

OnTheMap - Selection Area Flowchart

The following poster-sized chart is designed to assist users with the selection area process performed in Step 2 of the Analysis tab.

- Start in the top left corner in the “Desired Selection Area” column and choose the row with the selection area type that most closely matches your desired area of interest.
- The five available selection area types are:
 - o Existing Census Geographies (Places, Counties, Congressional Districts, ZIP Codes, etc.)
 - o Freehand Area
 - o Simple Buffered Area
 - o Donut Buffer Selected Features
 - o Plume Selection Area.
- Move across the selected row from left to right. Each column provides text and images describing the inputs and expected outputs associated with each selection area type.

To access the *OnTheMap* application, click [here](#). For additional information about *OnTheMap*, including help pages and a glossary of terms, please click [here](#).

Note: These two steps can take place in any order

Desired Selection Area

Radio Buttons and Checkboxes

Draw/Click in Map Viewer

Selection Area Result

Additional Information

Places (Cities, CDPs, etc), Counties, Congressional Districts, ZIP Codes, Census Tracts, School Districts, and other existing/predefined areas.
Use the Add Layer Selection option to select existing Census geographies. When selecting features, the Point(s) selection tool is often the easiest to use, but features can also be selected using drawn lines or polygons. Look at the Add Layer Selection dropdown list to see the available options.
This example demonstrates selecting the city of Galveston, TX from the Places layer.

Activate the Point(s) Selection Tool radio button and check the Add Layer Selection option. Make sure the Add Buffer to Selection option checkbox is unchecked. Select "Places (Cities, CDPs, etc.)" from the Layer Selection dropdown.

Using your mouse, click once inside the boundary of the desired area. Click in additional areas to select them as well.

The selected area(s) will become outlined in red. To continue using the outlined selection area, click "Next" to navigate to Step 3, or click "Clear Selection" to clear the selected area and to create a different selection area.

The Line or Polygon Selection Tools can also be used to select features with the Add Layer Selection option. All features that touch the drawn line or polygon will be selected.

Freehand Area
Use the Polygon (Freehand) Selection tool to draw the desired selection area directly into the map viewer.
This example demonstrates drawing a freehand area near Annapolis, MD.

Activate the Polygon (Freehand) Selection Tool radio button. Make sure the Add Layer Selection and Add Buffer to Selection checkboxes are unchecked.

While holding down the left mouse button, draw an outline of the desired area in the map viewer. Release the left mouse button when finished.

The selected area(s) will become outlined in red when the drawn shape is complete. To continue using the outlined selection area, click "Next" to navigate to Step 3, or click "Clear Selection" to create a different selection area.

Freehand drawings can be edited by clicking in a drawn shape when the Modify Line/Polygon Selection tool is active. Add, delete, and/or drag and drop vertices to modify the shape.

Simple Buffered Area (Points, Line, or Polygon)
Use Add Buffer to Selection - Simple/Ring option to add a basic buffer to a drawn point(s), line, or polygon. Buffer radius units are miles and up to two decimals are accepted.
This example demonstrates buffering a drawn line using the Simple/Ring buffer option to select the area within a 1-mile radius of I-705 near Tacoma, WA.

Activate the Line Selection Tool radio button and check the Add Buffer to Selection option. Make sure the Add Layer Selection checkbox is unchecked. Activate the Simple/Ring radio button and enter "1" into the Radius entry box.

While holding down the left button on your mouse, draw the desired line in the map viewer, releasing the left mouse button when finished.

The selected area(s) will become outlined in red when the drawn shape is complete. To continue using the outlined selection area, click "Next" to navigate to Step 3, or click "Clear Selection" to create a different selection area.

Examples of Simple/Ring buffers using drawn points and freehand (polygon):

Donut Buffer Selected Features (Places, Counties, etc.)
Use the Add Layer Selection and Add Buffer to Selection options together to buffer a selected Census geography feature. Adding a Donut buffer selects only the area between the inner and outer buffer radius.
This example demonstrates using the Donut buffer option to select the area within one and a half miles of the 90210 ZIP code border, not including the area within the ZIP code itself.

Activate the Point(s) Selection Tool radio button and check both Add Layer Selection and Add Buffer to Selection checkboxes. Select "ZIP Codes (ZCTA)" from the Layer Selection dropdown. Activate the Donut radio button and enter "0" into the Inner Radius entry box and "1.5" into the Outer Radius entry box.

Using your mouse, click once inside the boundary of the desired area. Click in additional areas to select them as well.

The selected area(s) will become outlined in red. To continue using the outlined selection area, click "Next" to navigate to Step 3, or click "Clear Selection" to create a different selection area.

Examples of other selection areas where Add Layer Selection and Add Buffer area used together:

Plume Selection Area
Use the Line Selection tool with the Plume buffer option to create a selection area with a gradually increasing buffer along a drawn line.
This example demonstrates how to create a selection area depicting a hurricane path along Florida's Gulf coast as it increases in size from ten to fifty miles in diameter.

Activate the Line Selection tool radio button and check the Add Buffer to Selection option. Make sure the Add Layer Selection checkbox is unchecked. Activate the Plume radio button and enter "5" into the Start Radius entry box and "25" into the End Radius entry box.

While holding down the left button on your mouse, draw the desired line in the map viewer, releasing the left mouse button when finished.

The selected area(s) will become outlined in red when the drawn shape is complete. To continue using the outlined selection area, click "Next" to navigate to Step 3, or click "Clear Selection" to create a different selection area.

The Plume Selection Tool only functions with the Line Selection tool, and only when the Add Layer Selection option is inactive.