

From the Planners' Bookshelf...

Our Towns:

A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America.

by [James Fallows](#) (Author), [Deborah Fallows](#) (Author)

Pantheon Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, NY, 2018.

SUMMARY.

The Fallows spent four years travelling, by small plane, across America visiting small cities and towns; 43 small cities. They not only visited but they engaged with each, meetings with business owners, school officials, elected and appointed public servants and anyone identified as a person who knew the town best. Their information is useful; and their insights are enlightening. They got to the heart of each town and found what made them places people loved, places people cared about.

Like Dar Williams, they are not trained planners, and perhaps because of that they could see the essence of the small towns they visited. Their training and experience as writers and journalists undoubtedly helped. A fascinating book with good stories and analyses that are useful to anyone interested in understanding small cities and towns.

VIDEO: In addition to the reviews cited below, check out:

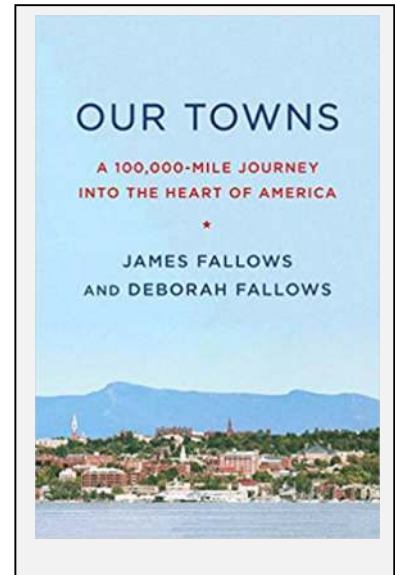
C-SPAN, MAY 25, 2018

James and Deborah Fallows on *Our Towns*

James and [Deborah Fallows](#) talked about their book, *Our Towns*:

A 100,000 Mile Journey into the Heart of America.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?445994-5/washington-journal-james-deborah-fallows-discuss-our-towns>



PUBLISHED REVIEWS.

TIME

Why Young Americans Are Increasingly Moving to Small Towns

<http://time.com/5246798/american-small-towns-deborah-james-fallows/>

The Atlantic

'Our Towns' Saga, on CBS Sunday Morning -

“On Tuesday of this coming week, May 8, the book that my wife, Deb, and I have been working on for many years will officially be published. It’s called *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, and it’s the five-years-removed result [of a post I put on the site back in 2013](#), asking readers for suggestions of smaller cities that were coping with dislocations of some sort—economic, political, demographic, environmental.”

LINK: <https://www.theatlantic.com/notes/2018/05/the-our-towns-saga-on-cbs-sunday-morning/559754/>