



Friends of Sligo Creek
P. O. Box 11572
Takoma Park, MD 20913

January 27, 2025

To: Daryl Braithwaite, Director, Department of Public Works, City of Takoma Park-
DaryB@takomaparkmd.gov

Dear Daryl:

I am writing to deliver a tough message on behalf of Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC).

We recognize that DPW is working tirelessly to improve safety and transport in bad weather, but your salt management approach is failing in its critical mission of environmental stewardship.

Our testing suggests that winter salt treatment in Takoma Park (as well as in other parts of Montgomery County and Prince George's County) is degrading the water quality of Sligo Creek. Following salt treatment in early January, toxic levels of chloride persisted in our creek for more than two weeks, and conductivity levels have been very elevated. We saw problems last year, but this year is worse.

Attached is a letter with additional details that we are sending to MCDOT and DEP in Montgomery County, Montgomery Parks, WSSC, DoE, DPW&T and PG Parks in Prince George's County, SHA and MDE. Not only is our salt challenge an intragovernmental matter, it is an intergovernmental matter involving many parties.

We strongly urge you to work closely with the other entities listed above in addressing the salt challenge, and have offered pragmatic suggestions in our letter. It has become evident that the various salt management plans in place are in fact hurting the environment. More fundamental changes in approach need to be taken before degradation of our fresh waterways is too great.

Sincerely,

Elaine Lamirande, President
Friends of Sligo Creek
president@fosc.org

cc:

Ian Chamberlain, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works, City of Takoma Park
IanC@takomaparkmd.gov
Dorothy Estrada, Sustainability Manager, DorothyE@takomaparkmd.gov