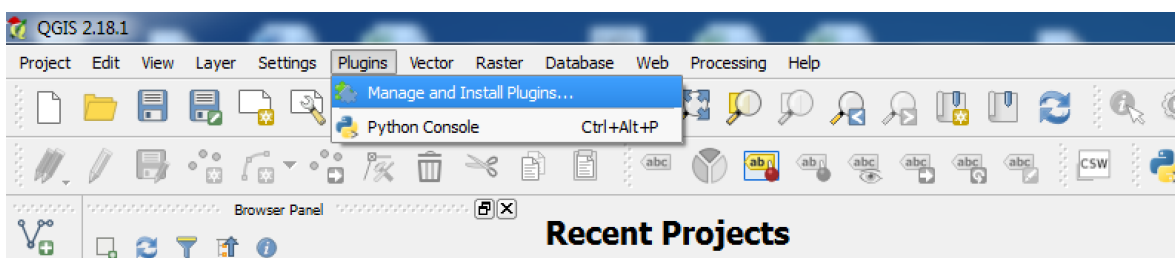


Shape File

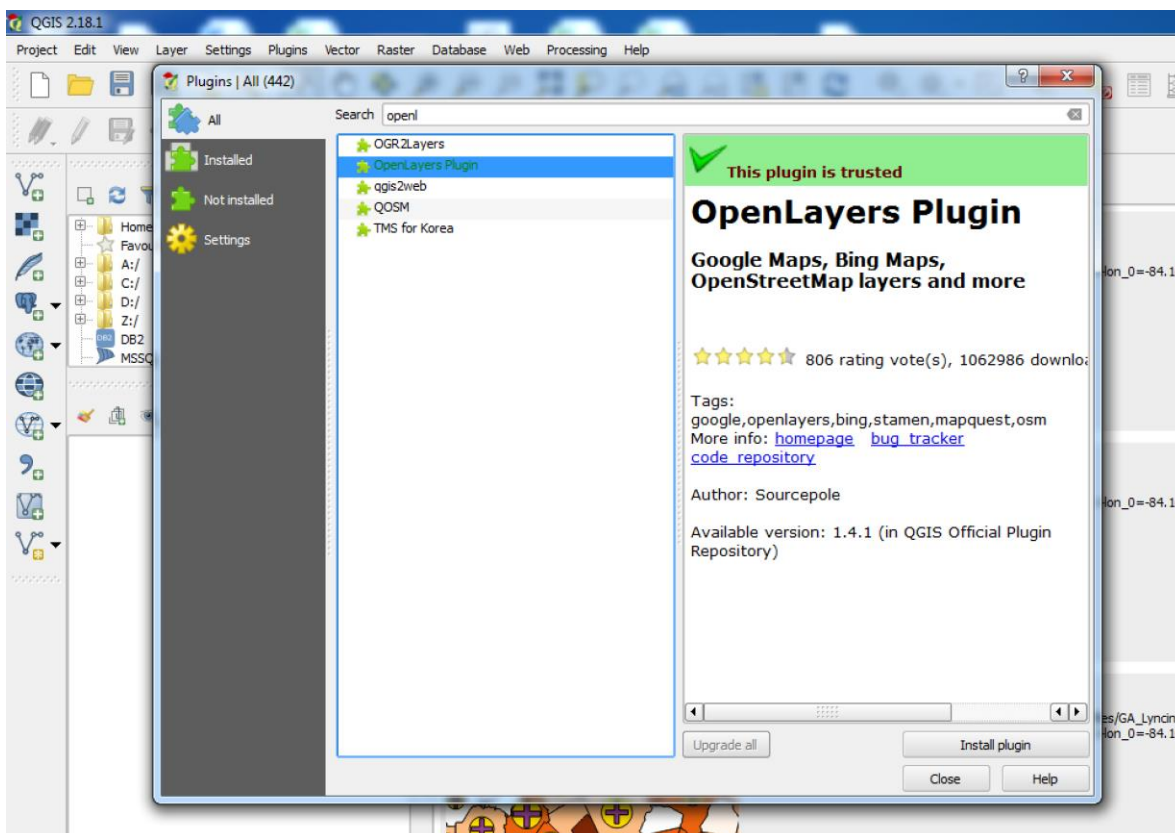
In mapping software, you need to have a way of telling the software what shape the data should take on. For example, the shape of the United States, or state and county borders within the United States. One way is to use a shape file (extension .shp). You can download these files from a variety of websites, but a good one is NHGIS (<https://www.nhgis.org>).

Another option is to download default layers available online.

1. In QGIS, click on “Plugins”, “Manage and Install Plugins”



2. Search for OpenLayers Plugins



3. Select and click Install
4. To open, click “Web”, “OpenLayers Plugin”

