

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

PROCLAMATION

Winter Salt Week: January 25 -31, 2026

Each winter in Minnesota, approximately **404,000 tons of chloride-containing salt** are applied to streets, sidewalks, and parking lots to keep people safe during icy conditions.

While salt plays an important role in winter safety, excess use causes long-term damage to our streets, sidewalks, vehicles, and buildings, and poses a serious threat to lakes, streams, groundwater, and drinking water. Just **one teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute five gallons of water**, and once salt enters our waterways, it does not break down – it continues to accumulate year after year.

Communities across Minnesota, including Columbia Heights, are learning that safety and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand. By using **smart salting practices** – such as applying the right amount at the right time, using new technologies, and by prioritizing training – public agencies and private businesses can reduce salt use by **30 to 70 percent** while still maintaining safe travel for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

An informed and engaged public plays a vital role in protecting our shared freshwater resources. Residents, property owners, contractors, and businesses can all take part by learning best practices for snow and ice control and advocating for responsible winter maintenance.

Now therefore, I, Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor of the City of Columbia Heights, do hereby proclaim **January 25–31, 2026, as Winter Salt Week** in Columbia Heights, and encourage all residents, businesses, and organizations to commit to smart salting practices that protect our water, our infrastructure, and the health of our community – today and for generations to come.

Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor
January 26, 2026