

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?



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/publicworks/stormwater



WE NEED YOUR HELP

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.

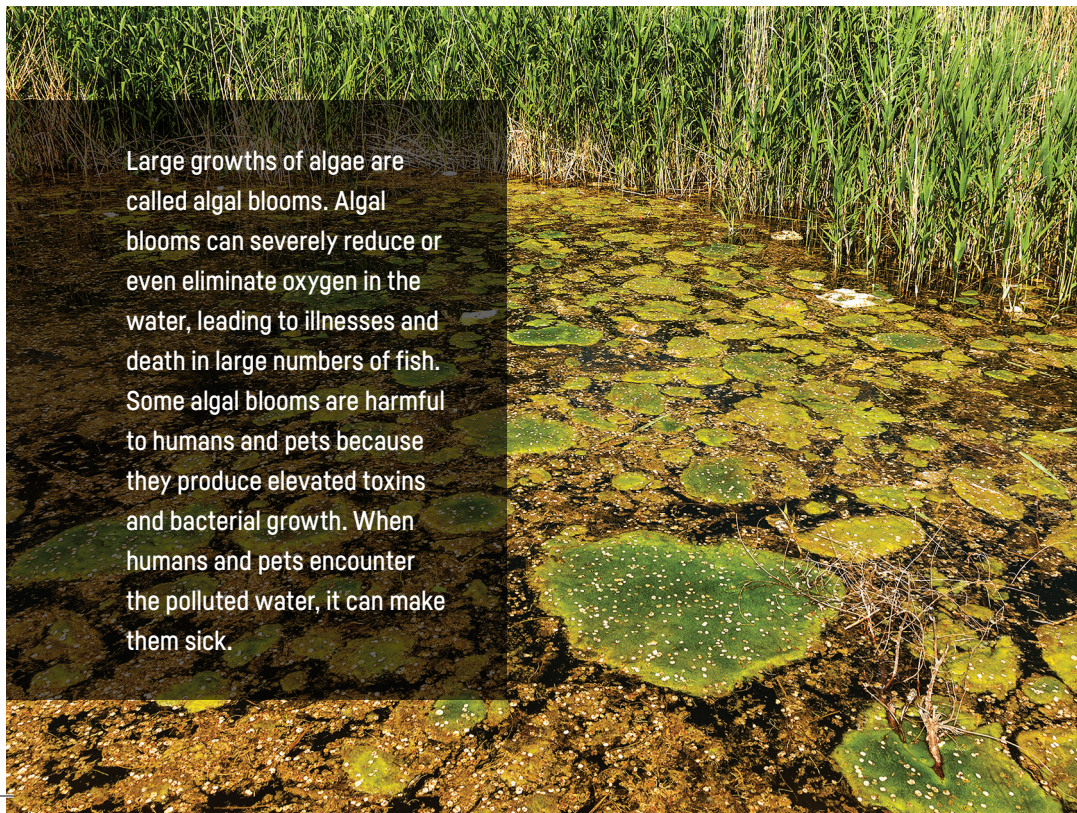
Too much algae:

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



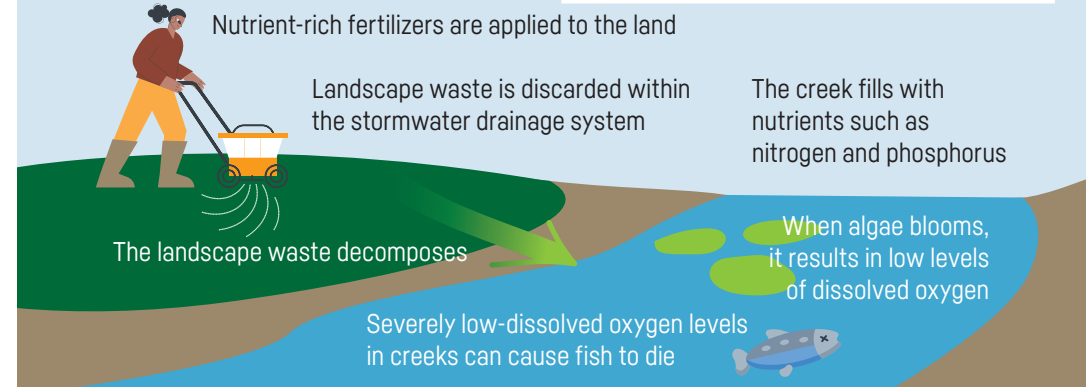
DID YOU KNOW?

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?



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

Properly store unused fertilizers

