CRN 61779
Department of Urban and Regional Planning
Monday and Wednesday
2:00 pm–3:20 pm
Temple Buell Hall, Room 223

Bev Wilson, Instructor

Workshop Course: 4 Credit Hours

Who Should Take the Course
• Are you interested in learning more about the intersection of planning and development (both community and economic) outside the urban context?
• Have you wondered how planners can help small towns and rural communities respond to the challenges they face? Are you ready to apply your skills and training outside the classroom and beyond the boundaries of Champaign-Urbana?

Course Overview
• Through partnerships with communities, students will apply concepts and skills from prior courses and work extensively in teams. Projects that students may choose to work on include: local food systems inventory and needs assessment in Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties; bicycle and pedestrian planning in Hanna City; green disaster recovery in Washington; capital improvement planning in Farmington; and site selection analysis for a regional food hub in southern Illinois. Students from disciplines other than Urban & Regional Planning are welcome!

What You Will Do
• Interact with local elected officials, community leaders, and residents (2-3 field trips on Fridays);
• Work with community leaders and U of I Extension staff to define the project scope and identify specific deliverables;
• Work with your team and the instructor to develop a strategy and a set of milestones for completing the project;
• Collect and analyze data to serve as a fact base;
• Conduct interviews with stakeholders;
• Produce a final report (or other deliverables) that meets the requirements established during the scoping phase;
• Present your findings and recommendations to the community.

The Instructor
Bev Wilson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science from Duke University as well as Masters and Ph.D. degrees in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has served as a consultant on rural development issues and has worked closely with U of I Extension to develop this workshop.
Students will self-organize into teams and work on one of the following projects:

**Local Foods Stakeholder Inventory & Needs Assessment**

**What:** Work with University of Illinois Extension staff, Master Gardeners, Monroe County Farmers’ Market participants, the Monroe County Economic Development Council local food systems committee, Monroe County Farm Bureau, local restaurants, growers, and retail outlets such as grocery stores to assess resources and needs.

**Where:** Madison, Monroe, St. Clair counties

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**Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning**

**What:** Create a strategic plan for developing bicycle and walking trails that builds on a recent survey.

**Where:** Hanna City, IL

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**Green Disaster Recovery**

**What:** Develop a strategic plan for incorporating green infrastructure into post-tornado recovery efforts.

**Where:** Washington, IL

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**Capital Improvements Planning**

**What:** Create a capital improvements plan to support goals identified in the earlier planning process and that addresses recently annexed land.

**Where:** Farmington, IL

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**Regional Food Hub**

**What:** Conduct an analysis to identify candidate sites for a regional food aggregation and value added processing center.

**Where:** Southern Illinois (Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski, Union counties)