

Alyssa Schaeffer

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EDUCATION

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

M.S., Urban and Regional Planning

Anticipated May 2023

Concentrations: Housing and Community Development, Geographic Information Systems

GPA: 3.97

B.S.E., Environmental Engineering

May 2021

Sustainability Certificate, Graduated with Honors

GPA: 3.74

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Team Member

August 2022 – Present

Sustainable Communities Lab Capstone, “Clinton, Iowa Housing Needs & Strategies”

School of Planning and Public Affairs, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

- Evaluating Clinton’s current housing options and determining how the city can meet housing needs alongside changing population demographics
- Illustrate characteristics of Clinton’s current housing and housing needs using ArcGIS mapping
- Facilitate community engagement activities to gain stakeholder insight into housing needs in Clinton
- Producing a professional final report that will be submitted to the City of Clinton in May 2023

Planning Intern

August 2021 – Present

Campus Planning and Development, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

- Design and produce each college’s unit plan to assist in the university’s master planning process
- Curate the Campus Planning website to educate students, staff, and visitors about the various planning processes and the history of campus planning
- Perform tasks for planning projects including updating photos and documents for signage changes across campus, assisting with public participation activities, and enhancing the launch of a coworking space

AmeriCorps Local Food Recovery Specialist

May 2022 – October 2022

Table to Table, Iowa City, IA

- Refined the Free Produce Stand program by consulting with community partners to alleviate inconsistent schedule
- Carried out 23 Free Produce Stands at five locations in the Iowa City area to distribute locally grown produce to families and community members
- Coordinated with community partners and volunteers throughout the season to foster strong partnerships and ensure adequate staffing at the stands
- Interacted with folks from a variety of backgrounds including age, culture, education, and socioeconomic status

Water/Wastewater Intern

May 2021 – January 2022

HR Green, Cedar Rapids, IA

- Generated a sanitary sewer master plan for a local Iowa community including inflow/infiltration analysis, pipe and manhole rating systems, and recommendations for meeting EPA standards in the next 25 years
- Prepared a site plan and opinion of probable cost for the redesign of a city’s water, wastewater, and stormwater systems along 2 blocks near their downtown district
- Utilized EPA’s Sanitary Sewer Overflow Analysis and Planning toolbox to conduct flow monitoring for a client

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Study Abroad – Water Poverty in Rural India

December 2019 – January 2020

Sehgal Foundation, New Delhi, India

- Coordinated water sampling in 10 rural villages and conducted fluoride testing to determine the extent of the fluoride problem in the communities
- Modeled Sehgal Foundation’s mission of improving social, economic, and environmental conditions in rural India by working with community members to solve real world problems

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SOFTWARE SKILLS

ArcGIS, Excel (advanced), Stata, AutoCAD, C++, Matlab

PROJECTS

Northside Neighborhood Housing Assessment

March 2022 – May 2022

Graduate Course: Housing Policy

School of Planning and Public Affairs, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

- Assessed housing trends in the Northside Neighborhood to assist community members in revitalization efforts
- Conducted a housing windshield survey to assess the quality of housing in the Northside Neighborhood
- Oversaw data organization and ArcGIS mapping to ensure data-use efficiency and detailed spatial models

Neighborhood Study

November 2021

Graduate Course: Land Use Planning Law and Practice

School of Planning and Public Affairs, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

- Examined two Iowa City neighborhoods of differing household incomes to determine how planning decisions have impacted or could improve quality of life
- Researched the history, demographics, and housing in the Grant Wood and Southwest Estates neighborhoods
- Recommended strategies to improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods including utilizing inclusive zoning

Phytoremediation Senior Capstone

January 2021 – May 2021

College of Engineering, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

- Designed the layout for the innovative 2-phase Phyto-Attached Growth Reactor (PhAGR) system using criteria from the client and self-taught AutoCAD skills
- Produced budget for the entire project including different cost levels to meet the client's various goals
- Formulated reports, presentations, and a poster for the client and the public while working on the writing team

LEADERSHIP

President

May 2022 – Present

Co-Vice President

August 2021 – May 2022

Representative to Faculty

August 2021 – May 2022

School of Planning and Public Affairs Student Association (SPPASA), The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

- Lead monthly meetings to provide support for committee chairs and facilitate planning of organization events
- Deliberate with faculty members at quarterly town hall meetings to provide feedback about the program and receive feedback regarding SPPASA's roles and responsibilities in the program
- Conducted a student feedback survey in December 2021 and prepared a feedback report for the School of Planning and Public Affairs faculty

Executive Director

April 2020 – May 2021

Director of Education and Advocacy

May 2019 – April 2020

Student Ambassador

August 2018 – May 2019

Student United Way (SUW), The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

- Empowered the SUW team to continue fulfilling the mission of United Way through virtual service events during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Planned and facilitated leadership and executive team retreats which aided personal and group development
- Organized and led bi-weekly volunteer events to connect campus students to local community nonprofits

Team Leader

August 2019 – April 2020

Hawkeye Service Breaks (HSB), The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

- Solely organized the Louisville women's rights alternative break for spring 2020 through collaboration with community partners and coordination of various service and cultural events
- Fostered active citizenship in team participants through service with community members, educational activities, and intentional reflections
- Enhanced teamwork between diverse identities and backgrounds by utilizing skills from a National Coalition Building Institute training