

# GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS PROJECTS

## ELK RIVER, MINNESOTA



### COURSE INSTRUCTOR

David Kelley, Geographic Information Systems (GEOG 321)

### PROJECT LEADS

Kristin Mroz, Environmental Technician

Tim Sevcik, Parks Superintendent

## BIKE ROUTE ANALYSIS

- Overview: Elk River is home to 25.63 miles of paved trails, 52.15 miles of sidewalks, popular bike trails, and a mountain biking park. However, Elk River currently does not have on-road bike lanes. Some roads have shoulders that can be used for biking but they are not marked.
- Objective: Determine where gaps in current trails could be filled by creating marked bike lanes and create digital maps of options for a coherent bike route system.

## WETLAND BUFFER ASSESSEMENT

- Overview: Elk River is home to 1,256 wetlands. Wetlands play a vital role in the community's flood management, water quality, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics. In 2006, Elk River updated their wetland ordinance to include a 25-foot wetland buffer strip around all wetlands and stormwater ponds.
- Objective: Map non-conforming properties, beginning with City properties. Maps will inform policy and public education efforts to increase compliance and improve wetland quality and function.

## PARK TRAIL MAPPING

- Overview: Elk River is home to over 40 parks, each with trails and other amenities. The City needs to create maps that can easily be updated when trail courses change.
- Objective: Students will create digital maps of trails in the William H. Houlton Conservation Area (to open in Fall 2016).



## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

## COLLABORATING WITH CITIES TO ADVANCE THE COMMON GOOD



The Sustainable Communities Partnership in the Center for Global and Local Engagement's Office of Sustainability Initiatives links St. Thomas courses to city-identified sustainability projects, advancing the common good by engaging students in real-world application of course material.

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