

# STORMWATER NEWS

## Winter Edition: Snow is Stormwater Too!



### PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION

Winter is here, and with colder temps comes snow and ice that we need to remove from our sidewalks and driveways. To make this chore easier, many of us use deicers, like salt, at our homes. However, these chemical deicers often have harmful impacts on aquatic life and the water quality of local streams and creeks. Here are some tips to reduce salt use and prevent pollution this winter:



- **Reduce your salt use!** More salt does not mean less ice. Use deicing products sparingly and follow the label instructions. Sweep up any remaining salt before it is washed away.
- **Shovel first.** Shoveling early will prevent ice from forming, reducing the amount of salt you will need to use.
- **Plant natives that are salt tolerant!** This spring, plant salt tolerant, native perennials where stormwater runoff from your driveway or sidewalks accumulates. Butterfly milkweed is a great example of a salt tolerant PA native plant!

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[www.perkiomenwatershed.org](http://www.perkiomenwatershed.org)

### SUPPORTING WILDLIFE THROUGH THE WINTER MONTHS

Colder temps and shorter days can make a lot of wildlife less active and harder for us to spot. However, many of our local critters will appreciate a helping hand during the chilly months. Here are some ways to help wildlife this winter:

- **Leave seedheads standing.** Seeds provide food for birds and small mammals and hollow stems are valuable shelter for insects. Wait until early spring to cut back seedheads and perennial tops.
- **Provide a water source.** During freezing temps, make sure to thaw bird baths and other water sources for wildlife to utilize.
- **Feed the birds.** Food can become difficult to find in the winter months, keep bird feeders clean and full to provide important energy sources during temperature extremes and migration periods.
- **Build a bird, bat or pollinator house.** Prep for spring by building and installing safe places for wildlife to raise their young. Cleanout existing houses to make way for incoming residents!

