King County monitors water quality in Thornton Creek at station 0434, which is located one block south of Matthews Beach. Monitoring at this station began in 1971 and continues today. The Thornton Creek basin encompasses 7,402 heavily developed acres. The creek flows 15 miles and drains into Lake Washington at Matthews Beach Park. Water quality issues have resulted from rapid urbanization in the basin. The creek is on the Washington State Department of Ecology’s 303(d) list, Category 5, for violations of dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform bacteria, and temperature standards.

Annual Water Quality Index Scores
Water quality was POOR based on data collected 10/1/2017 to 9/30/2018.

Monthly Scores For Water Year 2018

About The Water Quality Index:
The Water Quality Index (WQI) score is a unit-less number ranging from 10 to 100: the higher the number, the higher the water quality. Scores are calculated from data collected during the monthly routine sampling. For temperature, pH, fecal coliform bacteria, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen, the index expresses results relative to levels required to maintain beneficial uses according to criteria in Washington’s Water Quality Standards, WAC 173-201A. For nutrient and sediment measures where there are no standard, results are expressed relative to guidelines for this eco-region. Results from the eight parameters are aggregated over time to produce a single score for each sample station. In general, stations scoring 80 and above did not fail water quality standards or guidelines and are of "low concern", scores 40 to 80 indicate "moderate concern", and water quality at stations with scores below 40 are of "high concern". For more information about the WQI please visit https://green2.kingcounty.gov/streamsdata/WQI.aspx

For more information about this creek please visit our website at http://green.kingcounty.gov/WLR/Waterres/StreamsData/streamlist.aspx