



Get to know a King County

Stream Scientist

We work to make rivers and streams safe and healthy for people, fish, and wildlife.



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

King County stream scientists test for pollution, monitor how water quality changes over time, and examine how streams are affected by development, agriculture, and climate. We also help identify pollution sources, reduce human impacts, and guide community planning and environmental protection efforts. The data we work with are typically related to water chemistry (temperature, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, pH); bacteria in streams and stormwater drainages; and chemicals from stormwater runoff.

A typical week for a Stream Scientist might include:

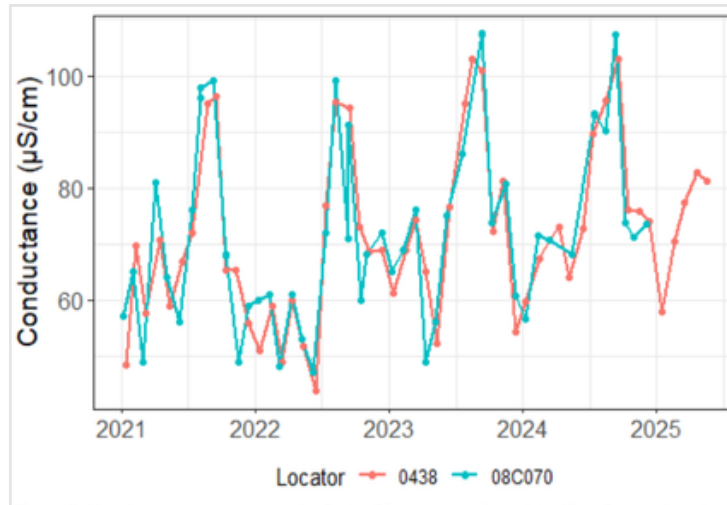
Fieldwork (1-2 days)

Collect water samples and measure temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen



Data analysis (2 days)

Review sample results and use software like Excel or R to track trends or changes in water quality over time



Communications (1-2 days)

Report findings, create public materials, and plan and coordinate with colleagues





Becoming a King County Stream Scientist



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Areas of study

Stream scientists often have degrees in fields like:

- General biology
- Environmental science
- Hydrology
- Natural resources

Compensation

Early career King County Stream Scientists typically earn **\$38-\$49 per hour**.

Benefits for King County employees may include medical, dental, and vision, plus ways to save for the future through pension and savings plans.



Stand out on applications

Experience with these may help you get internships or jobs in stream science.

Field equipment:

- Multiparameter meter (YSI, Hydrolab)
- Flow meter
- R-Cards for bacteria monitoring

Software:

- R and R Studio
- GIS software (ArcGIS or QGIS)
- Microsoft Office applications

Learn more our work:
kingcounty.gov/EnvironmentalScience

Search these terms to see similar jobs:

water quality; environmental scientist; aquatic scientist; stream ecologist; hydrologist

Questions? Email us!
science@kingcounty.gov