



Mayor's Proclamation

WHEREAS the City of Owatonna relies on deicing salt as part of its winter maintenance program to maintain safe and accessible roadways; and

WHEREAS all the salt applied to roadways ends up in our freshwater; and

WHEREAS chloride contamination from deicing salt has been found in lakes, streams, surface and ground water in Straight River and Cannon River watersheds and across the state; and

WHEREAS reducing overuse of deicing salt reduces damage to infrastructure and property, protects freshwater resources, and reduces harm to aquatic plants and animals; and

WHEREAS it is crucial to raise awareness among residents, businesses, and local government agencies about the responsible use of deicing salt to protect both public safety and the long-term health of our freshwater resources; and

WHEREAS Winter Salt Awareness Week provides an opportunity to educate our community about the responsible use of deicing salt, including environmental considerations and effective application methods; and

WHEREAS the residents of Owatonna can contribute to deicing salt pollution reduction efforts locally by learning about smart salting practices, engaging in safe winter driving, hiring trained service providers, and participating in the 'Low Salt, No Salt, Minnesota' program; and

WHEREAS the City is committed to promoting a sustainable approach to winter maintenance for the benefit of present and future generations.

NOW THEREFORE I, Matthew Jessop, Mayor of Owatonna, hereby proclaim January 27-31, 2025 as

WINTER SALT AWARENESS WEEK

The City of Owatonna urges all residents, businesses, and city departments to take part in activities and initiatives that promote the responsible use of deicing salt and encourage the adoption of winter maintenance strategies which maintain safety while reducing environmental harm.

Dated: January 21, 2025

By: _____

Matthew T. Jessop, Mayor