER





Drinking water data includes water from private groundwater wells and public drinking water systems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandates that the maximum allowable nitrate-N concentration for drinking water is **10 mg/L**. Well water is not subject to this regulatory standard.

Total nitrate-N readings: **702**

- 0-3 mg/L: **418**
- >3-5 mg/L: **168**
- >5-10 mg/L: **85**
- >10 mg/L: **31**

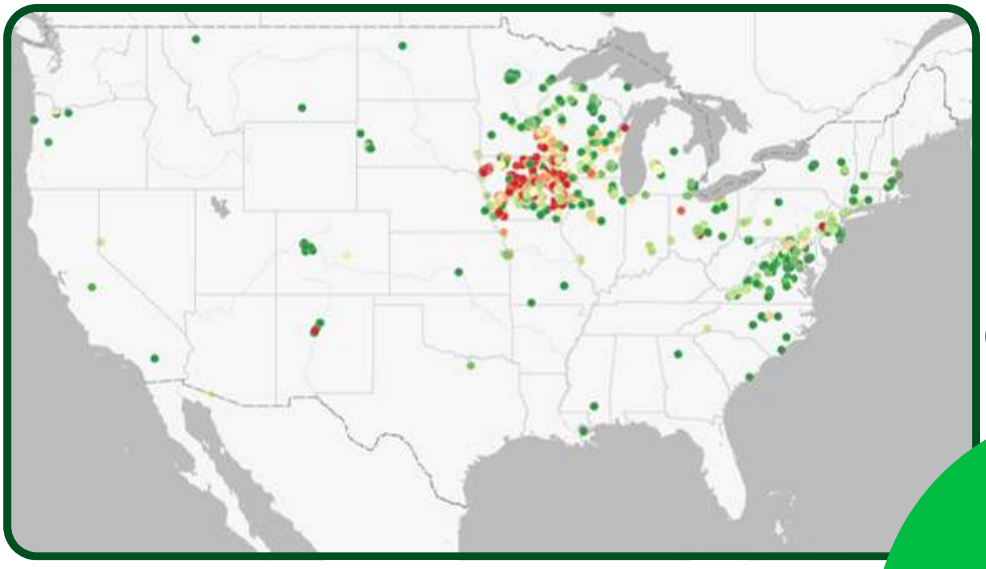
Research indicates that a drinking water standard of 10 mg/L may not be sufficiently protective of human health.

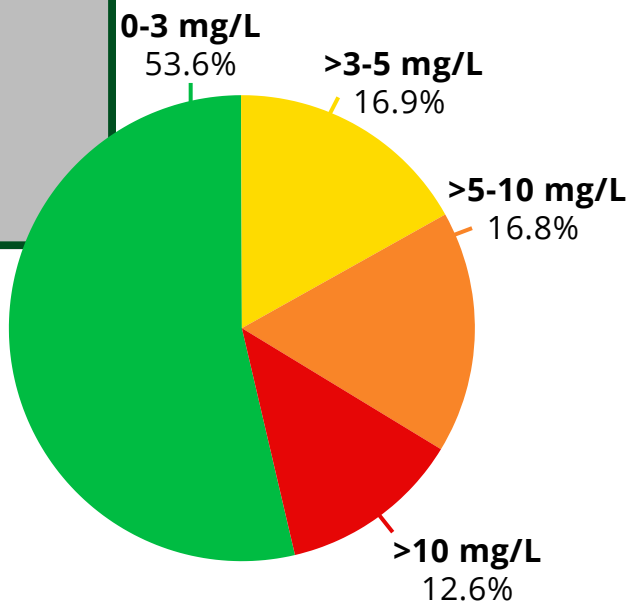
Adverse health effects have been observed with prolonged exposure to drinking water containing nitrate-N concentrations of 5 mg/L, or even less.

34.8% OF DRINKING WATER READINGS MEASURED 5 MG/L OR GREATER

NITRATE WATCH RESULTS
NATIONWIDE

SURFACE WATER





Surface water data includes water from small streams/creeks, rivers, lakes, ponds/wetlands, and drainage/outlet pipes.

There is no national standard for nitrate in surface water. In general, a natural range for nitrate-N in a stream is 0-3 mg/L. Surface water nitrate-N readings in excess of 3 mg/L can serve as an unofficial indicator that external inputs of nitrogen, such as agricultural runoff or sewage, are present.

Excess nitrate in surface water contributes to:

- algae blooms
- fish kills
- hypoxia/dead zones
- contaminated drinking water sources

Total nitrate-N readings: **5979**

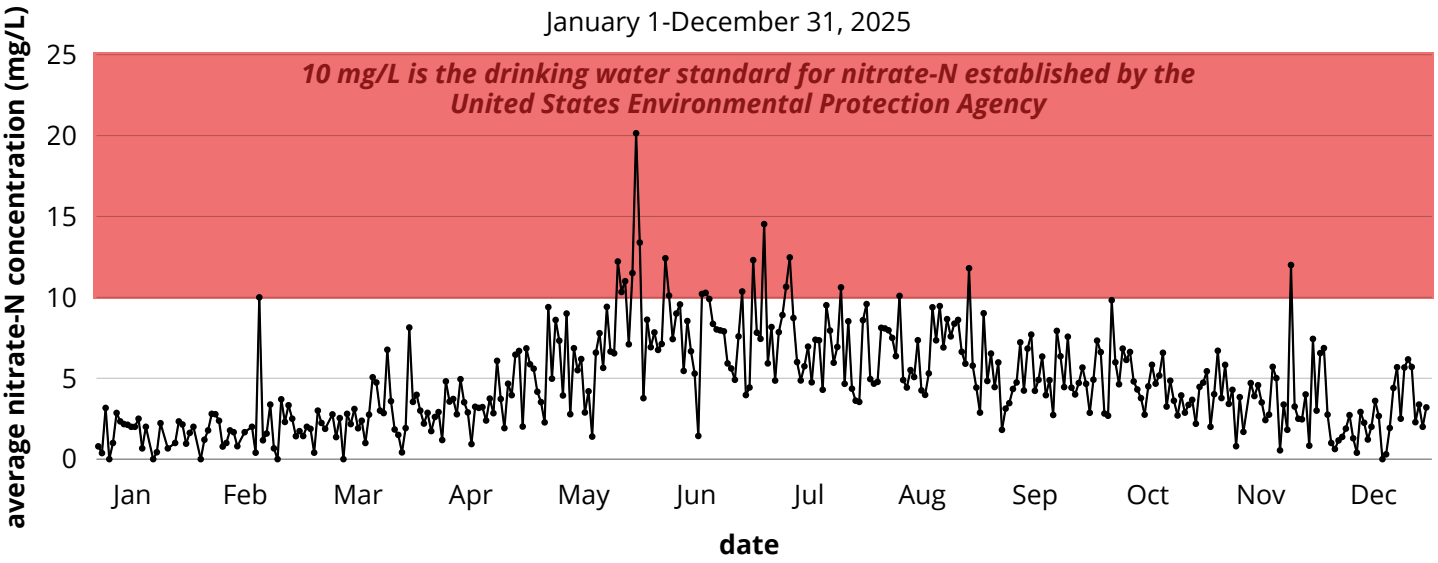
- 0-3 mg/L: **3205**
- >3-5 mg/L: **1013**
- >5-10 mg/L: **1005**
- >10 mg/L: **756**

NITRATE WATCH RESULTS
NATIONWIDE

Nitrate concentrations in waterways tend to fluctuate throughout the year based on seasonal variation in weather and land-use practices. In areas downstream of agricultural activities, we often see nitrate levels peak in the spring and summer as a result of fertilizer application and increased rainfall. This is a phenomenon called the “spring flush.”

The graph below showcases the seasonal variation in nitrate-N levels reported to the Clean Water Hub in 2025. It plots the average nitrate-N concentrations reported in surface water sources (not drinking water) each day. Note how concentrations are elevated in the spring and summer - the spring flush.

Average nitrate-N concentrations (mg/L) in surface water reported by Nitrate Watch volunteers nationwide



The red shaded portion of this graph represents nitrate-N concentrations at or above 10 mg/L. While there is no nationwide limit for nitrate in surface water, 10 mg/L -- the drinking water standard for nitrate -- is a meaningful benchmark, especially for waterways that are used as sources of drinking water. **The daily average nitrate-N concentration reported by our volunteers was 10 mg/L or greater on 20 days in 2025.**

2025 IN FOCUS

NOTABLE HAPPENINGS IN NITRATE NEWS

FEDERAL ACTIONS

In August, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took the uncharacteristic action of **rescinding its previous decision to add seven stream segments to Iowa's impaired waters list**. These segments, including parts of the Des Moines, Raccoon, Cedar, Iowa and South Skunk Rivers, are known to have nitrate levels that frequently exceed 10 mg/L.

In November, the EPA proposed a revised definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS). This new WOTUS definition would dramatically reduce the number of wetlands and tributary streams that receive Clean Water Act protections. Wetlands provide myriad ecosystem services, including nutrient sequestration, flood control, and animal habitat. The Izaak Walton League, and many other organizations, **spoke out in opposition to this revised WOTUS definition**.

For years, there has been evidence that the **current drinking water standard for nitrate may not be protective of human health**. In June 2023, the EPA restarted **an assessment of the health risks of nitrate/nitrite in water**. This assessment has made very little progress in the years since it was initiated. The League continues to monitor the status of the assessment.

THREATS TO WATER QUALITY

Agricultural runoff in central Iowa led to soaring nitrate pollution in the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers, the primary sources of drinking water for approximately 600,000 Iowans. To ensure that they could deliver drinking water to customers that did not exceed the regulatory nitrate standard, Central Iowa Water Works **instituted a ban on lawn watering**. This first-of-its-kind ban lasted for 50 days between June and July. The nitrate removal facility ran for 112 days in 2025.

The construction of data centers to accommodate a growing need for artificial intelligence computing is placing additional strain on the water supply in parts of the country. When data centers draw from groundwater that is already contaminated with nitrate, it can further concentrate that contamination, a **growing concern in eastern Oregon**. When data centers are constructed on sites that contain hazardous substances, like **a brownfield site in Frederick County Maryland**, there is fear of introducing new contaminants into groundwater.

PARTNER OUTREACH EFFORTS

Carver County Water Management Organization in Carver County Minnesota launched a direct mail campaign in July that provided information about nitrate pollution to residents in the Bevens and Silver Creek watersheds, which are known to have high nitrate levels. In their communication, they directed residents to the Nitrate Watch program, resulting in more than 50 kit requests from residents.

Wisconsin's Green Fire is a new Nitrate Watch partner with big plans. The organization has launched a **Nitrate Watch page** on their website including educational resources and a co-branded Nitrate Watch kit request form. In just a few months, volunteers with the group have already reported data at more than 80 sites across Wisconsin.

PARTNER OUTREACH EFFORTS (CONTINUED)

The **Nishnabotna Water Defenders**, in partnership with the Nitrate Watch program, erected **billboards along the highway in southwest Iowa** in fall 2025. These billboards urging Iowans to "Know What You Drink" and "Monitor Nitrate in Your Water" were intended to raise awareness about the connection between what happens on the landscape and the water that reaches our tap. It is estimated that these billboards were seen by more than 160,000 passing motorists.

Denise O'Brien

In March 2024, the Nishnabotna River suffered a catastrophic fish kill caused by a fertilizer spill at a nearby agricultural operation. This event, the fifth largest documented fish kill in Iowa's history, devastated aquatic life for more than 50 miles downstream. It also catalyzed the formation of the Nishnabotna Water Defenders. The organization participates in Nitrate Watch and Save Our Streams, monitoring water quality in the Nishnabotna watershed year-round. They also continue to push for stronger environmental protections and accountability for threats to water quality.

Rachel Cramer, Iowa Public Radio

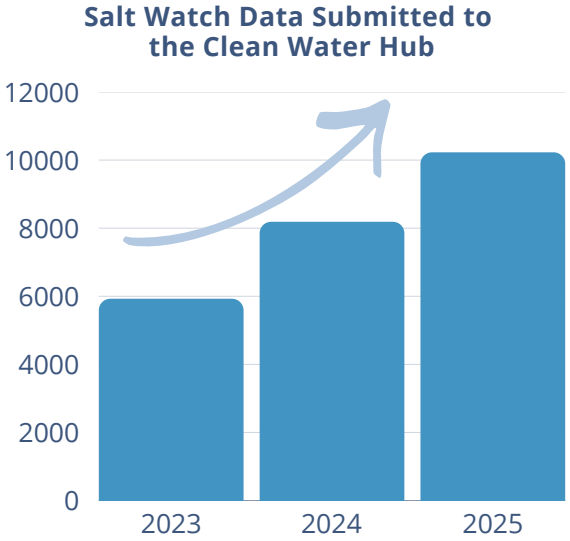
"As citizens, we deserve better than to have our waterways polluted," the Defenders state. "We aim to empower community members with data and drive action to protect clean water."

Learn more about the Nishnabotna Water Defenders in this blog from the Izaak Walton League.

SALT WATCH

In 2025, the Salt Watch program saw its most widespread participation yet! We **sent 5,500 kits to volunteers** in 2025, and for the first time ever, **surpassed 10,000 Salt Watch results** reported (a huge milestone for the Salt Watch program)! Staff also created new resources for volunteers to use, such as the **Road Salt, Lead and Drinking Water Factsheet**.

See below for a snapshot of key stats for Salt Watch in 2025.



10,228 chloride readings reported

5,500 kits sent to volunteers

2,821 sample locations

11 new partner organizations engaged

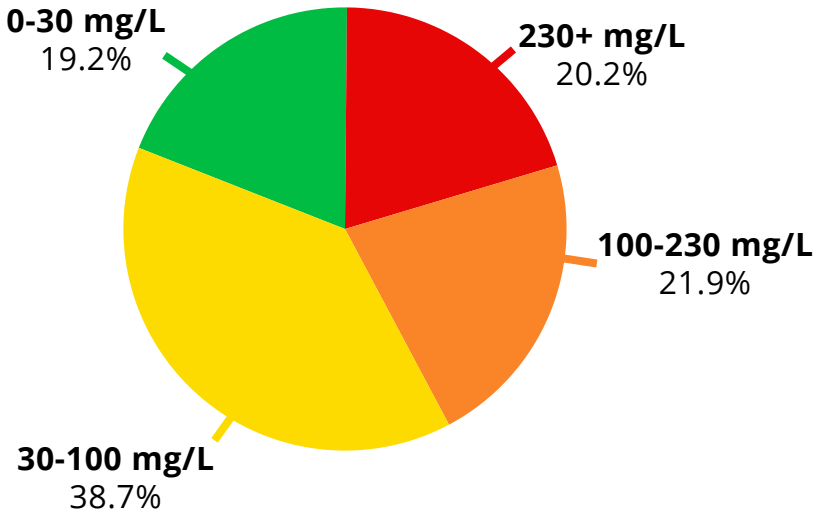
81 total partner organizations

10 regional and national Salt Watch webinars

SALT WATCH RESULTS
NATIONWIDE

Total chloride readings: **10,228**

- 0-30 mg/L: **1,961**
- 30-100 mg/L: **3,963**
- 100-230 mg/L: **2,236**
- 230+ mg/L: **2,068**



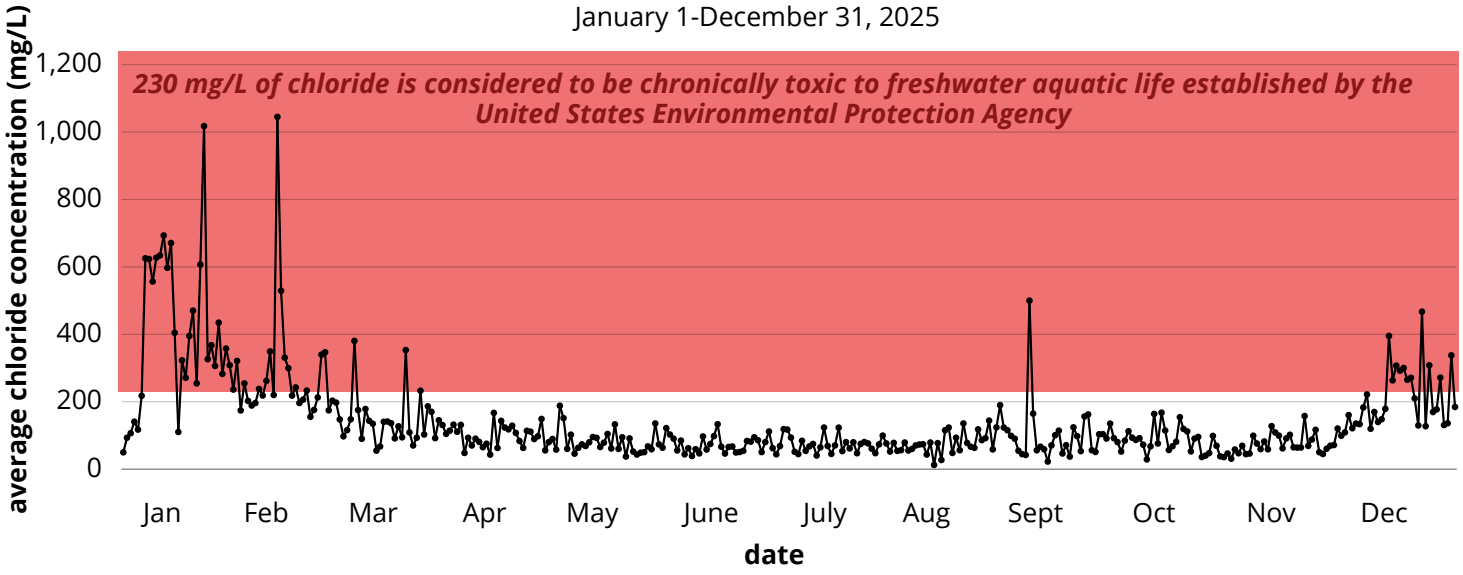
SALT WATCH RESULTS
NATIONWIDE

Chloride concentrations in waterways tend to fluctuate throughout the year based on seasonal variation in weather and land-use practices. Typically, there are increases in chloride in waterways in the winter months due to road salt application. Spikes can also occur in the late summer and autumn during drought events, when the lingering salt contamination becomes concentrated.

The graph below showcases the seasonal variation in chloride levels reported to the **Clean Water Hub** in 2025. It plots the average chloride concentrations reported in surface water sources each day. Note how concentrations are elevated in the winter and late summer/early autumn months.

Average chloride (Cl-) concentrations (mg/L) in water reported by Salt Watch volunteers nationwide

January 1-December 31, 2025



The red shaded portion of this graph represents chloride concentrations at or above 230 mg/L. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established 230 mg/L chloride as chronically toxic to freshwater aquatic life and 860 mg/L as acutely toxic. 250 mg/L is the secondary standard for drinking water. **The daily average chloride concentration reported by our volunteers was 230 mg/L or greater on 52 days in 2025.**

2025 IN FOCUS

NOTABLE HAPPENINGS IN SALT NEWS

APPLICATORS LEARN BEST PRACTICES

Salt Watch staff held a training for road salt applicators in Montgomery County, Maryland in the fall of 2025. The training brought in private and public applicators from Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Montgomery County Public Schools. Over 160 individuals registered for the training and over 140 attended (120 of those individuals took and passed the certification exam). Our biggest cohort yet! In Spring 2025, Salt Watch staff also held a **virtual contract training** for stakeholders involved in hiring road salt applicators. The session highlighted the potential to save money while maintaining safety by adding performance-based salting practices to contracts with snow maintenance professionals.

TAKING ACTION THROUGH WRITING

In early 2025, Friends of Sligo Creek (MD) reported an outstanding number of extremely elevated chloride levels in their local waterways. They wrote a series of letters to local and state government agencies - raising concern over the impacts of salt pollution, offering short-term and long-term steps that should be taken, and stating that they were willing to help! The letters serve as a wonderful example of advocacy. **Learn more here.**

LEADING A “SALTY INTERVENTION”

In February 2025, a Salt Watch volunteer with Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy in Leesburg, VA stumbled upon a massive oversalting event at a local gas station. Knowing what they were seeing was too much salt, they reported the oversalting event to Amy Ulland, who coordinates Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy’s water monitoring programming. A number of volunteers stopped by the gas station to discuss the oversalting with gas station staff members and offered to help clean up the salt. Within 48 hours, the salt was cleaned up and the gas station employees were more knowledgeable about the dangers of too much salt! **Read more about the “Salty Intervention” here**.

EXPANDING SALT WATCH IN OHIO

In September 2025, the Izaak Walton League of America expanded its Salt Watch program in Ohio through a trip centered on strategic partnership building and statewide collaboration. The League engaged in 11 key meetings, including a high-level consultation with the Ohio EPA's H2Ohio initiative—state-funded grant programs to help municipalities upgrade salt storage and application equipment. This effort bridged the gap between agency resources and grassroots action, reinforced by site visits to the Izaak Walton League's Medina Chapter and leadership sessions with the incoming Ohio Division President Gregg Lamb. The trip culminated at the Clean Water Fest, where staff engaged with over 2,000 community members to turn Salt Watch data into local action.

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

SALT WATCH VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

In 2025, we kicked off a new blog series called "**Meet a Monitor**". Each installment profiles one of our dedicated volunteers. These Salt Watch monitors were featured during our inaugural year.

ALYVIA

Alyvia (Liv) is an aspiring Egyptologist and a 6th grader at St Michael-St. Clement School in Maryland. In April 2025, Liv participated in her school's science fair - incorporating Salt Watch monitoring into her project.

AISHA AND SASHA

Sasha and Aisha, sixth-grade students in the Roberto Clemente Math, Science and Computer Science magnet program, conducted an investigation into how proximity to roadways influences water pollution in local lakes.

LAUREN EATON

Lauren and Friends of the Rouge, an environmental non-profit, have been tirelessly working to restore, protect, and enhance the Rouge River watershed in southeastern Michigan.

KAREN JIMENEZ

Karen, a senior at Loudoun County High School in Virginia, is a shining example of how one passionate individual can make a difference in the fight against environmental pollution.

BRYON BODT

Bryon has been monitoring water quality with the Izaak Walton League of America in the Chesapeake Bay region for many years and has even created a business keeping up the rich tradition of making beautiful decoys.

WINTER SALT WEEK

From January 27-31, 2025, groups across the U.S. and Canada held discussions to raise awareness about the dangers of and solutions to road salt pollution during Winter Salt Awareness Week 2025, hosted by Wisconsin Salt Wise.

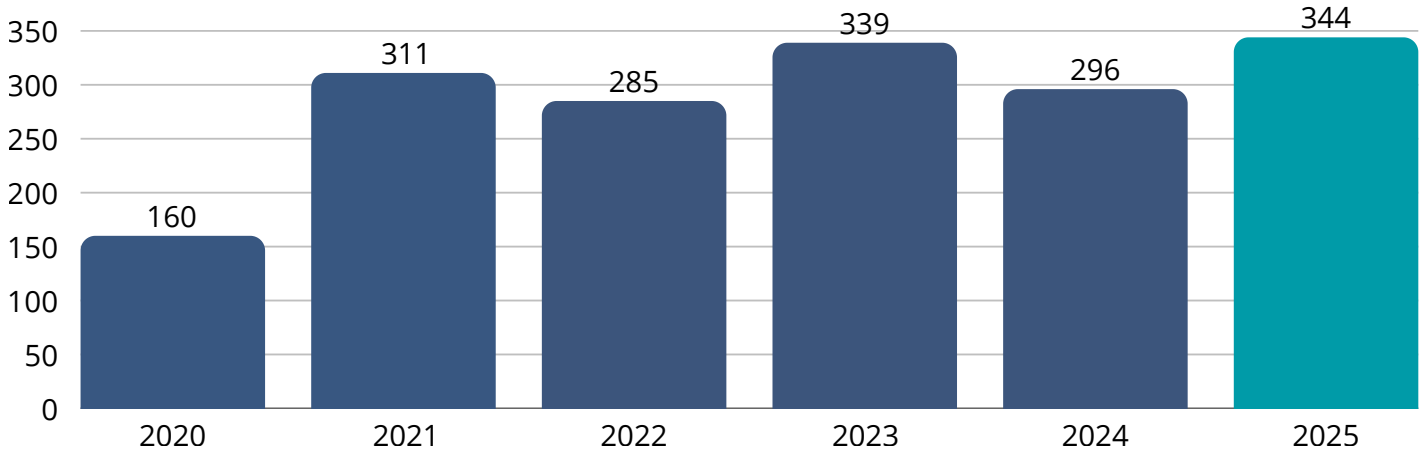
On January 31, the Izaak Walton League of America hosted a public open house event at the League's Headquarters in Gaithersburg, Maryland to raise awareness around the issue of road salt pollution. Local and regional partner organizations attended and tabled at the event, including Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB), Rock Creek Conservancy, Nature Forward, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Maryland Department of the Environment, WSSC Water, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

During the event, speakers from the Izaak Walton League, ICPRB, and Montgomery County discussed local and regional initiatives to reduce road salt pollution, the accomplishments made thus far, and the road ahead. Check out the **Highlights from Winter Salt Week 2025**.

VIRGINIA SAVE OUR STREAMS

2025 was a big year for Virginia Save Our Streams! Our dedicated volunteers conducted the **largest number of stream surveys ever in VA SOS history**! 344 data submissions passed quality assurance this year.

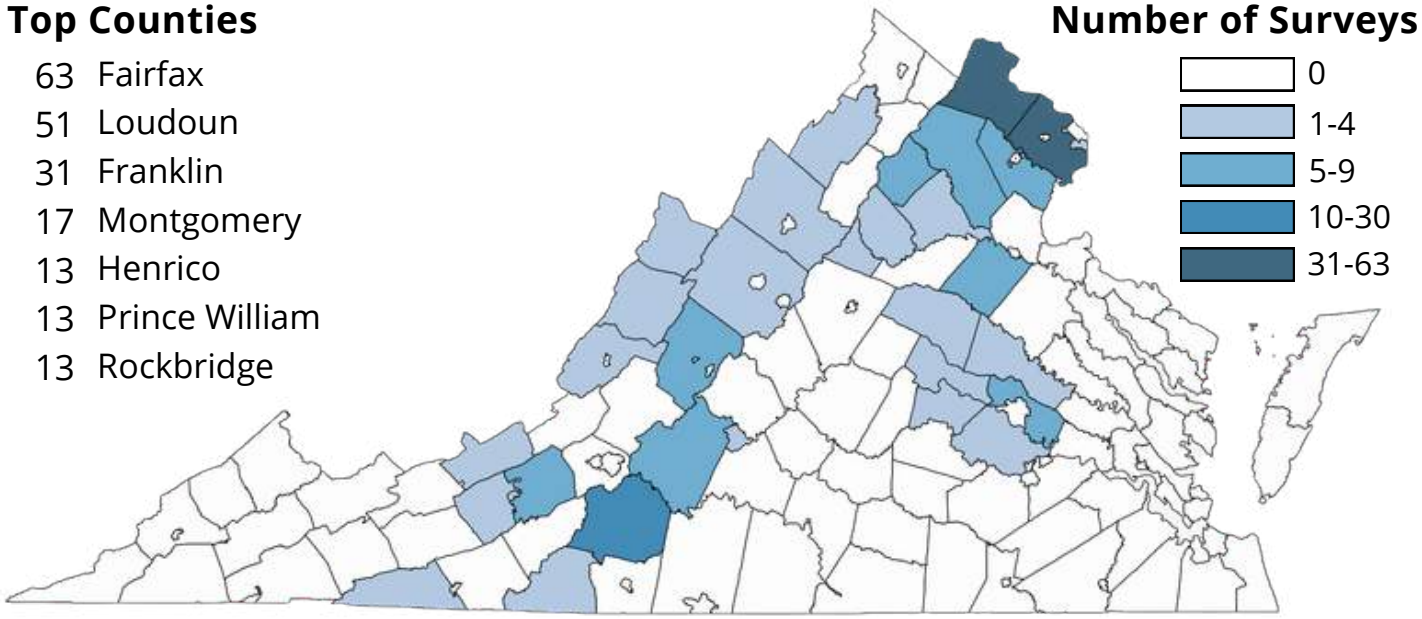
NUMBER OF STREAM HEALTH SURVEYS CONDUCTED PER YEAR



STREAM HEALTH SURVEYS BY COUNTY

Top Counties

63 Fairfax
51 Loudoun
31 Franklin
17 Montgomery
13 Henrico
13 Prince William
13 Rockbridge



VIRGINIA SAVE OUR STREAMS

MONITORS

134 New Monitors Certified

388 Total Active Monitors

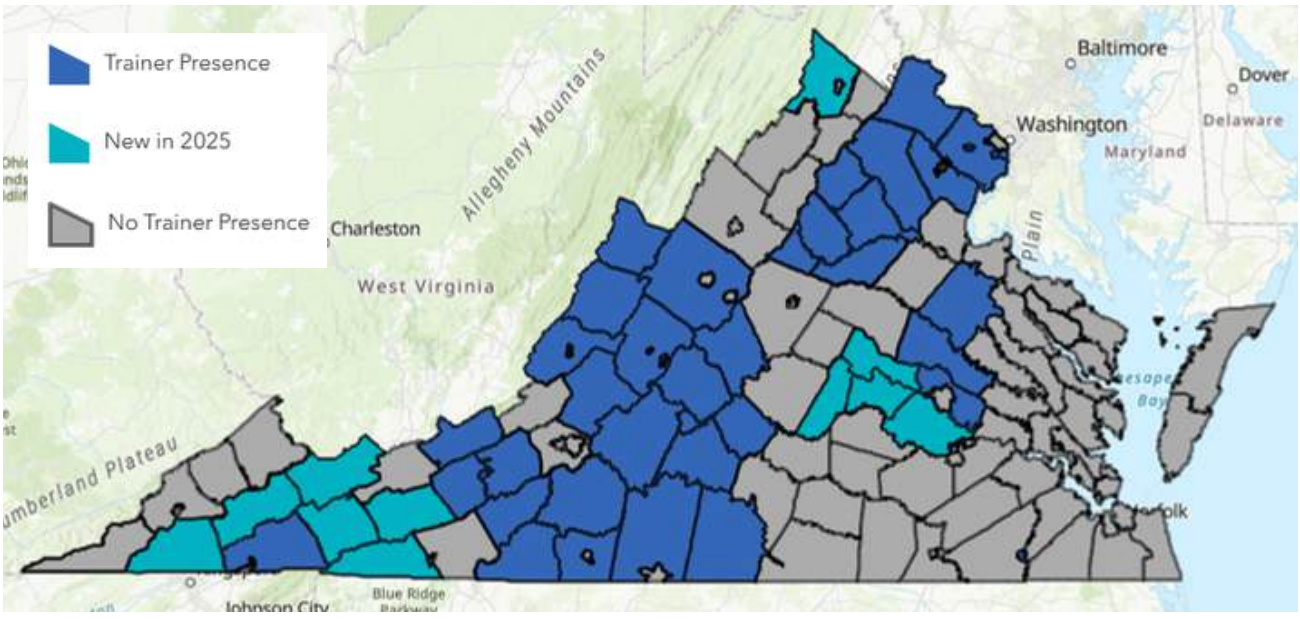
TRAINERS

9 New Trainers Certified

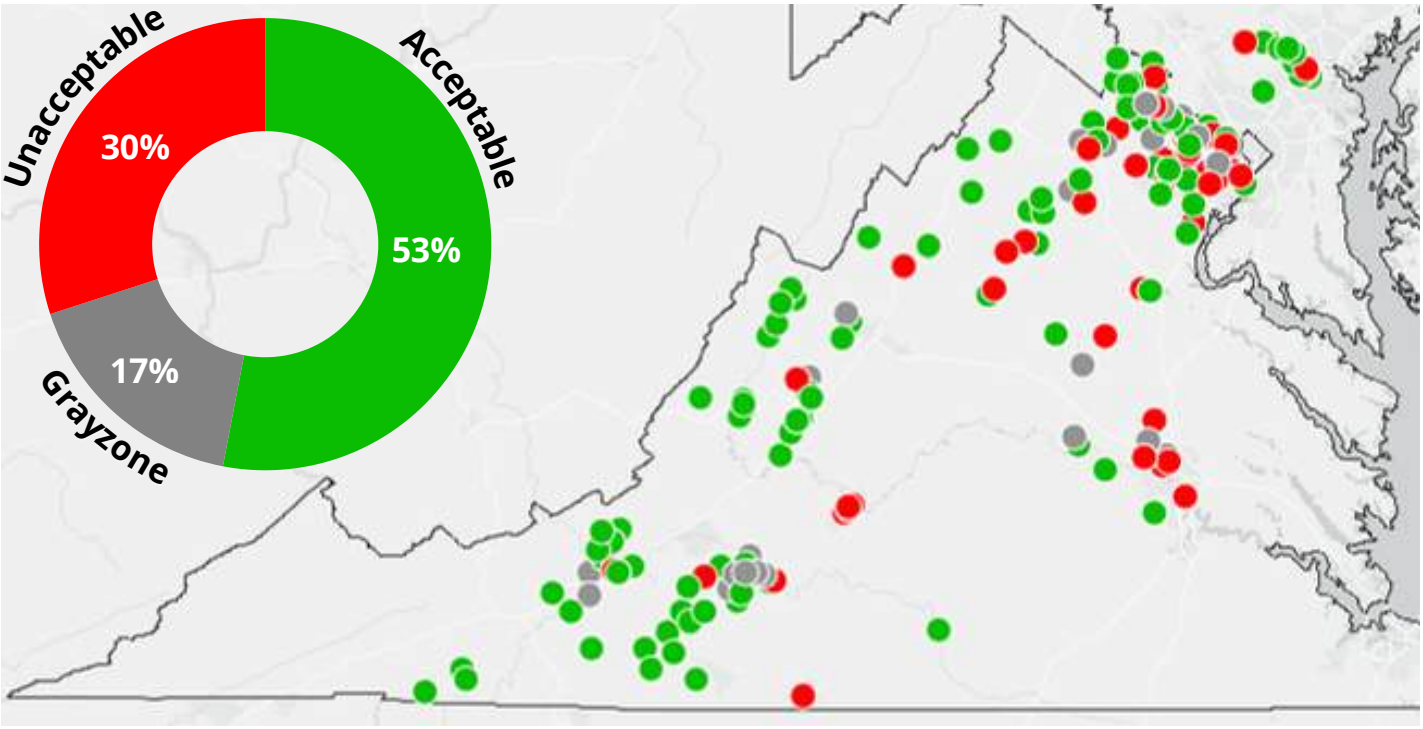
36 Trainings Held

40 Total Active Trainers

MAP OF TRAINER COVERAGE

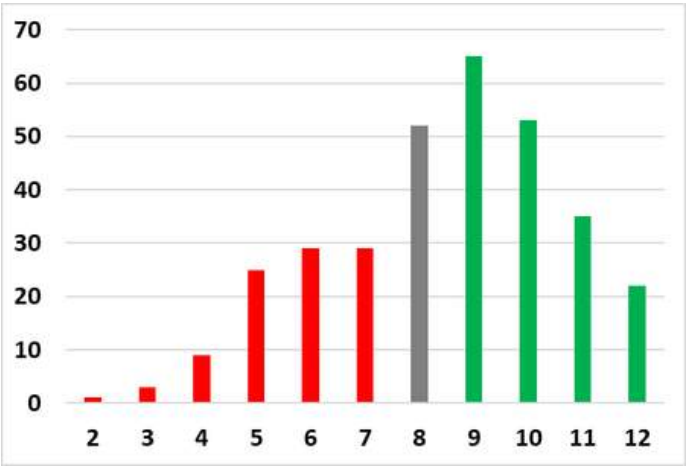


VIRGINIA SAVE OUR STREAMS



ROCKY BOTTOM STREAM SCORES

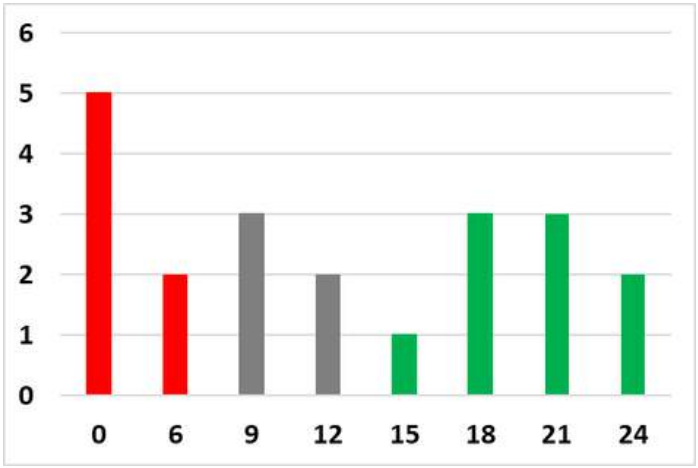
323 Approved Stream Health Surveys



Stream Health Score

MUDDY BOTTOM STREAM SCORES

21 Approved Stream Health Surveys



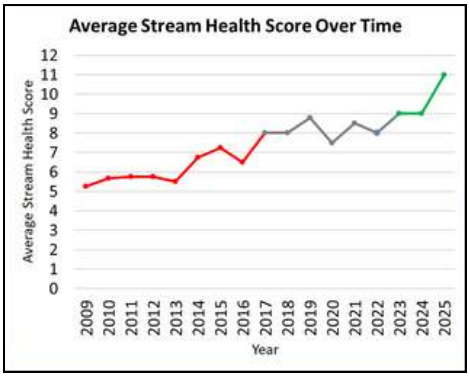
Stream Health Score

2025 IN FOCUS

NOTABLE HAPPENINGS IN VA SOS NEWS

STREAM HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AT GOLF COURSE SITE

An unnamed tributary of Indian Creek monitored by VA SOS volunteers with the Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Master Naturalists and the Smith Mountain Lake Association since 2009 received its highest ever score in Spring 2025. The volunteers developed a relationship with the golf course managers, who have been reducing fertilizer use and introducing grass strains that thrive without fertilizer. Read the whole story **on our blog.**




Ashley Palmer

VA SOS FEATURED IN CHES. BAY PROGRAM ARTICLE

In a February article titled **"Volunteers save our streams",** Marissa Baldine of the Chesapeake Bay Program highlighted the important work VA SOS volunteers do to protect local waterways.

VOLUNTEERS' EDUCATION EFFORTS HIGHLIGHTED

Steve McClintic, Jr. of the Smith Mountain Eagle detailed the work of Smith Mountain Lake Association VA SOS volunteers with local high school students in "**'Lake Days' gives students hands-on experience as future stewards of the environment."**


Maggie Dombroski

TAGGING ALONG WITH A VA SOS TEAM

Maryland writer Joy Tsao spent a day with VA SOS volunteers from the Greater Patapsco Community Association and **wrote about** what their monitoring results are revealing about the effects of increased development in the area.


Ashley Palmer

FUEL SPILL AT VA SOS SITE IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

In April, a tanker truck crashed into a bridge and dumped 2,600 gallons of fuel into Difficult Run just upstream of a VA SOS site monitored by Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District since 2008. Fortuitously, the site had been monitored just before the spill and was monitored again shortly after. The stream health score did drop from 9 (acceptable) to 7 (unacceptable), however, that is not outside the usual range for the stream. The score was back up to a 10 in Fall 2025 sampling. This highlights the importance of baseline monitoring to enable us to determine how pollution events impact stream health. Learn more **on our blog**.

VA SOS ADVOCACY WEBINAR

In August, we hosted a webinar during which 3 VA SOS monitors and 1 community partner shared how they've leveraged VA SOS monitoring data for education, community outreach, and environmental improvement in their local areas. They also shared strategies for other volunteers to do the same. The webinar had 66 attendees and the recording has received 97 views on **YouTube.**

VOLUNTEER SURVEY RESPONSES

When asked, "Is there an aspect of your water quality monitoring that you've found most encouraging or impactful?", our volunteers said...

The fact that the number of volunteers is growing in Northern Virginia, and the fact that many new volunteers are young.

I have been able to contact local officials when there are changes in my monitoring locations. These officials have then checked out the issues themselves and been able to follow up with nearby construction sites or businesses that may be causing harm.

Before I started monitoring there was a big "hole" in central VA where no monitoring seemed to be happening! I have helped fill that gap!

I never stop learning something new and get to share information with others.

Engaging my community in collecting and interpreting data

Both streams we monitor have slightly improved in the two years we've been monitoring them!

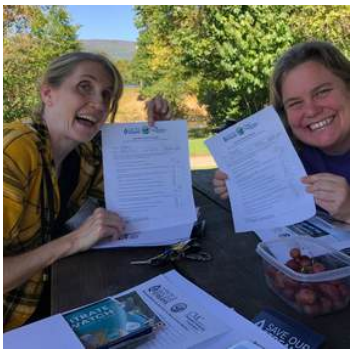
I just love the little macros. I think it's so fun looking for them

VA SOS VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

These VA SOS monitors were featured during our inaugural year of our blog series called **"Meet a Monitor"**..

NISHKA SHAH

Nishka is a high school student in Fairfax, VA who monitors with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. She is also a Youth Conservation Leadership Institute member, through which she's conducted projects on reducing fertilizer and fecal pollution and on how microbial communities affect macroinvertebrate diversity.



KARIN WARREN AND SARAH SOJKA

Karin and Sarah are professors of environmental studies at Randolph College in Lynchburg, VA who became certified as VA SOS Trainers in 2024. Along with their students, they are monitoring the impacts to Blackwater Creek after the recent removal of a large dam.

ERICA LYON AND CATHERINE PIERCE

Erica and Catherine are VA SOS, Salt Watch, and Nitrate Watch monitors in the Henrico County area with the Riverine Master Naturalists. Erica has been instrumental in tracking down and stopping a pollution problem at Jordan Branch. Catherine became a certified trainer this year and has been participating in DEQ public meetings for a watershed clean-up plan.

FRED BAILEY

Fred is a member and leader of the Arlington-Fairfax chapter of the Izaak Walton League. This year, he ran the chapter's first VA SOS monitoring event with help from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. He also uses SOS outreach materials to spread the word about water quality at community events.

THE CLEAN WATER HUB

The Clean Water Hub is the database used to store and visualize data reported by Izaak Walton League water quality monitoring volunteers. The Hub is designed not only to meet the data storage needs of League volunteers and other organizations doing water quality monitoring, but also to make data easy to understand and utilize in outreach and communication about water quality.

Since 2019, the League has driven the evolution and improvement of the Clean Water Hub, working to incorporate features that make it more useful and user-friendly. A few of the important updates made to the Hub in 2025 include:

- Updating All Sites, Salt Watch, Nitrate Watch, and VA SOS maps to allow users to filter map results by date, water source type (Salt Watch and Nitrate Watch), and protocol type (All Sites and VA SOS)
- Adding functionality to allow organization managers to edit the zoom and center point of embedded maps of their organization's Clean Water Hub data
- Making improvements to data forms to improve user interface and limit human error
- Fine-tuning VA SOS data forms and bulk uploader to facilitate smooth integration of VA SOS data into the Clean Water Hub
- Creating additional tutorials and troubleshooting resources for the **Clean Water Hub help pages**

To explore the data and start adding your own, **visit the Clean Water Hub**.

CLEAN WATER HUB STATS

as of January 2026

21,676
stations

68,752
samples

383
organizations

4,791
members

CREEK CRITTERS

The Creek Critters smartphone app continues to serve as an engaging macroinvertebrate monitoring resource for all audiences! In partnership with Nature Forward and with support from the Raines Family Foundation, the Izaak Walton League promotes this app as an entry point to biological monitoring and a field resource for macroinvertebrate identification. The app guides users step-by-step through the process of finding and identifying macroinvertebrates, automatically calculates a Stream Health Score based on the findings, and sends the data to the Clean Water Hub.

In 2025, the League promoted Creek Critters through social media posts, newsletters, tabling events, presentations, and an insert in each Salt Watch and Nitrate Watch kit sent to volunteers. Collectively, these outreach activities have made thousands of impressions! This year, we sent 1,610 Creek Critters postcards to League chapters for outreach events and distributed 213 postcards during Salt Watch events.

Thanks to these outreach efforts, the Creek Critters app engaged over 13,000 people and collected over 1,500 stream health reports throughout the country.

Click here to view Creek Critters data in the Clean Water Hub.

To learn more about the app, visit the **Creek Critters page** on our website.


Isabella North


Kaci Kielmar

CHESAPEAKE MONITORING COOPERATIVE

The **Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative** (CMC) unites leading organizations to deliver technical expertise, programmatic guidance, and outreach support that advance the integration of water quality monitoring data into the Chesapeake Bay Program and related restoration efforts. The Cooperative's shared vision is a Chesapeake community where all data of known quality inform effective watershed management and restoration decisions.

As a core partner, the Izaak Walton League of America strengthens volunteer monitoring across the watershed by coordinating and training individuals and organizations that collect Tier 1 and Tier 2 nontidal biological data. The League further supports the CMC through project coordination, data integration, and outreach efforts led by its Chesapeake Monitoring Outreach Coordinator. Together, CMC partners work to ensure that volunteer-generated data are scientifically credible, widely accessible, and meaningfully applied in local and regional decision-making.

Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative

CHESAPEAKE MONITORING COOPERATIVE

In 2025, the CMC continued advancing its mission by expanding community-driven monitoring efforts while strengthening the quality and usability of volunteer data. A major milestone was the completion of the Izaak Walton League's Salt Watch Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), which was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval. This achievement represents a significant step toward formally integrating crowdsourced chloride monitoring data into the CMC framework.

The CMC also celebrated its 10-year anniversary, marking a decade of collaboration and impact across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Throughout the year, the Cooperative reflected on key accomplishments and highlighted the partner organizations and volunteers whose dedication has made this work possible. In partnership with Queen Anne's County Television, the CMC produced a **short video documentary** commemorating its first decade of progress. The film captures the evolution of the Cooperative, the strength of its partnerships, and the powerful role volunteers play in advancing water quality science across the region.

CHESAPEAKE MONITORING COOPERATIVE

To further support volunteers and community members, the CMC developed 11 updated water monitoring **parameter fact sheets** covering: Bacteria, Benthic Macroinvertebrates, Chlorophyll, Conductivity, Dissolved Oxygen, Nitrogen, pH, Phosphorus, Salinity, Temperature, and Water Clarity & Turbidity. These revised resources use clearer language and straightforward explanations to make complex water quality concepts more accessible. Designed for a broad audience, the fact sheets empower volunteers, educators, and residents to better understand local waterways and the science behind monitoring efforts.

The CMC Data Explorer also continued to evolve in 2025, with significant enhancements to usability and cross-state integration. Building on earlier improvements, the Virginia and West Virginia Data Explorer homepages were updated with the latest features and more closely integrated with one another. These updates allow users to transition more seamlessly between state databases, improving the regional user experience and reinforcing the interconnected nature of watershed data.

THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful for the volunteers and donors that support the Izaak Walton League's Clean Water Program, contribute valuable data, and share the program with others!

We'd also like to extend a huge 'thank you' to the following organizations for their financial support of our programs in 2025:

- Aegon Transamerica Foundation
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
  - Chesapeake Bay Program
  - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Change Happens Foundation
- Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
  - City of Gaithersburg
  - City of Rockville
  - Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
- Fairfax Water
- Horne Family Foundation
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources REAP Conservation Education Program
- Izaak Walton League of America Endowment
- Raines Family Fund
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Wings2Water

GET INVOLVED!

Want to become an advocate for local streams? There are so many ways to get involved with the Clean Water Program, and anyone can volunteer! Find out how you can get involved in our different programs today:

- Save Our Streams: **iwla.org/sos**
- Salt Watch: **saltwatch.org**
- Nitrate Watch: **nitratewatch.org**
- Creek Critters: **iwla.org/creekcritters**
- Clean Water Hub: **cleanwaterhub.org**
- Virginia Save Our Streams: **VASOS.org**
- Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative: **chesapeakemonitoringcoop.org**

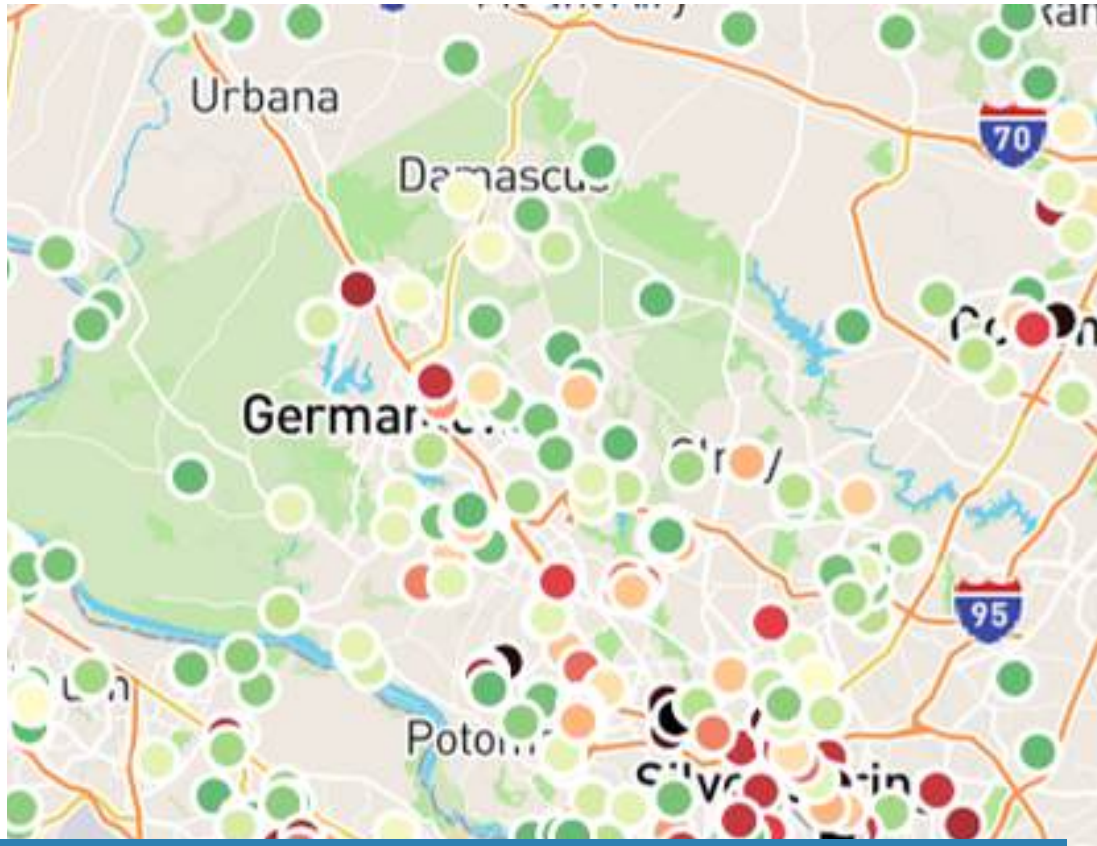
Follow us on social media to keep up with the latest SOS news and updates, and subscribe to our Stream Monitor newsletters at **iwla.org/water**.

Share your own success stories and lessons learned by tagging us on social media or emailing us directly. Drop us a line at **sos@iwla.org**.

@saveourstreams

@saveourstreamsIWLA

Karin Warren



SAVE OUR STREAMS®

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

iwla.org
sos@iwla.org