

## Help Using Google Earth Files

You must have Google Earth installed on your computer to display the kmz files. You can download Google Earth for free here: <http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/>

### Opening the .kmz File

Opening the kmz file will automatically open Google Earth and display the data. Alternatively, you can save the .kmz file to your computer and open it through Windows Explorer. Or you can launch Google Earth and click File—Open to add the .kmz file.

Depending on your computer configuration the files may take several seconds to a couple of minutes to load and display. It may help to turn off Borders and Labels or other items in the sidebar.

### Displaying Information about the Polygons in Google Earth

Simply click on a polygon on the Google Earth map to pop-up information about that site.

In the sidebar, click the plus (+) symbol to display a list of sites in alphabetical order. You can then click on a name to get additional information or double-click to zoom to the site.

In the sidebar click on the title of the dataset in blue to get additional information about the data, including web links to more information.

### Resolving Display Issues in Google Earth

The help forum on Google Earth offers several potential solutions for display problems:

<http://earth.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=176180>

Step 3 on this forum corrected a problem some people with older computers/graphics cards have had with display of Florida Conservation Lands and Florida Forever Projects. If the data load into Google Earth but appear to not be lining up correctly with the state of Florida, we recommend you try Step 3:

#### [Step 3: Switching Between DirectX and OpenGL](#)

Windows users can run Google Earth (Free and Pro) in either DirectX or OpenGL mode. If you're experiencing strange graphics issues, you should try running Google Earth in each mode to see if one works better for your system.

#### **Setting DirectX as your default renderer**

To switch to DirectX, please follow these steps:

- Click **Start > All Programs**.
- Hover your mouse over your version of Google Earth (Free or Pro) and select **Start Google Earth in DirectX mode**.

#### **Setting OpenGL as your default renderer**

To switch to OpenGL, please follow these steps:

- Click **Start > All Programs**.
- Hover your mouse over your version of Google Earth (Free or Pro) and select **Start Google Earth in OpenGL mode**.

You will need to close Google Earth in order to switch between DirectX and OpenGL modes.

If you're still experiencing issues after trying both DirectX and OpenGL modes, you may need to update your graphics card drivers. In order to do this, you'll first need to **determine which graphics card you have**.