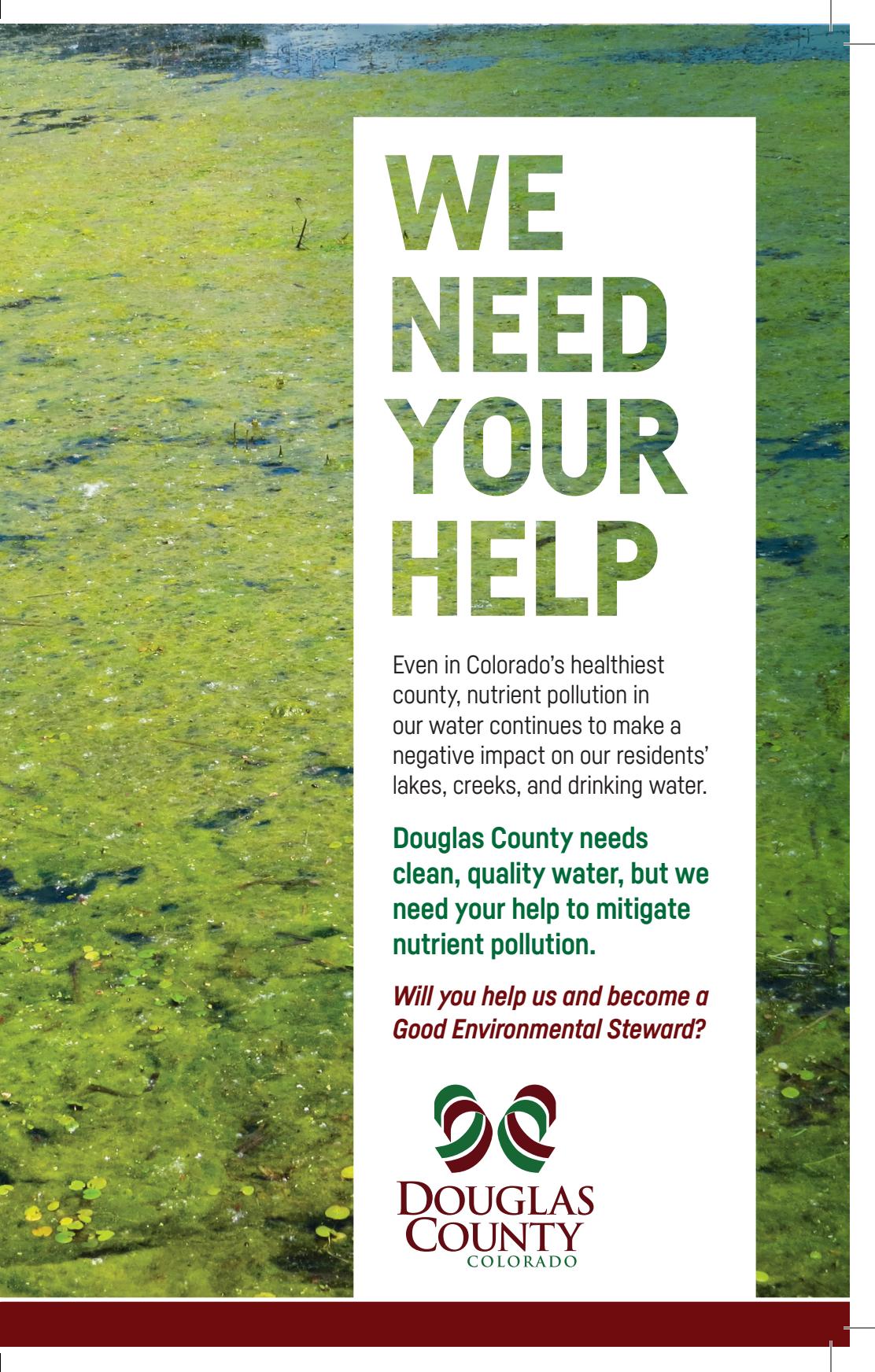




Will you help us maintain our reputation as the healthiest county in Colorado and utilize good practices to prevent nutrients from entering water courses and the storm sewer system?



WE
NEED
YOUR
HELP



Cooperative for
Local Environmental
Awareness & Responsibility

Our creeks, rivers & lakes depend on you.

Want to know more about what Douglas County is doing to prevent nutrient pollution in our water?

Visit [douglas.co.us/public works/stormwater](http://douglas.co.us/public-works/stormwater)



Even in Colorado's healthiest county, nutrient pollution in our water continues to make a negative impact on our residents' lakes, creeks, and drinking water.

Douglas County needs clean, quality water, but we need your help to mitigate nutrient pollution.

Will you help us and become a Good Environmental Steward?



WHAT IS NUTRIENT POLLUTION?

Nitrogen and phosphorus are natural nutrients in aquatic ecosystems. However, too much nitrogen and phosphorus in the water causes algae to grow faster than ecosystems can handle.

Too much algae:

- ▶ Harms water quality, food resources and habitats
- ▶ Decreases the oxygen that fish need to survive
- ▶ Kills large numbers of fish



DID YOU KNOW?

Phosphorus is considered the primary cause of problems in our waters, particularly in the Cherry Creek and Chatfield watersheds. It is one of the most troublesome pollutants in stormwater runoff, according to the EPA.



Large growths of algae are called algal blooms. Algal blooms can severely reduce or even eliminate oxygen in the water, leading to illnesses and death in large numbers of fish. Some algal blooms are harmful to humans and pets because they produce elevated toxins and bacterial growth. When humans and pets encounter the polluted water, it can make them sick.



HOW DOES NUTRIENT POLLUTION HAPPEN?



Nutrient-rich fertilizers are applied to the land

Landscape waste is discarded within the stormwater drainage system

The landscape waste decomposes

Severely low-dissolved oxygen levels in creeks can cause fish to die

The creek fills with nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus

When algae blooms, it results in low levels of dissolved oxygen



HOW CAN YOU HELP PREVENT NUTRIENT POLLUTION?

Use Phosphorus-Free Fertilizer

Avoid applying fertilizer close to waterways

Do not over-irrigate

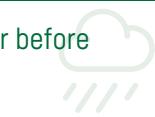
Fill fertilizer spreaders on a hard surface so that any spills can be easily cleaned up

Maintain lawn mowers, leaf vacuums, and similar power equipment to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions

Apply fertilizers only when necessary and at the recommended amount



Don't apply fertilizer before windy or rainy days



Properly dispose of empty containers

