

Elizabeth Smith: KDHE Environmental Scientist (Technical Services Section)

Elizabeth Smith was hired by KDHE's Bureau of Environmental Field Services in 2005 to help establish the Probabilistic Stream Monitoring Program, and in 2010 she became program manager. Her time is divided about equally among the field, the office, and the laboratory. The goal of the program is to provide an integrated and unbiased baseline assessment of water quality for Kansas streams and rivers, based on chemistry, aquatic life, and habitat.

Elizabeth received her BS in Biological Sciences and her PhD in Entomology from the University of Kansas; she has done entomology research in Costa Rica and Mexico as well as in the US. While at KU, Elizabeth worked for several years at the Kansas Biological Survey, doing stream survey work and research; this is what led to her interest in aquatic ecology and her position at KDHE. Elizabeth is a fifth-generation Kansan and makes her home in Lawrence, where she lives with her 18-month old son, an unruly vegetable garden, and an aquarium full of native Kansas fish.