

# How to View a GPX File Using Google Earth Pro

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Once you have downloaded a .zip file and extracted the .gpx file from it (see the Tech Talk file titled "Using\_Club\_Trail\_Files\_2020"), use the following instructions to view a .gpx file on your computer using Google Earth Pro:

1. Download Google Earth Pro and install it on your computer (no link provided because links periodically change - do a search for "*Download Google Earth Pro*" to find the most current link for downloading the app).
2. Open Google Earth Pro. You can experiment with various map features and overlays via the "Layers" box at the bottom left of the screen.
3. At the top left of the menu bar, click on the "**Open**" command. This will open a dialogue window which will allow you to select the file you want to open. Navigate to the directory/folder where your .gpx file is located and select it. Click "**Open**" at the bottom of the dialogue box to open the file.
4. In the ensuing dialogue box, select "**Create KML Tracks**", "**Create KML Line Strings**" and "**Adjust altitudes to Ground Height**", then click "**OK**". (Checking these boxes is simply to ensure compatibility with various versions of .gpx files.)
5. Your .gpx file will open in Google Earth Pro, and the map should automatically rotate and zoom in to display it. Use the zoom bar near the top right of the screen (the bar with '+' at the top and '-' at the bottom) to zoom in/out further. Click and drag on the map with your mouse/trackpad to pan around and view different areas.
6. When you quit Google Earth Pro, you will see a dialogue box stating "**You have unsaved items in your "Temporary Places" folder. Would you like to save them to your "My Places" folder?**". If you want to save the current file for later viewing without having to load it again, choose "Save" - otherwise, choose "**Don't Save**". On my computer, if I choose "**Save**", it will save it under the name "GPS Device". You can right-click on the name and choose "**Rename**" from the ensuing menu if you want to save it under a different name.

Best practice is to choose "**Don't Save**" at the end of each session, to avoid encountering memory issues as you accumulate a large number of files which are loaded each session. Choosing "**Don't Save**" will not delete the .gpx file from your computer - it simply will not save the display within Google Earth Pro. If you do choose to Save the file to your "My Places" folder, you can always choose to manually delete the file/files in a subsequent session - just right-click on them and choose "**Delete**".

If you have multiple files within your "My Places" or "Temporary Places" folder, click on which one you want to display to see it on the map. Checking or unchecking the boxes next to their names will also show or hide them.