

# 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?***



**DOUGLAS  
COUNTY**  
COLORADO

## 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

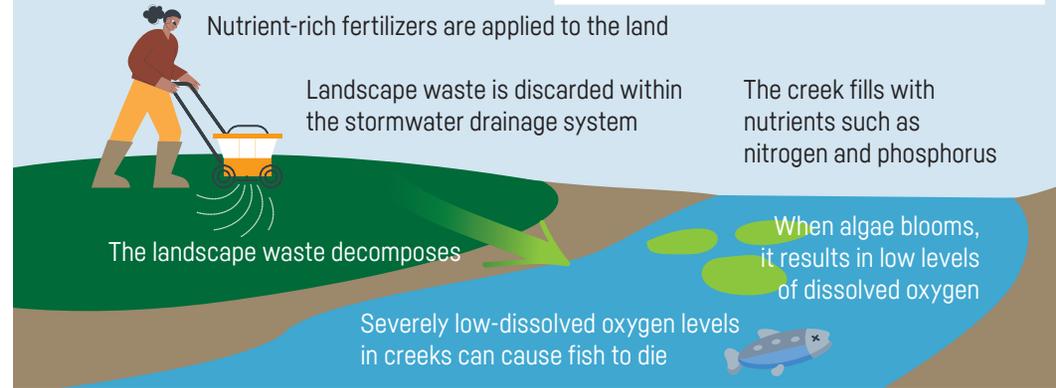


## DID YOU KNOW?

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.



## HOW DOES NUTRIENT POLLUTION HAPPEN?



## HOW CAN YOU HELP PREVENT NUTRIENT POLLUTION?

Apply fertilizers only when necessary and at the recommended amount



Apply fertilizer as close as possible to the period of maximum uptake and growth for grass and other plants

Don't apply fertilizer before windy or rainy days



Avoid applying fertilizer close to waterways

Do not over-irrigate

Properly dispose of empty containers

Properly store unused fertilizers

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.



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





**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?**

- ▶ More information: [epa.gov/nutrientpollution/effects-environment](https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/effects-environment)
- ▶ Questions? Contact Ryan Adrian, Environmental Program Manager at **303-660-7490**.
- ▶ Report any spills or water quality concerns to Douglas County Stormwater: [stormwater@douglas.co.us](mailto:stormwater@douglas.co.us).

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

Visit [douglas.co.us/water/stormwater](https://douglas.co.us/water/stormwater)



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