

Creating Buffers

Abstract

In this guide you will learn how to create and add a buffer to a layer.

Steps: Select area to buffer - click buffer tool - select layer to buffer - enter buffer in feet- dissolve barriers - select the kind of buffer to create - select where to save buffer - finish

Details

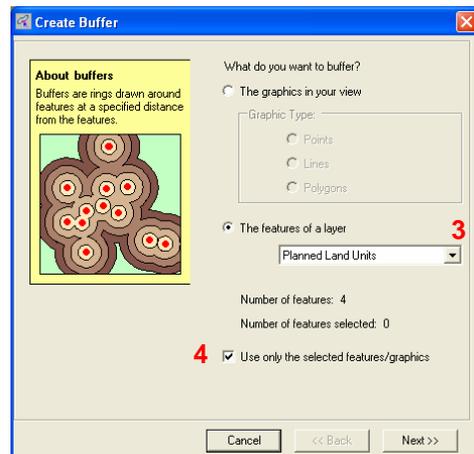
1. Click on the **Select Features** button,  and **select** the field that you want to buffer.

2. **Click** on the **Buffer** button  on the *Toolkit toolbar*.

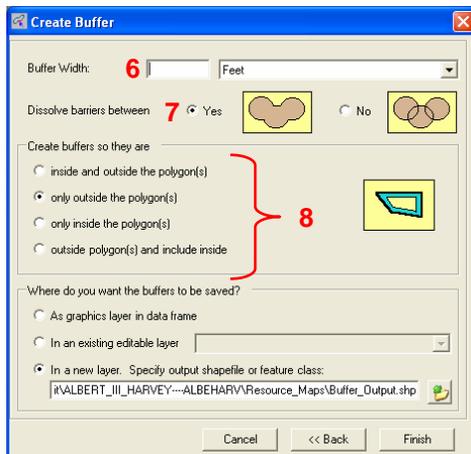
3. **Select** the layer that you are creating the buffer for (see graphic - 3). Most of the time it will be your *Planned Land Units* layer.

4. Decide whether you want a buffer created on all the features or only on the selected features (see graphic - 4). Most times you will check this box to use only the selected features.

5. **Click** the **Next** button.



6. **Select** the width of your buffer (see graphic - 6).



7. Dissolve barriers between buffers (see graphic - 7). This allows for a neater looking buffer if you have several close together or that overlap.

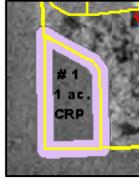
8. Select the applicable *Create buffers* option (see graphic - 8):

- inside and outside the polygon(s)
- only outside the polygon(s)
- only inside the polygon(s)
- outside polygon(s) and include the inside

Differences in options are explained on the next page.

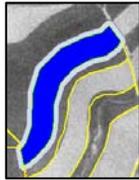
Wisconsin Toolkit Task Guides

Option 1 - inside and outside the polygon(s)



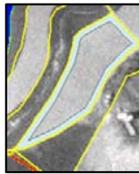
This option will create a buffer that is the designated number of feet both inside and outside of the selected polygon. If for example you selected a buffer 25 feet wide, your buffer will be 50 feet wide. Unfortunately there is no division between the inside and the outside of the buffer, so calculations will be done on both.

Option 2 - only outside the polygon(s)



This option will create a buffer at the specified width on the outside of the polygon(s) that you selected.

Option 3 - only inside the polygon(s)



This option will allow you to create a polygon at the specified width inside the polygon that you selected.

Option 4 - outside polygon(s) and include the inside



Buffer the outside of the polygon and include the inside when calculating acres. In essence it will make your polygon larger by the number of feet you entered for your buffer width.

9. After buffer type is selected, choose where the buffer will be saved. There are three options:

- As graphics layer in data frame
- In an existing editable layer
- In a new layer (recommended)

Toolkit will name your buffer "Buffer_Out.shp" and will save it in the *Resource Maps* folder for the customer. You may rename the file if you wish. Changing where the file is stored is not recommended.

10. Click the **Finish** button.