

UP 456 Sustainable Planning Workshop
Conservation Vision for the Sangamon River Corridor – Mahomet to Allerton Park
Course Syllabus

Contact Information & Communication

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Office hours are by appointment only, but I will make every effort to meet with students as needed.

Email messages are preferred over phone calls unless there is an emergency or the call was pre-arranged.

Workshop Description

The class meets Monday & Wednesday, 10:30-11:50. There will be at least one fieldtrip to a site near Monticello.

The class will be divided into 3 groups with skills of students (GIS, etc.) evenly distributed, but interests may be concentrated, e.g., recreational vs. ecological interests. Each of the groups will function as a consulting firm working on the same project, with the end product being dependent on the interests of the group, including recreation, as an example.

The client is the Land Conservation Foundation (LCF), an east-central Illinois land trust. The website address is <http://www.landconservationfoundation.org>. LCFs current focus is on protecting the Sangamon River floodplain forest from Lodge Park to Allerton Park.

The task of these consulting groups is to gain an understanding of the various roles, benefits and possible consequences of corridors and the state policies and planning efforts to address corridors. We will then explore the Sangamon River and its characteristics and resources before exploring the LCF vision for this river, as well as other of stakeholders in the river corridor in Champaign and Piatt counties. Each group will prepare a written report describing this information for the client. During this process, we will also be identifying data sources for the Sangamon River to be used in the final stage of the project – development of a map that shows the river and its resources, as well as the vision of LCF and others if possible. Class presentations will be made throughout the semester.

Class Topics & Assignments

The report to the client, will be done in three sections with presentations for each: topics 1 & 2 in the first; topic 3 in the second, 4 in the third, and the conservation vision map in the fourth. Lastly, each consulting group will give a presentation to the client at the end of the semester.

1. Begin with readings on the broader topic of creating sustainable natural systems – corridors & their roles, pro and con, climate change, fragmentation, assisted migration, etc.
2. State Policies & Planning – become aware of the leading natural resource planning and policies in Illinois: Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, INAI, Resource Rich Areas, etc. Bring in examples from other states if students are aware of ones that apply.

Other topics: role of land trusts now; difference between watershed planning and corridor planning; and the issues related to identifying land ownership on any vision map.

Assignment: Research items 1 & 2 and prepare report – presentation to the group.

3. Sangamon River – Focus on the river from north of Mahomet in Champaign County to Allerton Park in Piatt County.
 - a. Description-data gathering – species, aquatic & terrestrial, INAI sites, etc.
 - b. Mahomet Aquifer
 - c. Land use/land cover

Assignment: Gather background and data for the Sangamon River to use in preparing the map, prepare report – presentation to the group.

4. Visions for the Sangamon River of Various Stakeholders
 - a. LCF Vision
 - i. Sangamon River Corridor Reserve description
 - ii. Meet with the Land Acquisition & Stewardship Committee/President
 - b. Visions of others, possibly the USRC, Monticello, Allerton Park, Champaign Country Forest Preserve District, Piatt County Conservation District.

Assignment: Prepare a report that includes a description of the various stakeholders and their vision of this corridor, including interviews, where possible.

5. Create a map showing the river corridor and its resources, the recreational and ecological vision, particularly the LCF long term vision.

Final Workshop Products

1. Written report
 - a. Corridors & Sustainability (Class Topics #1 & 2)
Report & Class Presentation Due October 2
Grade: Report 15% - Class Presentation 5%
 - b. Sangamon River
 - i. Resources & characteristics (Class Topic #3)
Report & Class Presentations Due October 25
Grade: Report 15% - Class Presentation 5%
 - ii. Key stakeholders & their visions (Class Topic #4)
Report & Class Presentations Due November 15
Grade: Report 15% - Class Presentation 5%
2. Conservation Vision Map – showing where the high-quality resources are; the connections become obvious (without showing land ownership, particularly in the upland area); the vision, particularly of LCF must be a component. (Class Topic #5)
Class Presentations Due December 11
Grade: Report 15% - Class Presentation 5%
3. Presentation to the client (tentative)
Presentations December 13
Grade: 15%
4. Class Participation
Grade 5%

Course Materials

Illinois Sustainable Natural Areas Vision

Available online and as a link. Two copies will be made available at each class.

http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/files/9513/3907/5663/SNAV_Final.pdf

Articles will be assigned prior to each class.

Report Formatting & Grading

Report Formatting

In class on 9-13, the question of how each report should be formatted. Here are the details:

Font: Times Roman

Type size: 12-point

Line spacing: 1.15

Page #s: Include at the bottom, centered

Grading

The following is how grades will be calculated:

<u>%s</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Assignment/Activity</u>
5%	25	9-6 Class Presentations on Corridors
5%	25	9-27 Sangamon River class presentation
10%	50	9-27 1 st written report – Corridors & Conservation Policies & Plans
5%	25	10-4 Discussion of each other's 1 st reports
10%	50	10-23 2 nd written report – Sangamon River & LCF
10%	50	11-13 3 rd written report – Stakeholders
5%	25	Date TBD Interim mapping/data class discussion or presentation
15%	75	12-11 4 th written report – Text for the map
15%	75	12-13 Conservation Vision map
15%	75	12-13 Final class presentations
<u>5%</u>	<u>25</u>	Class participation – full semester
100%	500	Totals

Class Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken and will contribute to your participation grade. Please provide verification from McKinley Health Center or the Office of the Emergency Dean for an extended illness and other issues that causes a prolonged absence. Up to two excused absences will not cause a loss of points. More than 5 absences will result in a zero for attendance and participation, which is worth 10% of your grade.

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center is committed to providing a range of services intended to help students develop improved coping skills in order to address emotional, interpersonal, and academic concerns. The Counseling Center provides individual, couples, and group counseling. All of these services are paid for through the health services fee. The Counseling Center offers primarily short-term counseling, but they do also provide referrals to the community when students could benefit from longer term services. Go to the Counseling Center website: <https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/>.