

Adding Practices in ArcGIS

Topics include:

- Creating a Practice Layer
- Digitizing Point, Line and Polygon Practices
- Attributing Practices
- Displaying Practices with NRCS Symbols

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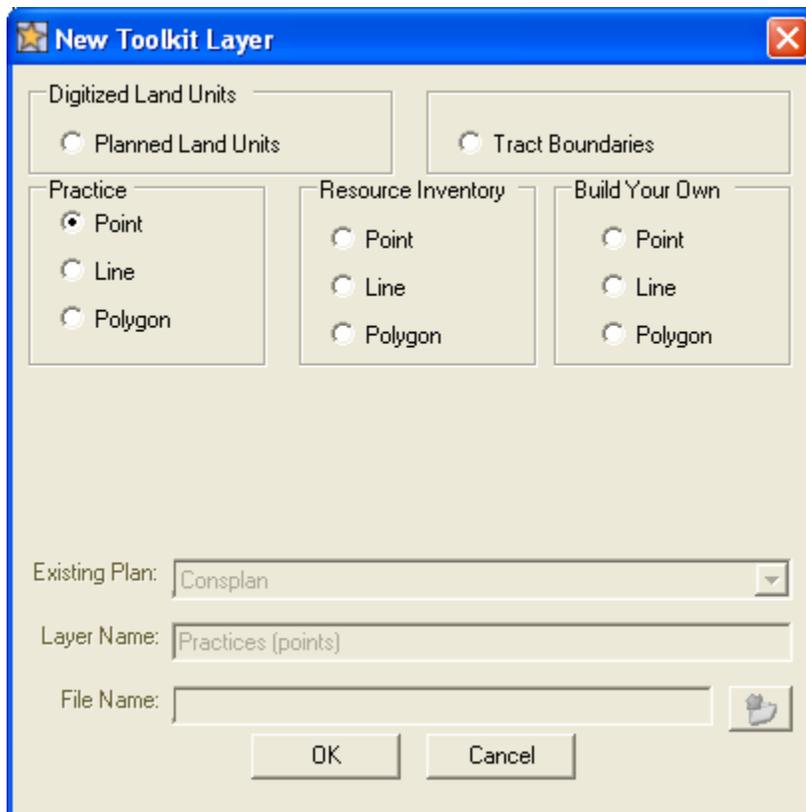
Create a Practice Layer

Besides the Planned Land Unit layers, the NCPDB includes three practice layers. All practice layers created for customers must be incorporated into these three layers. **For example, the Practice Points Layer will include all point practices for a plan including grade stabilization structures, well closures, water and sediment control basins, etc.**

- Practice Points
- Practice Lines
- Practice Polygons

To create a new practice layer for a customer, complete the following steps.

1. Click on the **New Layer** icon .
 - The New Toolkit Layer dialog window is displayed.

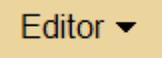


5. Select the type of **Practice** layer you want to create.
 - Point
 - Line
 - Polygon

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6. Click **OK**.
7. The practice layer is added to the View, ready for editing.
8. Add practices (see below for descriptions of the editing tools).
9. When finished, stop editing and save your edits.
10. The practices must be attributed.

Common Functionality on All Practice Editing Toolbars

- **Editor**  - use to display a drop-down menu. Choices include:
 - **Start Editing** - for turning on edit mode.
 - **Stop Editing** - for ending the edit session.
 - **Save Edits** - for saving edits periodically during the edit session.
 - **Use vertical topology** - use to ensure topology rules between layers. If turned on, it prevents overlapping features between layers. If turned off, the topology rules are not enforced.
 - **Snapping** - used to set snapping parameters for the target layer.
- **Undo Edit**  - use to undo the last vertex or last completed feature.
- **Redo Edit**  - use to redo the last undo action.
- **Select Feature**  - use to select features in the layer, prior to using other tools, such as split, merge or reshape.
- **Copy and Paste**  - use to copy field boundaries from one layer and paste them into another planned land units layer.

Practice Layer Digitizing Toolbars

Practice Points



- **Point tool**  - use to add practice points to the layer.

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Practice Lines



The following tools are included in the Practices Lines Editor toolbar:

- **Add Line** tool  - use to add practice lines to the layer.
- **Split Line** tool  - use to split practice lines. The line must be selected for the tool to be active
- **Merge** tool  - use to merge two or more lines together. Two lines must be selected for the Merge tool to become active.
- **Reshape** tool  - use to reshape an existing line.
- **Vertex Edit** tool  - use to edit vertices of an existing line.

Practice Polygons



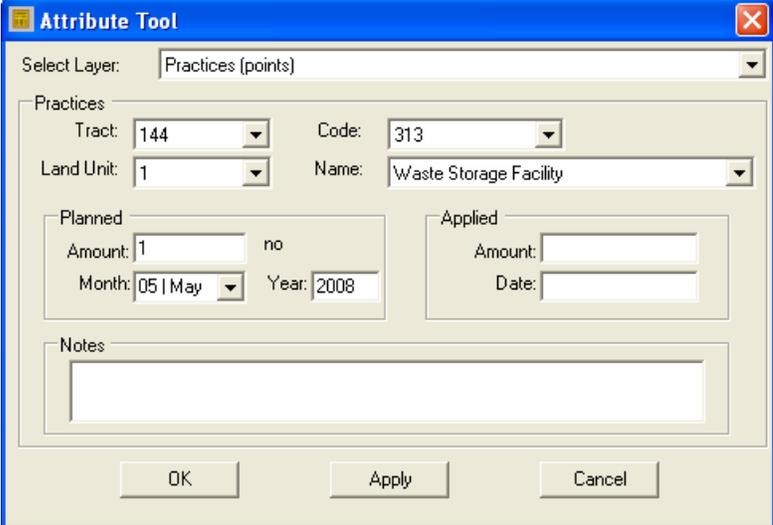
The following tools are included in the Practices Polygons Editor toolbar:

- **Add Polygon** tool  - use to add polygons, append polygons, and add inclusions to the practice polygon layer.
- **Split Polygon** tool  - use to split an existing polygon. A polygon must be selected to for the split tool to become active.
- **Merge** tool  - use to merge two or more polygons together. Two polygons must be selected for the Merge tool to become active.
- **Reshape** tool  - use to reshape an existing polygon boundary.
- **Vertex Edit** tool  - use to edit vertices of an existing polygon.

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Attributing Practices

1. Click the **Attribute Tool**  on the Toolkit toolbar to display the Attribute Tool dialog box.
2. Select the Practice Layer you wish to attribute from the drop down list.
3. Once the Layer has been selected the Attribute Tool dialog window will display the appropriate dialog boxes to complete the attribute record.



4. Select **one** practice in the practice layer.
5. Complete the attribute information for the selected field.
 - **Tract number** is optional. Select a tract from the drop-down list, enter one in or leave it blank.
 - **Land Unit** is required. Select a land unit from the drop-down list or enter a field number.
 - **Code** and **Name** are required. Select either a **Practice Code** or **Practice Name** from the drop-down lists.
 - **Planned Amount** defaults to the calculated amount. Accept the default or enter in a new amount.
 - **Planned Month** and **Year** are required. Enter in the planned month and year.
 - **Applied Amount** and **Date** are optional. Enter in the applied amount and date or leave them blank.
6. Once the attribute information has been completed for the selected feature, click **Apply**.

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7. Click on the next feature to attribute. Continue the process of selecting practices, completing the attribute information and clicking **Apply** after each entry.
8. When finished attributing all practices, click **OK** to exit the Attribute dialog box.
 - Practices that were attributed have been added to the practice schedule.
9. Open the practice schedule to select practice narrative IDs and conservation program for each record that was added to the practice schedule with the Attribute Tool.

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Displaying Practices with NRCS Symbols (Applying Practice Symbology)

Before displaying practices with NRCS symbols the **practices MUST be attributed**.

1. Double-click the Toolkit practice layer you wish to symbolize.

2. In the **Layer Properties** window, click the **Symbology** tab.

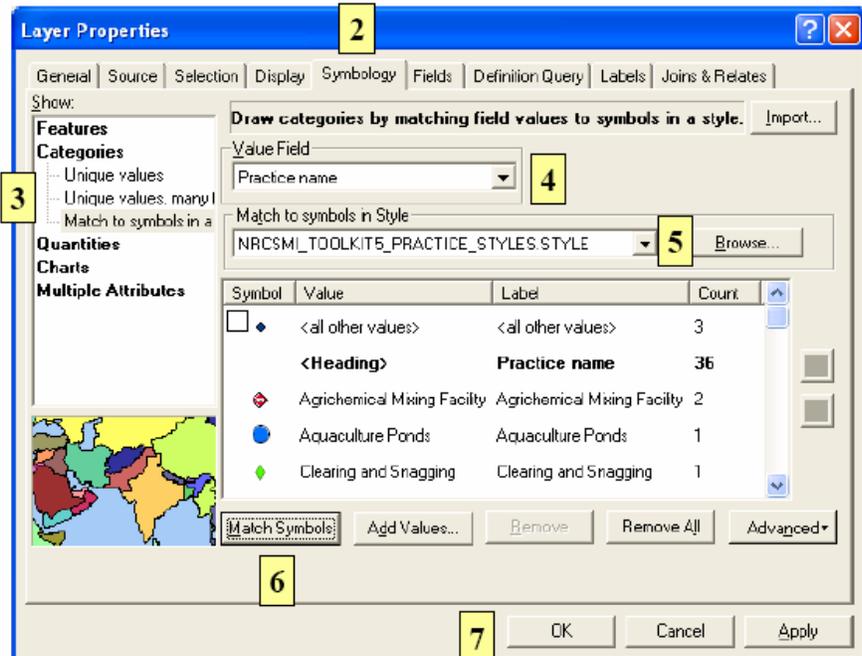
3. Under **Categories**, choose **Match to symbols in a style**.

4. Set the *Value Field* to **Practice name**.

5. Choose the style named **NRCSMI_TOOLKIT5_PRACTICE_STYLES**.

6. Click **Match Symbols**.

7. Click **OK**.



8. Right-click on the practice layer and choose **Save Symbology**. This will allow Toolkit to automatically apply this symbology when the plan is re-opened. Failure to save symbology will result in having to run steps 1 through 7 each time the plan is opened in Toolkit.

See the GIS Skill Builder "Practice Symbology" on the MI NRCS GIS web page for illustrations of the symbology. (<http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/gis.html>)