3.3 Merging Data Layers

There will be times when it will be useful to have more than one layer combined into a new layer. In this example, road layers from St. Louis city and county will be combined into one new layer.

1) Within ArcMap, open ArcToolbox by clicking on the small red toolbox icon ( ).

2) In ArcToolbox, double-click “Data Management Tools” and then double-click “General.” This will reveal a number of tools; double-click “Merge.”
3) In the dialog box that appears, choose at least two input layers. To choose layers that have already been added to your project, click the small dropdown arrow next to the box. Choose the layers from the list that appears.

If you need input layers that are not part of your project you can choose them by clicking on the folder icon ( ) and then navigating to the layers you need.

4) Give your new layer an appropriate name and location, using .shp as your file type. Click “OK.”
The blue text at the bottom of the ArcMap window will tell you how far along in the merging process you are.

When the merge is finished, you can use your new layer.
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