

## Google Earth Watershed Mapping Project How-to

Welcome to the North Fork Watershed Project and our Google Earth Watershed Education Project.

Google Earth is a 3-D virtual globe that is completely free for you to download and explore!

If you are unfamiliar with Google Earth, you can download it here:

<http://www.google.com/earth/index.html> .

Our Watershed Education Project lets you explore and compare land use and water quality in three major watersheds in West Virginia and Maryland. The water quality in two of these watersheds, the Blackwater and the North Branch Potomac, has been significantly impacted by low pH and metal pollution from historical mining. The third watershed, The North Fork South Branch Potomac, has been historically used for agriculture instead of mining and, as a result, escaped many of the water quality issues of its neighboring watersheds. Don't take our word for it, explore the map for yourself!

To view our Watershed Education Project, you will need to download the project KML(Google Earth File) to an easy to find location on your computer. If you already have Google Earth installed on your computer, you can simply double-click the file, and Google Earth will automatically open the Watershed Education Project. If for some reason this method does not work, simply open Google Earth, select the "File" menu in the upper left hand corner, and select "Open" from the drop down menu. A small window will open where you can select the Watershed Education Project KML.

Once the Watershed Mapping Project is open, you will notice an index for the project on the left side of the Google Earth screen under the "Places" box. Here you can select which layers of the project you would like to view by simply checking or un-checking the boxes beside each layer. There is a descriptive legend to help you navigate the map and inform you what each layer of data represents.

To navigate around the map, there is a zoom in/out button in the upper right hand of the map. There is also a compass button above the zoom that will change your view direction or the angle of your view. If you are having trouble navigating the map or downloading Google Earth, complete instructions can be found [here](#). You can also email [brooktrout@northforkwatershed.org](mailto:brooktrout@northforkwatershed.org) with questions about our project.

We hope you enjoy navigating and exploring our Watershed Education Project! Thank you for your interest in the North Fork Watershed Project!