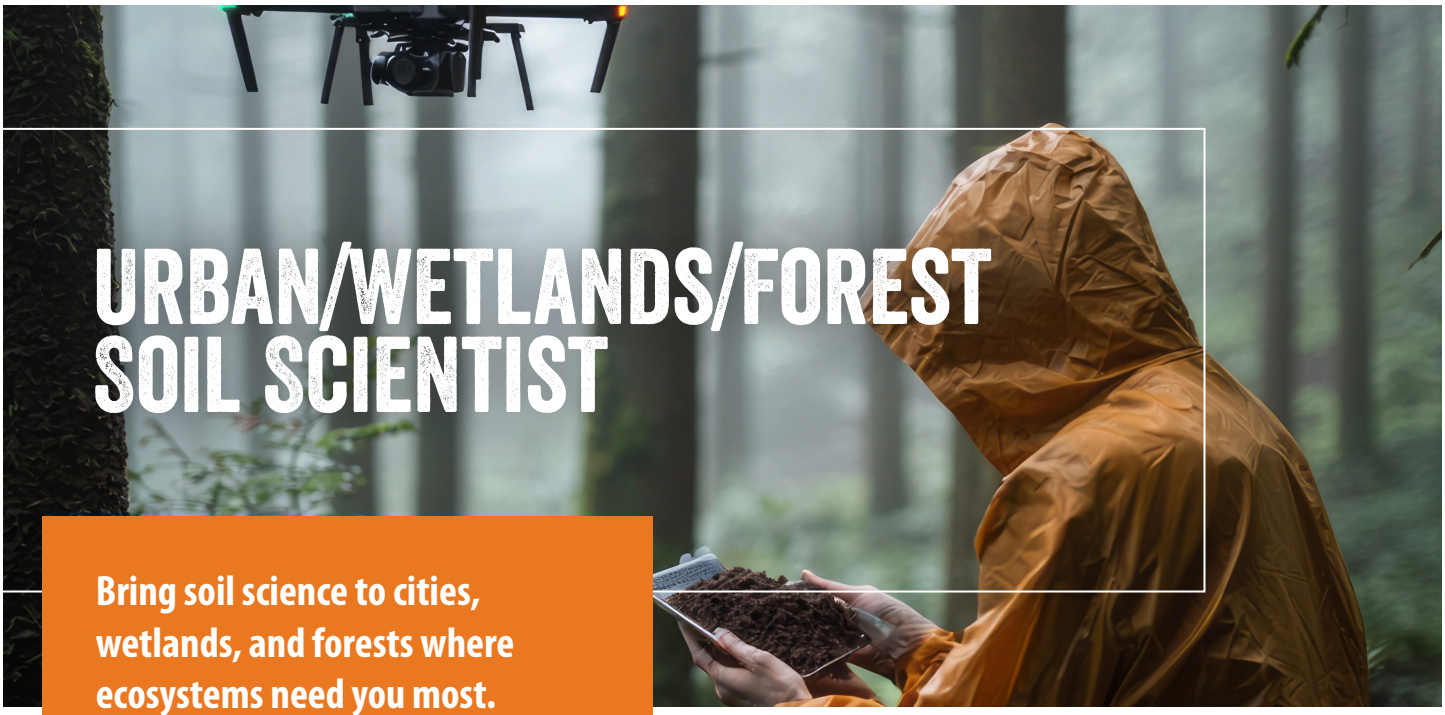
CAREER PROFILE



URBAN/WETLANDS/FOREST SOIL SCIENTIST

Bring soil science to cities, wetlands, and forests where ecosystems need you most.

WHAT IT IS

Imagine using soil science to fix problems in cities, wetlands, and forests. Urban, wetlands, and forest soil scientists do just that—designing green spaces that manage stormwater, restoring wetlands, studying forest soils, and cleaning up contaminated sites to protect people, wildlife, and the environment, helping to build a sustainable future.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

As an urban, wetlands, or forest soil scientist, your work blends fieldwork, lab analysis, and collaboration. Your day might include:

- Surveying urban soils for green infrastructure projects
- Collecting wetland samples and assessing hydrology
- Mapping forest soil types and analyzing forest soil health
- Testing contaminated soils for pollutants and designing remediation plans
- Building bioswales, rain gardens, and constructed wetlands
- Writing environmental assessments and technical reports
- Collaborating with planners, engineers, and ecologists
- Visiting sites ranging from downtown parks to remote wetlands

URBAN WETLANDS/FOREST/SOIL SCIENTIST

CAREER PROFILE

READY FOR SUCCESS

Your success starts with curiosity about soils, water, and ecosystems. By building a strong foundation in soil science, hydrology, ecology, and environmental science, you really learn how the natural world works. Develop problem-solving skills, systems thinking, and the ability to communicate findings to engineers, planners, and the public. Be comfortable outdoors in varied terrain and weather. Flexibility and attention to detail are essential across urban, wetland, and forest environments.

Mentors, field experience, and internships will accelerate your learning and give you a real-world perspective on ecosystem restoration.

EDUCATION REQUIRED

This career is rooted in soil science, hydrology, and ecosystem management. **Most urban, wetlands, and forest soil scientists earn a bachelor's degree in:**

- **Soil Science**
- **Environmental Science**
- **Ecology**
- **Forestry**
- **Natural Resources**

Advanced or specialized positions often require a master's degree. Coursework emphasizes soil morphology, hydrology, wetland delineation, forest ecology, and environmental assessment. Certifications, such as Professional Soil Scientist or Wetland Delineator, are valuable. Hands-on field experience through internships is essential.

GETTING STARTED

Excel in biology, chemistry, earth science, environmental science. Seek internships with NRCS, Soil Water Conservation Districts, consulting firms, or conservation organizations. Join soil and land judging teams. Volunteer for wetland or forest restoration. Research universities with strong environmental soil science programs. Take wetland ecology, urban forestry, environmental assessment courses. Be curious!

GROW BY **6%** UNTIL 2034

JOB OUTLOOK

Demand for urban/wetland/forest soil scientists is expected to grow 6% through 2032, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

EARN UP TO **$100K**

AVERAGE SALARY

Pay is based on experience, with entry-level earning about $55,000 and experienced professionals with higher degrees earning $100,000 or more annually.