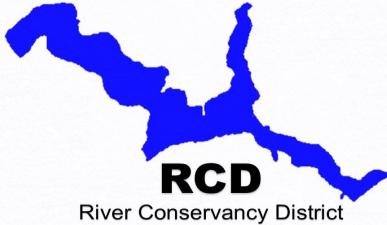


# LOST LAKE RCD - Lake Management

## LOST LAKE



RCD  
River Conservancy District

Winter 2024

### LCC PARKING LOT

We are excited to announce that the Lake Court Center parking lot improvements are now complete. Porter Brothers from Rock Falls worked with our engineer to ensure the best options for drainage. We have added the appropriate curbing 2 new handicap spots, & paving.

Thank you for your patience during this process, as we know it has not always been easy to navigate your way to the office or the building.

### LCC PLAYGROUND

The Lake Court Center playground received new mulch this summer. Thank you to Sauk Valley Lawn & Landscaping for cutting in a border around the playground, spreading the mulch, and adding new sand to our sandbox. We love seeing the littles enjoy our playground!

### OPEN COMMUNITY DAYS

Just a reminder that the Lake Court Center is OPEN to the Community at no charge during business hours, as long as the building is not rented.

Feel free to meet up with your neighbors in our beautiful meeting space to play games, read books, have a cup of coffee, or anything else you can dream up.

If you have a group that would like to meet regularly, please let us know so we can put you on our Calendar.

### WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

We are in the process of revitalizing our Watershed Partnership that focuses on improving the health of our lake. Joe Rush, our lake biologist, has met with our Board to offer guidance on how to reset and renew our watershed partnership. We will review the old plans to determine the best path forward.

If you have a passion for the health of our lake and would be interested in participating on this committee, please call our office.

THANK YOU TO THE **LOST LAKE FISHING CLUB** FOR DONATING TIME TO INSTALL RAMP ON OUR RENTAL DOCKS.

**Lost Lake RCD** (815) 652-2006  
**404 Lake Court** [lostlakercd.org](http://lostlakercd.org)  
**Dixon, IL 61021** M-F 9am-5pm

Getting slippery out there? We know that road salt can keep our streets safer, but it can have very harmful effects on our surrounding environment. Once washed off of sidewalks and roads, the salt makes its way to nearby rivers, oceans and/or groundwater supplies where it causes a significant change in salinity – interrupting an ecosystem's natural balance. Salty water is much harder for plants to absorb through their root systems and causes great stress on fresh water creatures like fish, amphibians and many invertebrates. A perfect solution has not been determined, but there are many natural alternatives to be explored. You can do your part by using some of these salt alternatives at home! Source: <https://northandoverma.news/2019/01/07/environment/>

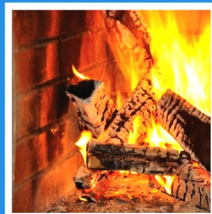
## Consider these ALTERNATIVES to Road Salt!



#### Sand

Many towns make sand readily available on street corners - take advantage of it! Sand is also sold in hardware stores and is inexpensive.

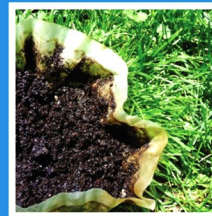
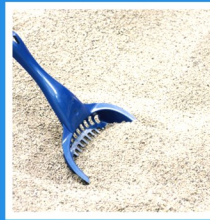
**Ashes**  
Wood ashes can increase traction, absorb moisture before it freezes, and are environmentally benign.



#### Sugar Beet

The sugary byproduct of processing sugar beets has a similar effect to salt - it lowers the melting point of ice. Commercially made mixtures are available.

**Kitty Litter**  
Kitty litter is designed to absorb moisture and will greatly increase traction on icy surfaces. Consider corn-based litter for less mess.



#### Coffee Grounds

Used coffee grounds increase traction, and their acidity helps melt ice or prevent it from freezing.

**Pickle Brine**  
Salty pickle brine contains less salt than road salt, but coupled with vinegar's acidity, the solution encourages melting.



If you can't eliminate salt from your winter routine, do your best to reduce the amount you use. Making a salt/water solution is a good alternative - you won't have to use as much, and you can guarantee an even spread on your sidewalk.