

S.218 An act relating to reducing chloride contamination of State waters

Bethany Sargent, Program Manager

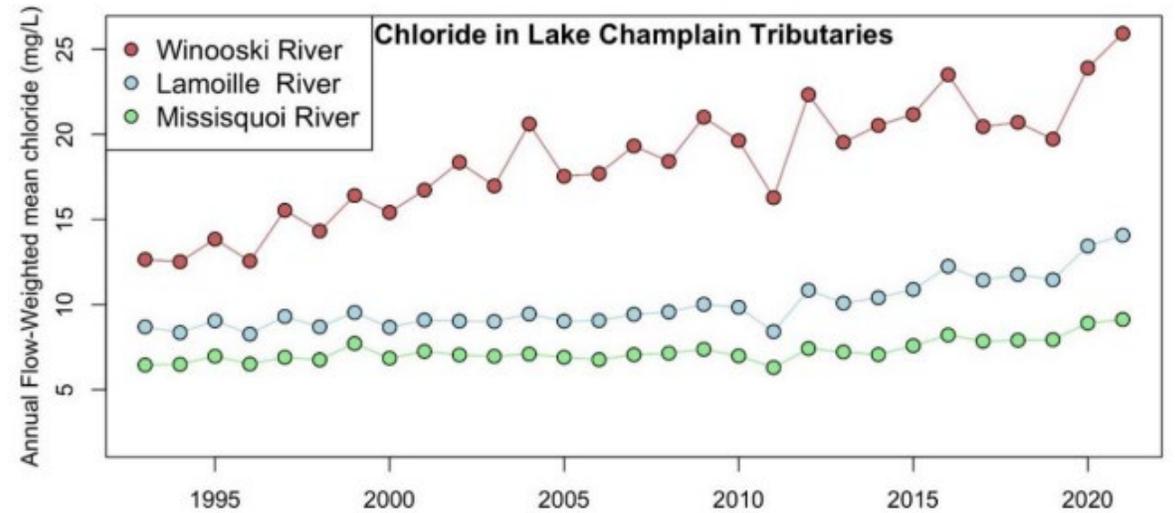
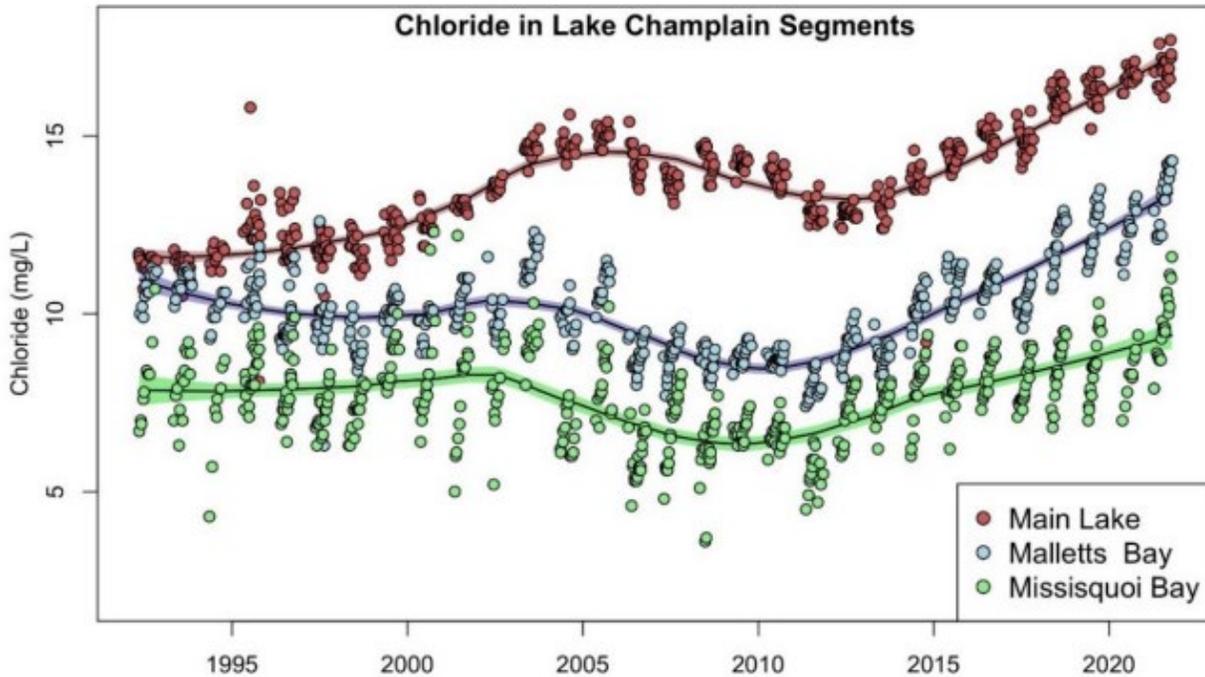
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

House Environment

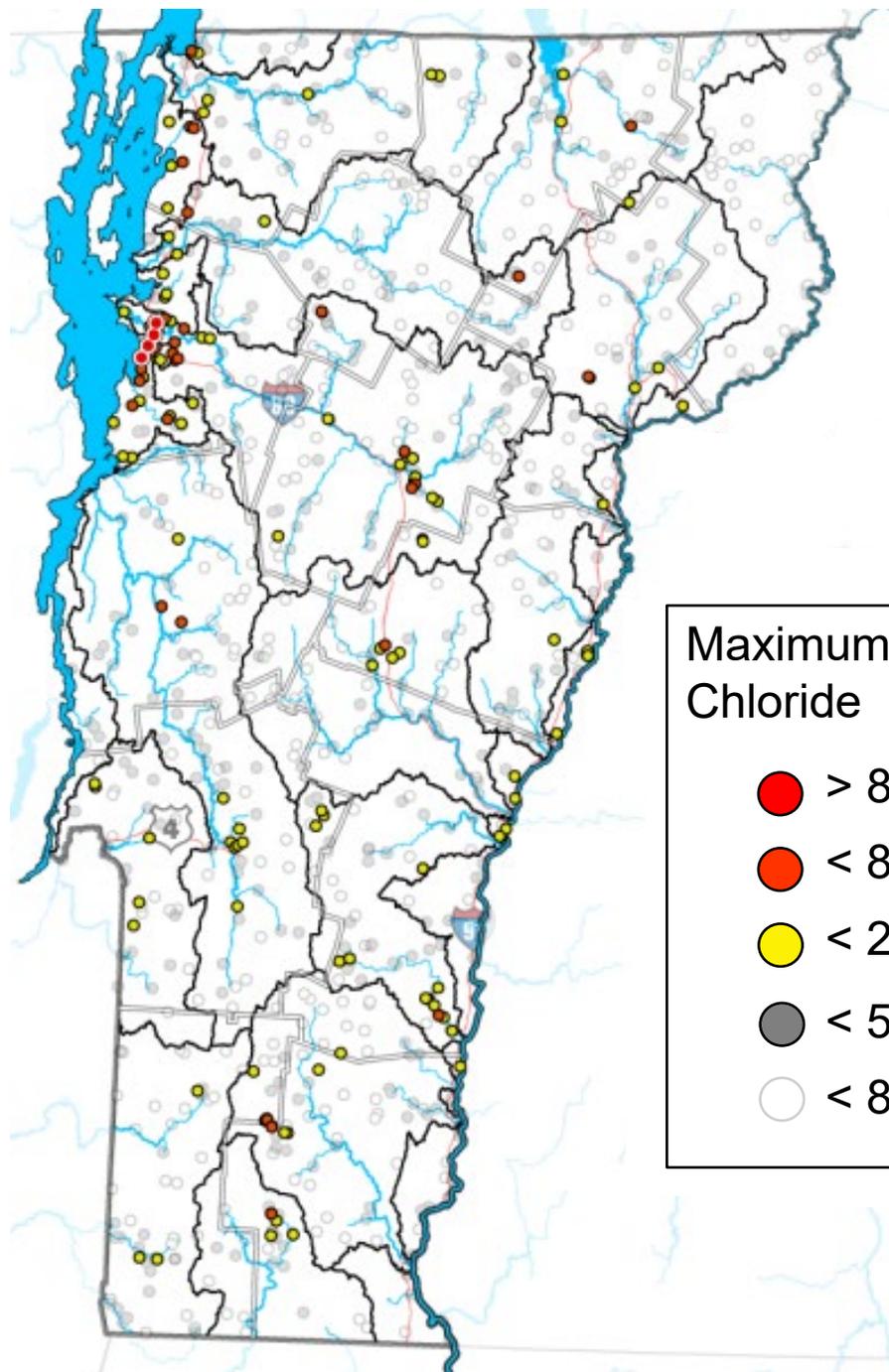
March 17, 2026

- Chloride concentrations are increasing in Vermont surface waters.
- In some streams, chloride is reaching concentrations toxic to aquatic life.
- De-icing salt is the most significant source of chloride.
- Optimizing use of de-icing salt is the solution.

Chloride Concentrations in Lake Champlain and its Tributaries



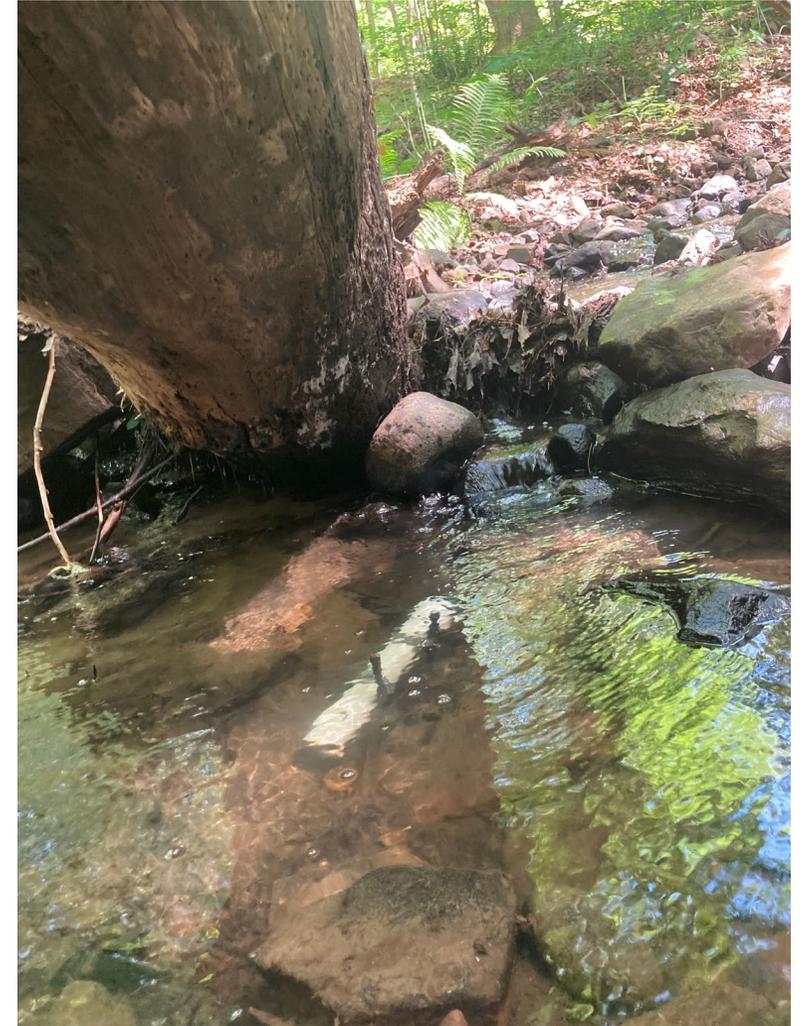
Chloride Concentrations in Streams



- **Acute: 860 mg/l** (as a one-hour average not to be exceeded every three years)
- **Chronic: 230 mg/l** (as a four-day average not to be exceeded every three years)
- Aquatic life may be negatively impacted at chloride concentrations as low as **50 mg/l**, especially when combined with other stressors.
- Forested watersheds are normally less than **10 mg/l** in Vermont.

Chloride Impaired Waters

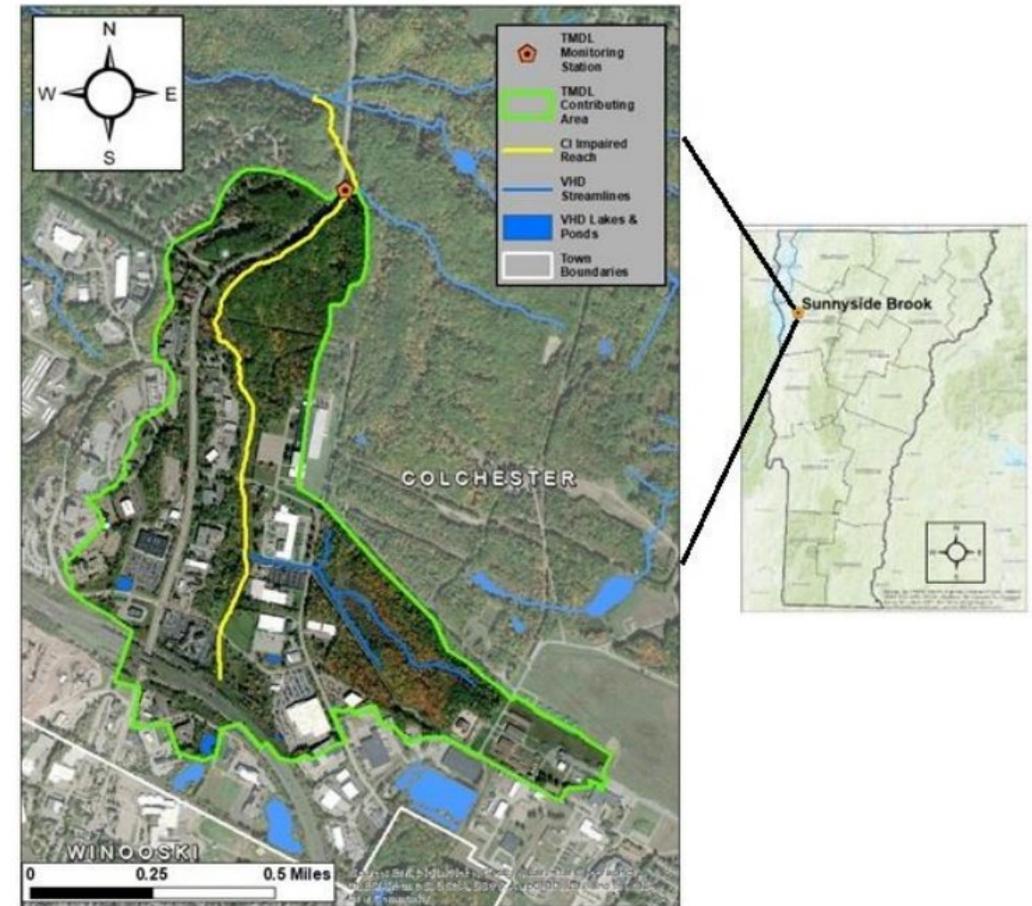
Stream	Year
Sunnyside Brook (Colchester)	2016
Muddy Brook Trib. (Williston)	2016
Potash Brook (South Burlington)	2020
Englesby Brook (Burlington)	2020
Centennial Brook (Burlington)	2020
Morehouse Brook (Winooski)	2024
Munroe Brook (Shelburne)	2024
Bartlett Brook (South Burlington)	2024
Stevens Brook (St. Albans)	2026



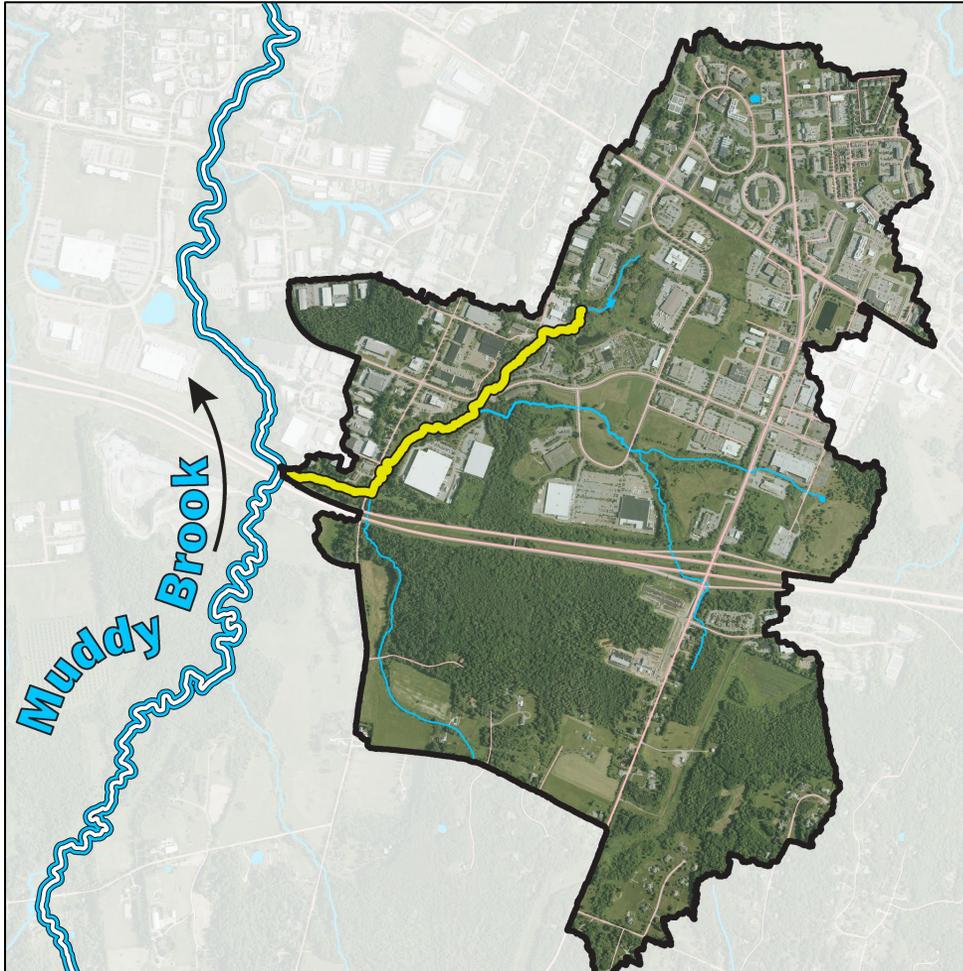
Continuous conductivity data logger in Morehouse Brook, Winooski

Chloride Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development

Stream	Year
Sunnyside Brook (Colchester)	2024
Potash Brook (South Burlington)	2026
Englesby Brook (Burlington)	2026
Muddy Brook Trib. (Williston)	2027-2028
Centennial Brook (Burlington)	2027-2028
Morehouse Brook (Winooski)	2027-2028
Munroe Brook (Shelburne)	2027-2028
Bartlett Brook (South Burlington)	2027-2028
Stevens Brook (St. Albans)	2027-2028



Reducing Chloride Contamination



Town of Colchester SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL PLAN



Developed by the Colchester Public Works Department
For the Town of Colchester
Updated and Adopted on January 23, 2024
By the:

COLCHESTER SELECTBOARD
Pam Loranger, Chair
Tom Mulcahy, Vice Chair
Jacki Murphy, Clerk
Charlie Papillo
Maureen Dakin

TOWN MANAGER
Aaron Frank

DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER
Renaë Marshall

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
Bryan K. Osborne

SENIOR OPERATIONS MANAGER
Randy Alemy

"Please Drive Safely"

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VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION



SNOW AND ICE CONTROL PLAN

FOR STATE AND INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS

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- Establishes a program for the voluntary education, training, and certification of commercial salt applicators, and, through the Local Roads Program, municipal salt applicators.
- Purpose is to optimize the use of salt and salt alternatives to ensure safe surfaces while reducing chloride contamination.
- Incentivizes participation through establishment of affirmative defense.
- Can be implemented by Agency staff, third-party vendor, or some combination.
- Implementation, except for state and municipal salt/sand storage report, is contingent on funding.

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- January 1, 2027
- Report on the management of municipal and state salt/sand storage.*
 - Solicit interest of third-party vendors for training and certifying commercial salt applicators.
 - Report on recommended fee to be charged for certification of commercial applicators and municipal salt applicators.
- July 1, 2027
- Adopt by administrative rule best management practices, program standards, and reporting requirements.
- November 1, 2027
- Incorporate into Local Roads program curriculum.