

# Champion the Place We Cherish:

## Black Earth Creek Watershed

Photograph by Dennis Franke

Become a champion of Black Earth Creek Watershed!

Join the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA) in sponsoring the creation of an engaging educational tool to help expand awareness of the pressures—and opportunities—facing the watershed. The watershed now attracts hikers, anglers, paddlers, and other tourists who support our local businesses and communities. However, many of us may not know how our decisions impact the watershed, how big it is, or even what a watershed is.

BECWA envisions building a portable, table-sized 3D physical model with accurate depiction of our watershed's elevations, waterways, land use, roads, villages and towns. The traveling 3D model will act as a powerful birds-eye tool for helping a variety of stakeholders and local leaders make informed land use and water management decisions which impact watershed health and neighbors. Teachers, librarians, and conservation organizations can use the model to help learners connect ideas that textbook or slideshow presentation images may miss or struggle to convey.

This 3 x 4 ft model will be easily transported to libraries, schools, local government meetings, museums, community events (e.g., Trout Days) and other locations, where users will interact with the watershed to simulate and evaluate real-world environmental scenarios.

Model users will visualize how the watershed works by:

- Exploring its natural resources and dynamics
- Make and test their own predictions about watershed water movement after precipitation events by pouring water onto the model
- Imagining future land use and conservation scenarios



Example of 3D topographical model by WhiteClouds

The 3D model can serve as a springboard to a future companion project: an interactive website model that will allow users to easily navigate around the watershed, turn on and off landscape features, track and analyze stream monitoring data, learn about successful local restoration projects, and see how changes to the landscape impact the watershed.

BECWA's goal is to have the 3D model completed in summer 2026. BECWA will host a community event in fall 2026 to introduce the model, celebrate watershed supporters, and promote a sense of shared stewardship among watershed stakeholders.

Please consider a contribution to help us meet our goal of a 3D watershed model; your support will have a far-reaching impact on the health of the Black Earth Creek Watershed and our communities!

*learn more at [becwa.org](http://becwa.org)*