

2019 Mar 21

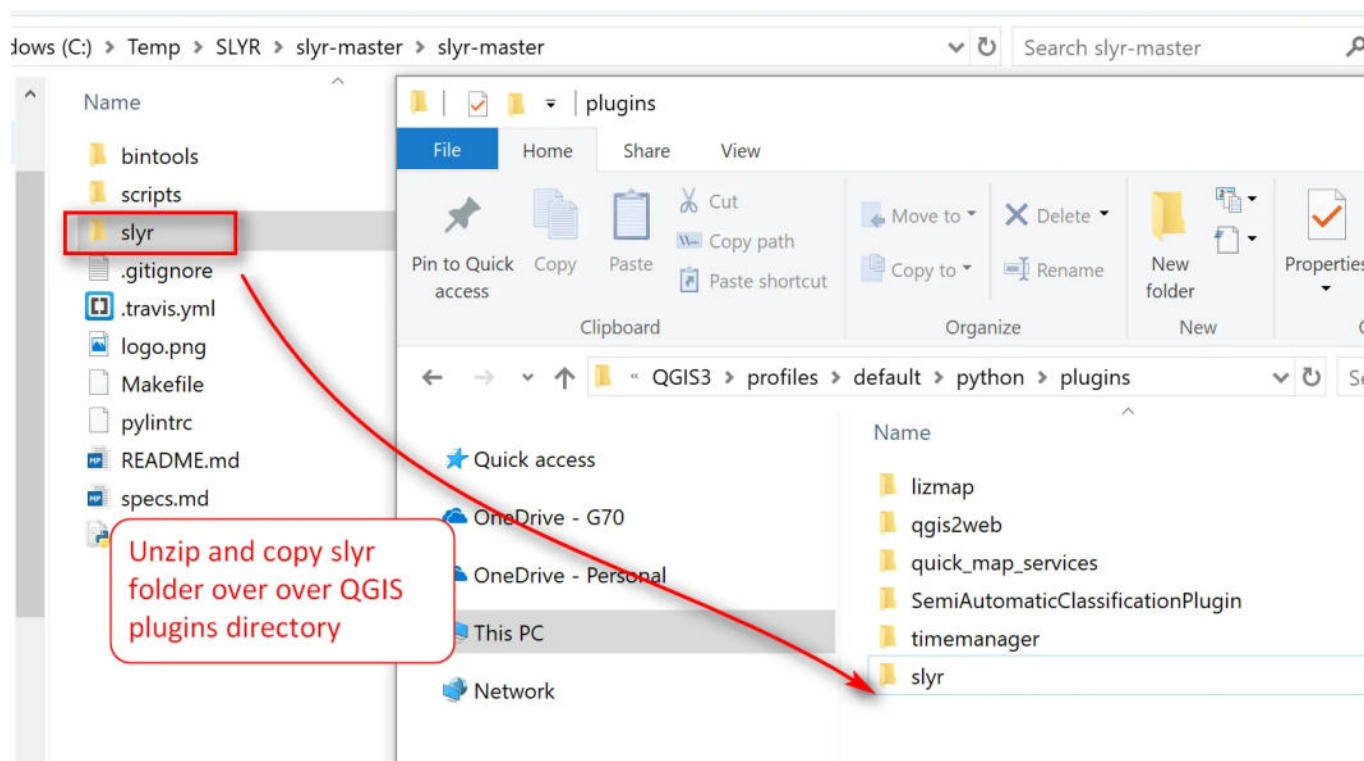
Converting ESRI Styles to QGIS XML Using SLYR

This is a follow up to my previous post on converting ESRI/ArcGIS styles and symbology for use in QGIS. Thanks to [Tom Armitage](#) for reminding me of Nyal Dawson's SLYR plugin for converting ESRI styles files to QGIS XML styles. I don't know Nyal but want to give him a big thank you for developing such a useful tool, making it open source and sharing it. Check out Nyal's [North Road website](#) - he has some very interesting tools in the works related to getting ESRI and QGIS to play nice with each other.

Anyway, this post is my testing of the SLYR tool to convert ESRI *.style files into QGIS XML styles. My workflow is below, and my setup is the following: Windows 10 pro OS, QGIS 3.6 and ArcGIS 10.6.1 (for access to ESRI style files).

Download SLYR Tool from GitHub

1. Go to [SLYR on GitHub](#) and download and unzip to your hard drive.
2. Once unzipped, copy the **slyr folder** to your QGIS plugins directory (e.g. C:\Users\
<username>\AppData\Roaming\QGIS\QGIS3\profiles\default\python\plugins)

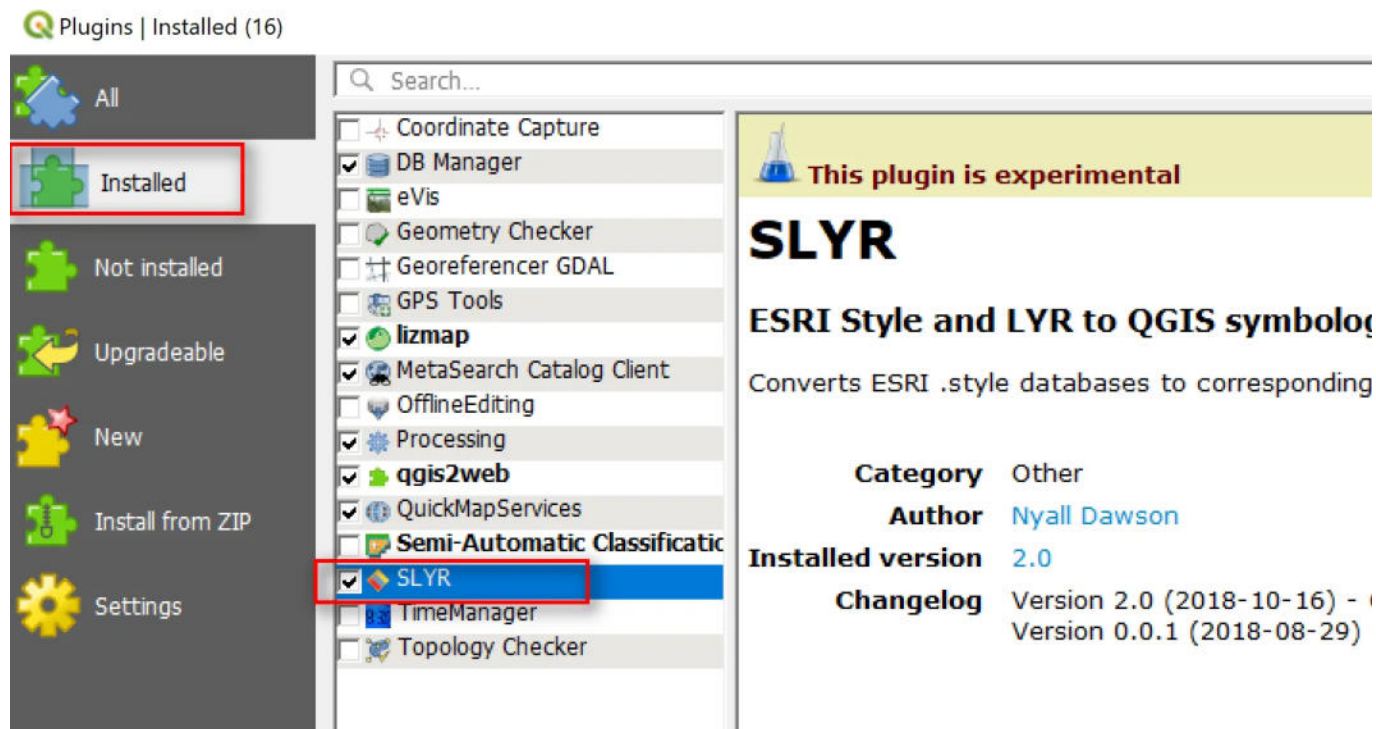


Important Note for Windows OS

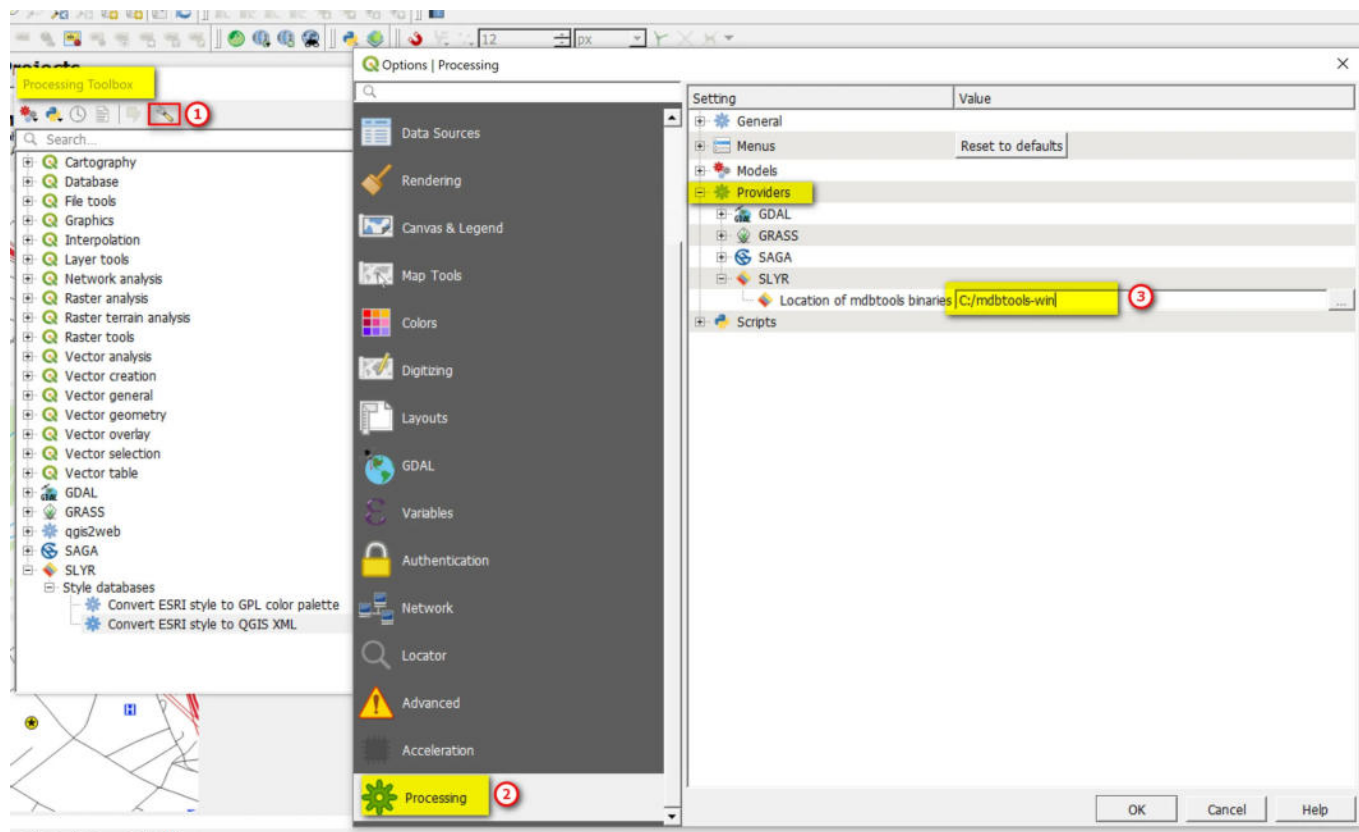
For Windows OS users, you will also need to have the mdbtools installed for SLYR tools to work. This is noted on [SLYR readme page](#). Download and extract [mdbtools-win](#) - the SLYR plugin will need access to the mdbtools, which you will do in the next step. There's really no installation for the mdbtools-win. All you need to do is download and extract the files to your hard drive (e.g. C:\mdbtools-win) then tell the SLYR plugin where to the mdbtools are located (see step 2 below).

Activate and Set Option for SLYR plugin

1. Open QGIS, go to Plugins menu >> Manage and Install Plugins >> Installed >> Check the box next to SLYR



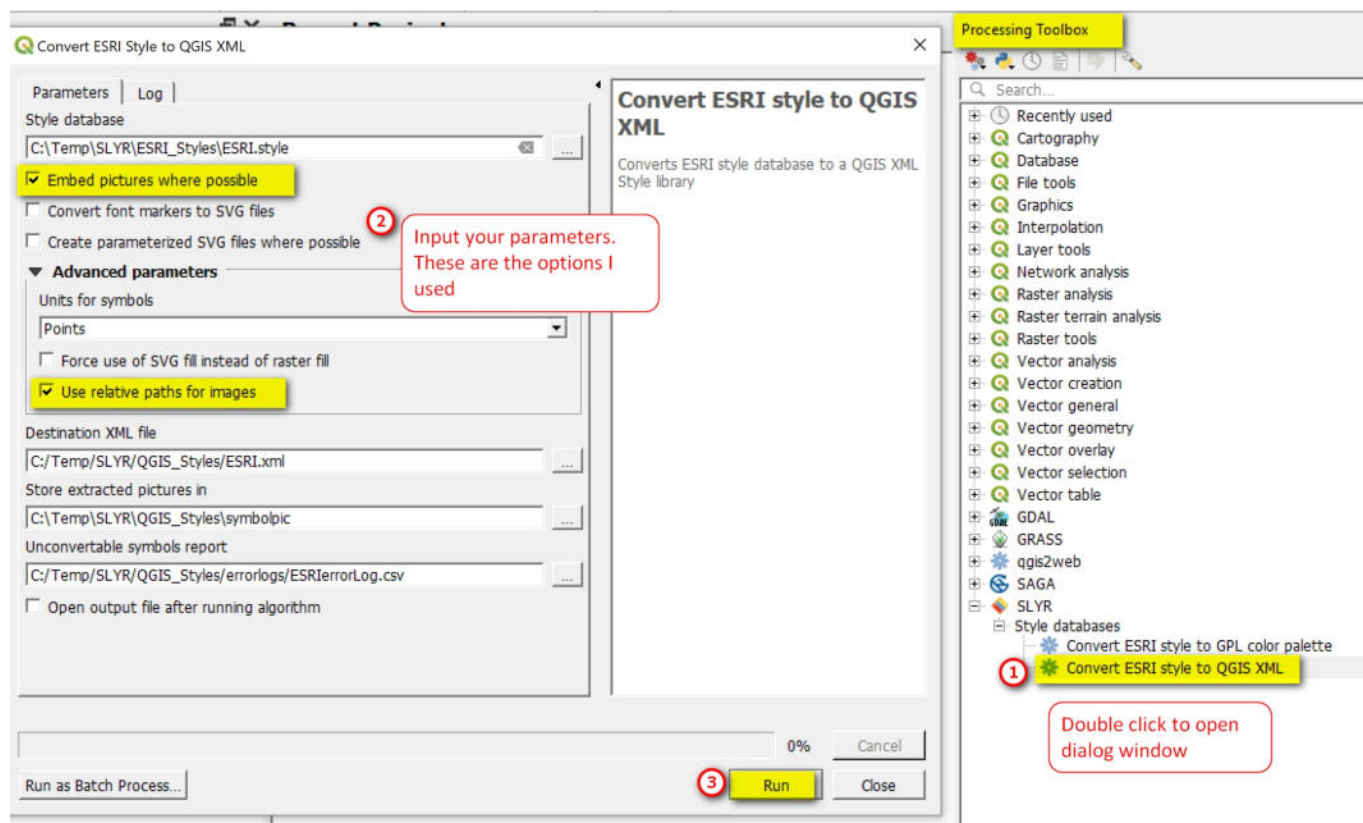
2. In the Processing Toolbox panel (if you don't see the panel, go to Processing menu >> Toolbox), click the Options button. In the Options window, go to Processing and under Providers, find SLYR and set the path to your mdbtools folder (that you downloaded and extracted earlier). Here, you need to tell SLYR where the mdbtools are so it can access it.



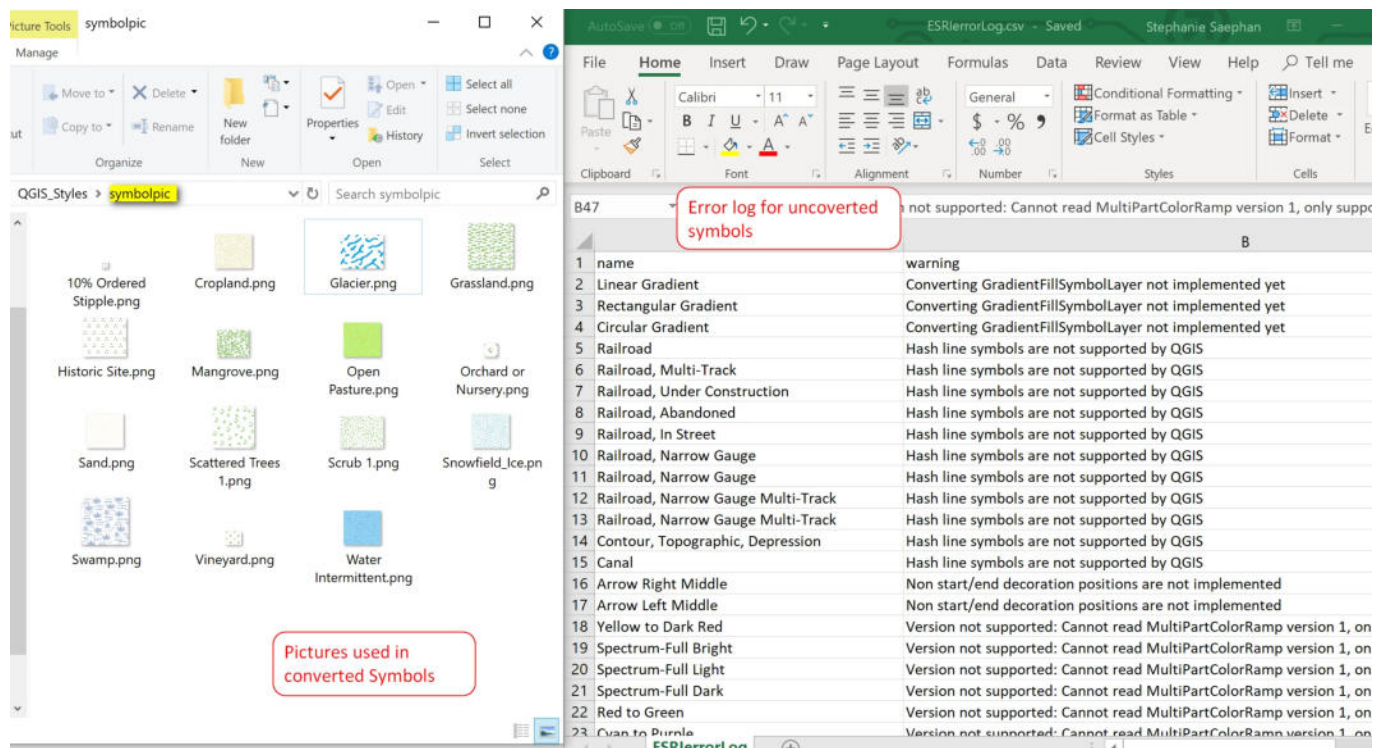
Convert ESRI Styles to QGIS XML

1. In the Processing Toolbar, double click on Convert ESRI Styles to QGIS XML to open the dialog window
2. In the dialog window: Input your parameters. Below are the options I used.

Note: I tried the SVG options and it seems to convert ok. But when I try to open or view the svg files I got “attributes construct error”

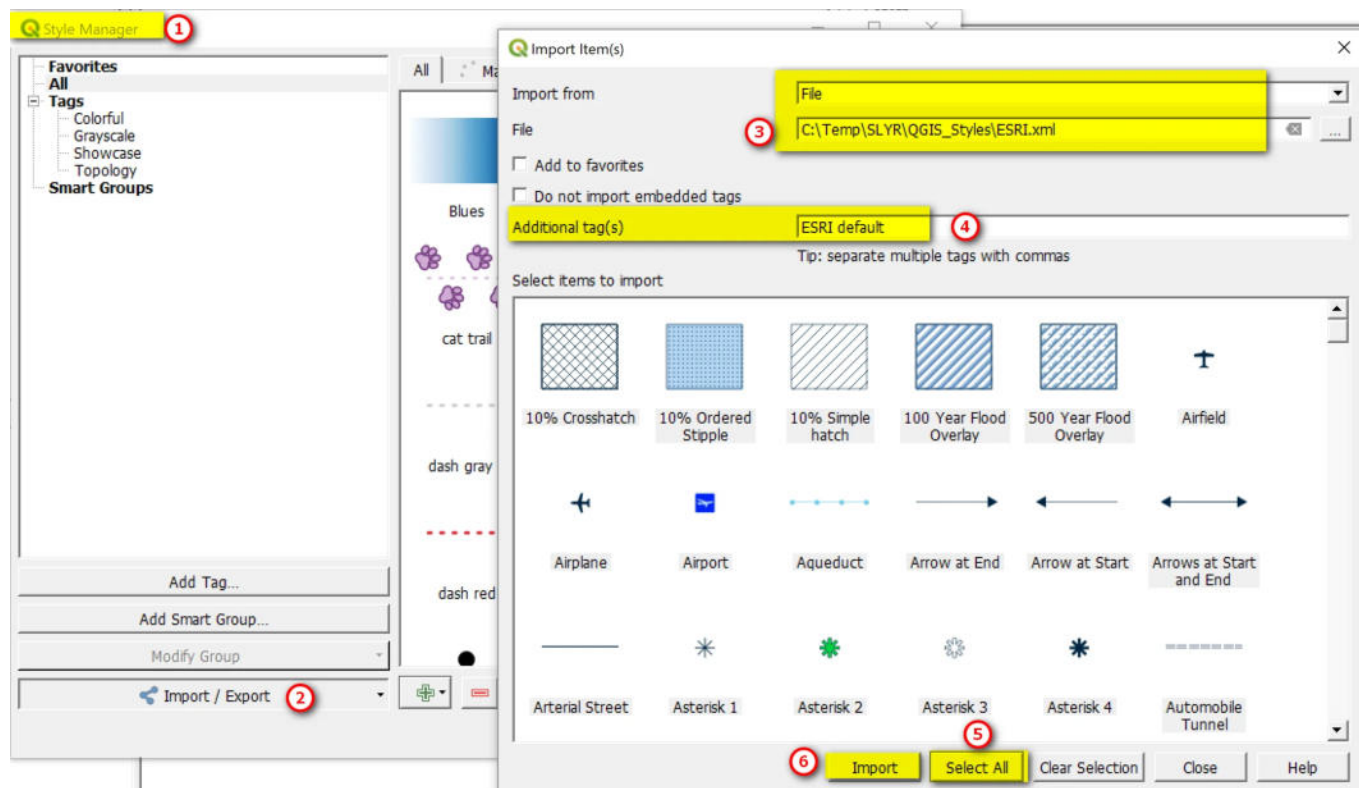


Here's a look at the converted pictures as pngs and error log (saved as csv) for symbols that couldn't be converted

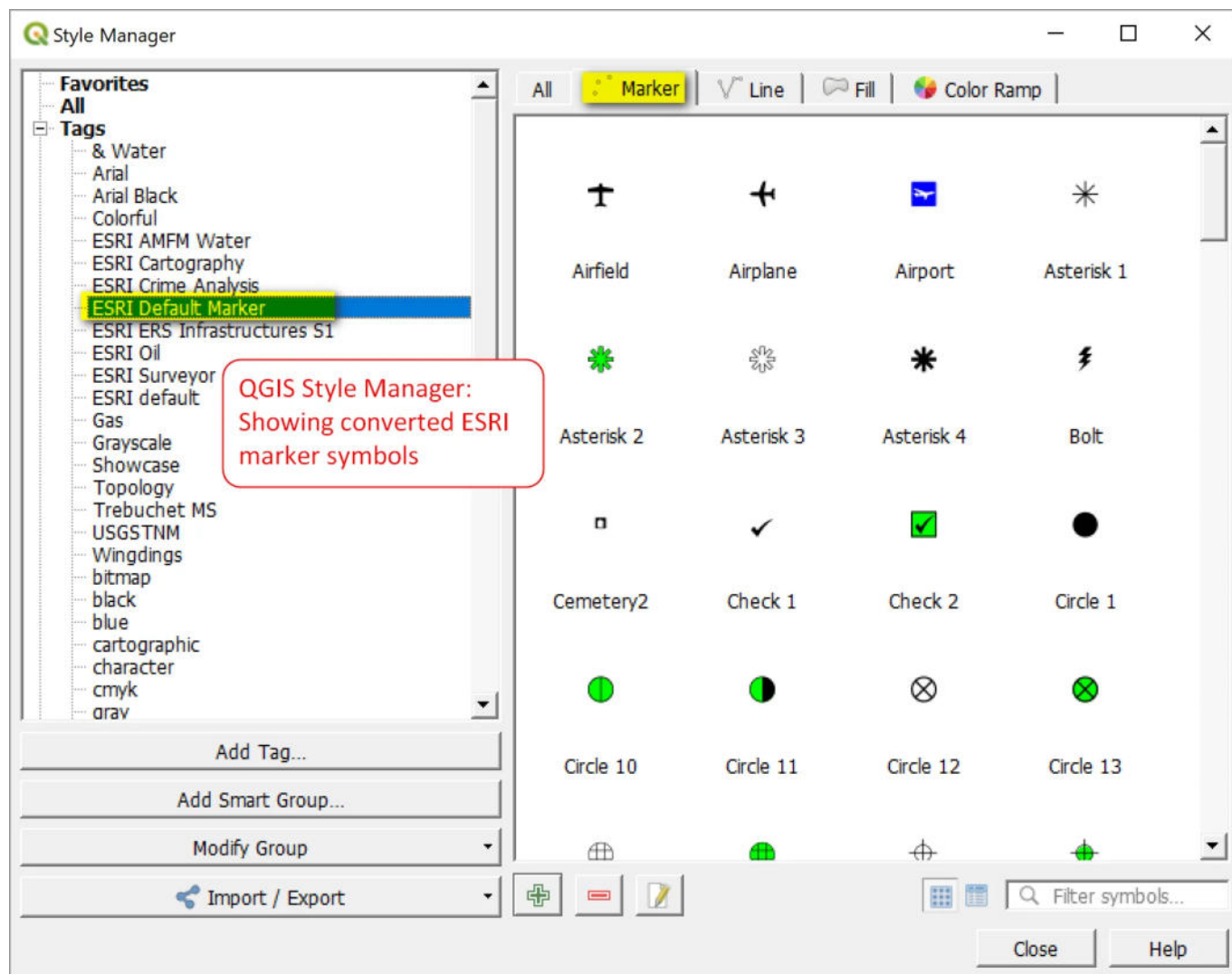


Import the Converted QGIS XML into QGIS Style Manager

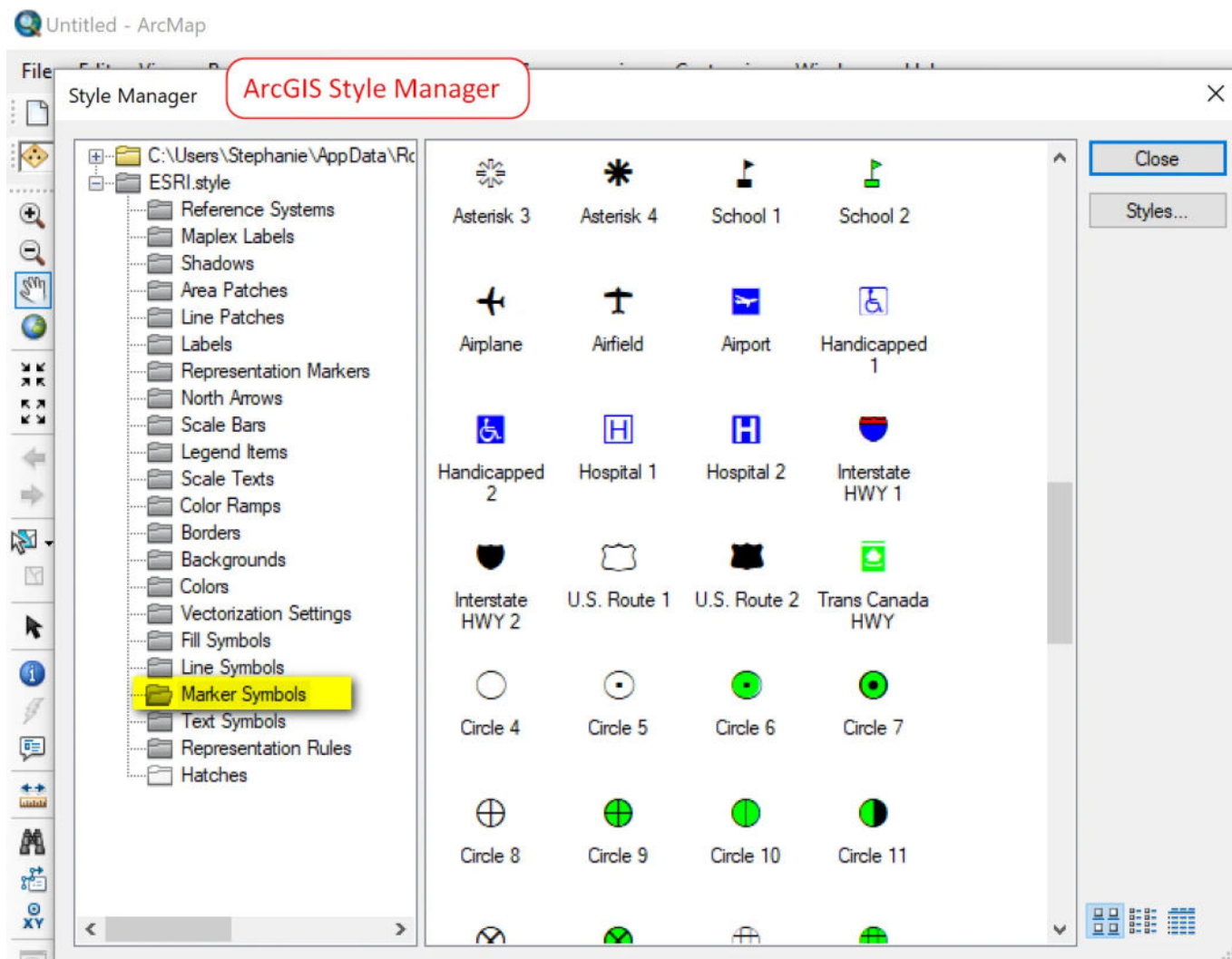
1. Open QGIS style manager (Settings >> Style Manager) >> Import from File >> import the converted *.xml (e.g. ESRI.xml). Optionally, add additional tags. Then Select All Symbols >> Import



Here's a look at what the ESRI.xml file look like - ESRI Default Markers

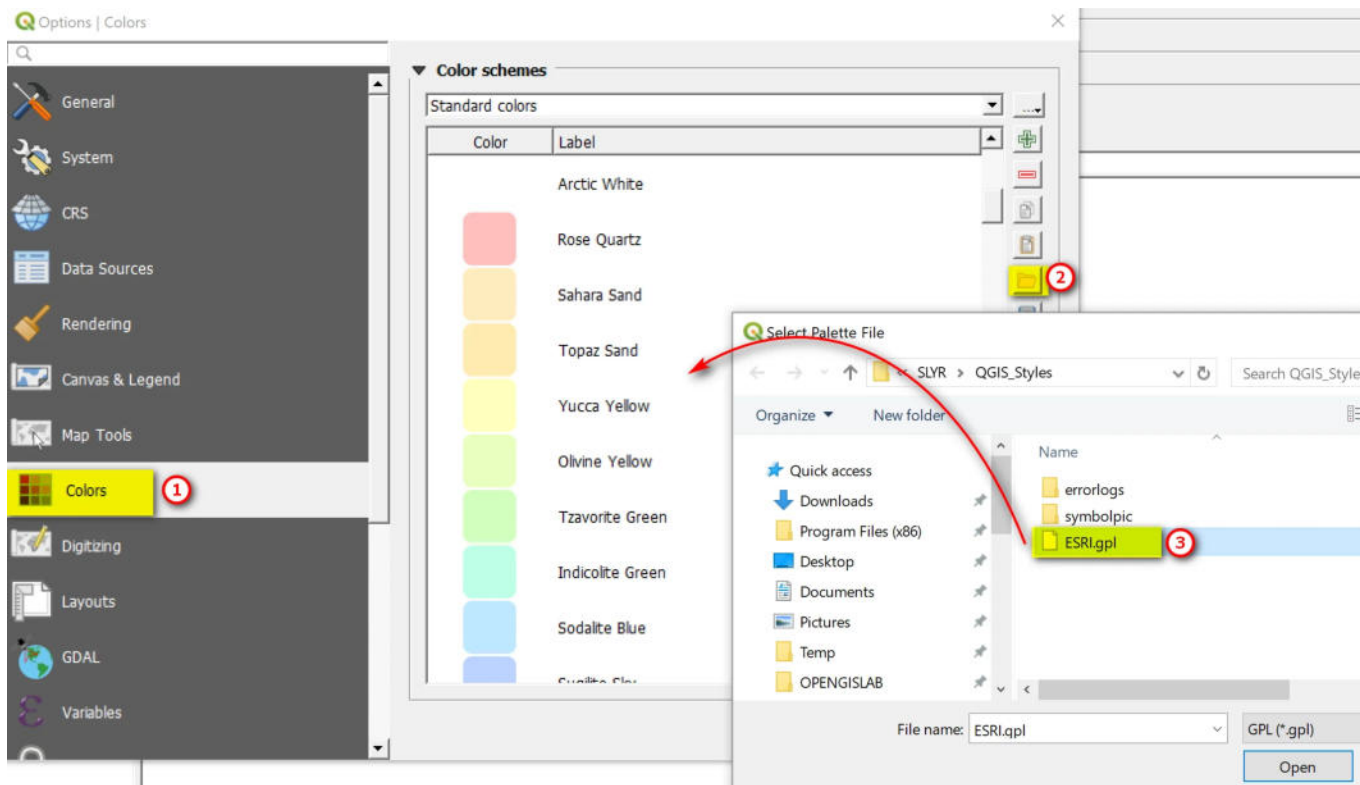
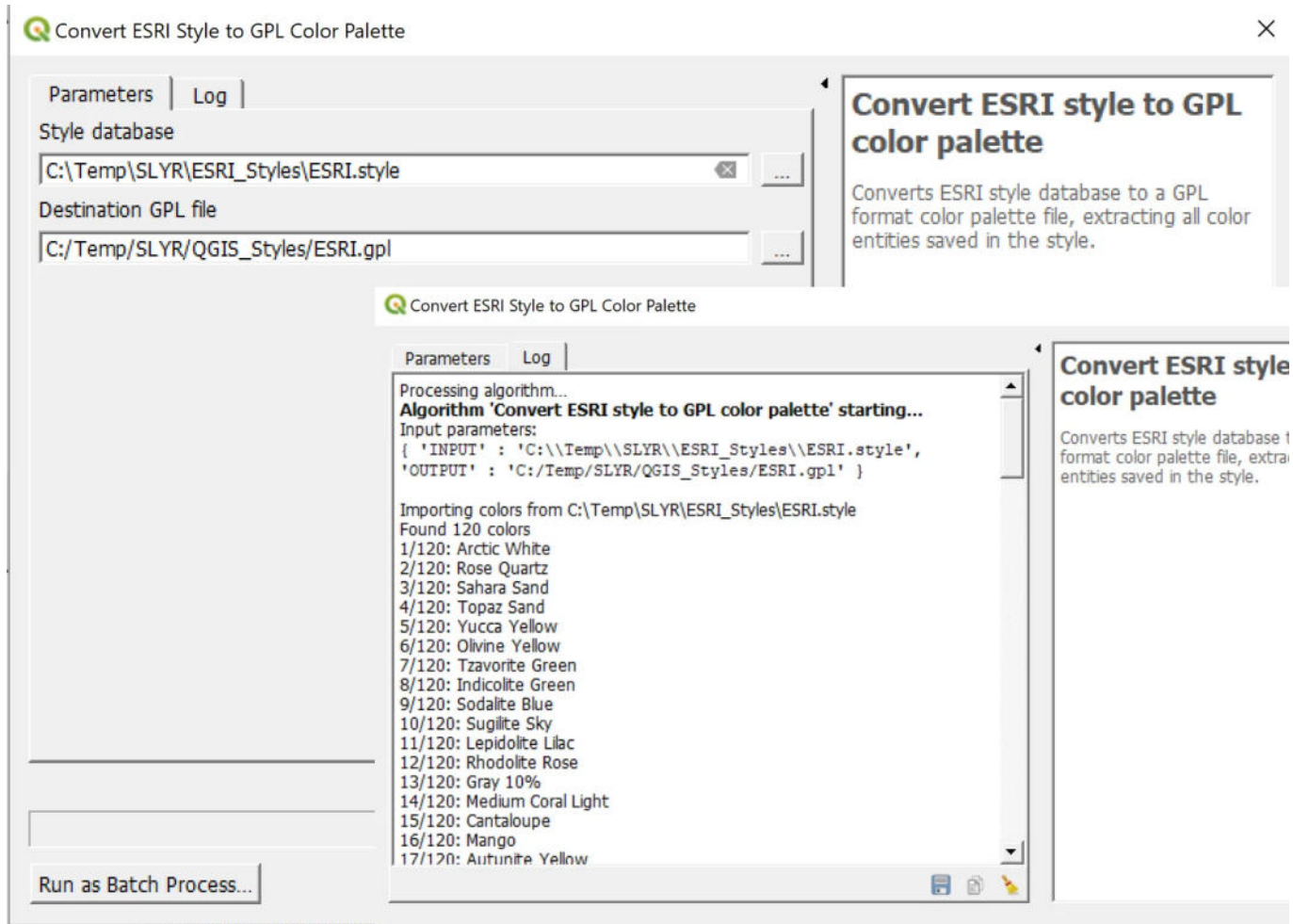


For comparison for how well the conversion worked, here's what the ESRI.style look like. I think the SLYR tool does a great job of converting ESRI styles to QGIS XML.



Convert ESRI Style to GPL Color Palette

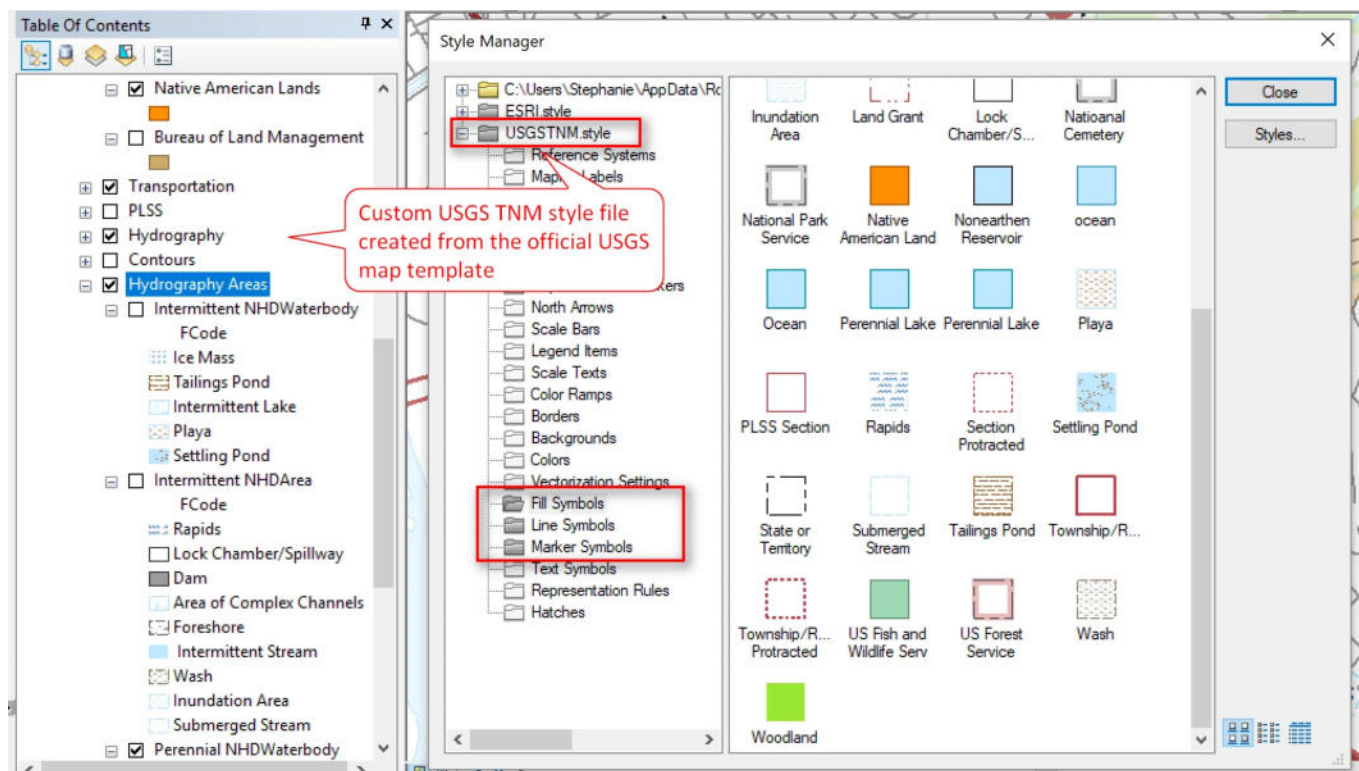
I've also tried the SLYR script for converting ESRI style to GPL Color Palette and it works great as well. Here's a look at a sample.



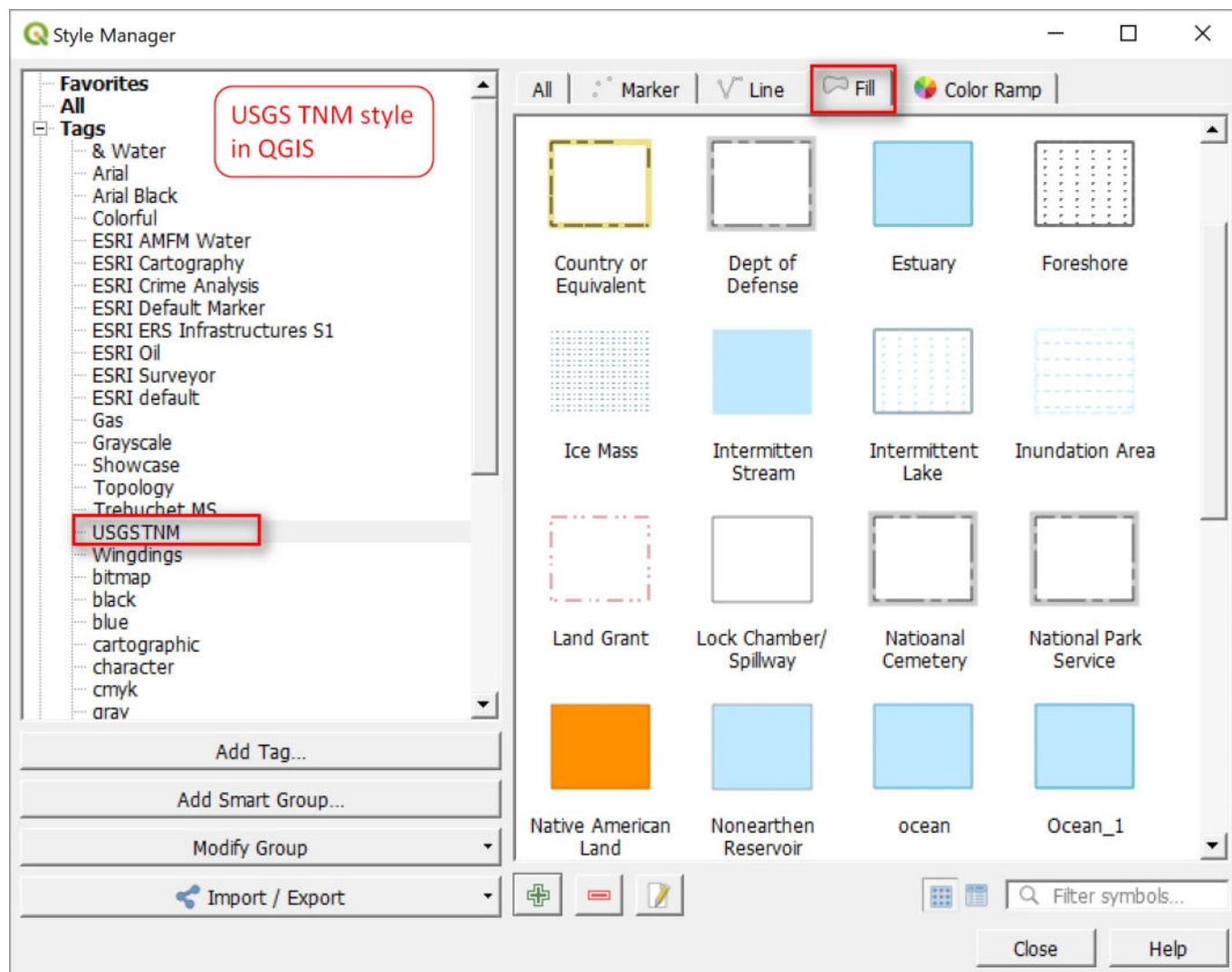
Converting ESRI LYR to QGIS XML

You can also convert an ESRI .lyr file as well - although indirectly. You first will need to save the symbols in the .lyr file into a custom set of style (i.e. .style) before using the SLYR tool. This is what I did with the USGS TNM symbols - I created my own style file then converted them with the SLYR tool to QGIS XML.

Here's my custom USGSTNM.style file created using the official USGS TNM map template in ArcGIS.



Here's the converted style file as imported into QGIS - looks great and is exactly what I wanted.



Sample QGIS XML files available for download

I've converted some ESRI style files to QGIS XML files if anyone is interested in testing/using them. The sample styles are listed below and are available for download on my GitHub page. I make no guarantee of any kind to your use of these files.

Download on GitHub:

ESRI Style Files

- Business.style
- Civic.style
- Conservation.style
- Crime Analysis.style
- Environmental.style
- ESRI.style
- ESRI-CAD.style
- Forestry.style
- Geology 24K.style
- Hazmat.style
- Meteorological.style
- Mining.style
- Ordnance Survey.style
- Petroleum UK.style
- Petroleum.style
- Public Signs.style
- Real Estate.style
- Soils EURO.style
- Survey.style
- Transportation.style
- USGSTNM.style
- Utilities.style
- Water Wastewater.style
- Weather.style
- Web216.style

QGIS XML Files

- errorlogs
- symbolpic
- Business.xml
- civic.xml
- conservation.xml
- CrimeAnalysis.xml
- Environmental.xml
- ESRI.gpl
- ESRI.xml
- ESRICAD.xml
- Forestry.xml
- Geology24K.xml
- Hazmat.xml
- Meteorological.xml
- Mining.xml
- OrdnanceSurvey.xml
- Petroleum.xml
- PetroleumUK.xml
- PublicSigns.xml
- RealEstate.xml
- SoilsEURO.xml
- Survey.xml
- Transportation.xml
- USGSTNM.xml
- Utilities.xml

 Win256.style WasteWater.xml Weather.xml Web216.xml Win256.xml

That's it for this post. Thanks as always for reading. Until next time.

Update (4/11/2019): Brett Carlock has converted a set of corresponding GPL files for use in QGIS. Please see his [GitHub page](#) to download the gpl files. Thanks, Brett!

Comments (13)

Newest First

gregor 6 years ago · 0 Likes

Thanks so much for putting this together. Where could I find the .style file for the default 120 color palette you were converting? ArcGIS Pro only allows for saving "ArcGIS Colors" palette to .stylx which is not supported by SLYR. Thank you!

Stephanie Saephan 6 years ago · 0 Likes

Hi. If you have access to ArcGIS Desktop (i.e ArcMap) and have it installed you can usually find the core style files in the installation path of where you installed ArcGIS: For example: C:\Program Files\ArcGIS\Desktop10.7\Styles. If you made your own style files (i.e. Stephanie.style) then these are in

your user account folder: For example:

C:\Users\Steph\AppData\Roaming\ESRI\Desktop10.7\ArcMap.

Gede Yatha

6 years ago · 0 Likes

I have trouble converting advance simbol, could you convert it for me please?

and email gdyatha@gmail.com

here is my style :

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MnldSSme8HDAaHafcqo6PhaWevHfQp_E/view?usp=sharing

thank you very much

Dung PHAM

6 years ago · 0 Likes

I got this error when assigning location of mdbtools:

An error has occurred while executing Python code:

RuntimeError: wrapped C/C++ object of type ORSdirectionsPointsLayersAlgo has been deleted

How can I deal with this?

Thank you.

Robert

7 years ago · 0 Likes

I, for one, am not by any means a QGIS and for a long time was frustrated that things like styles, symbology, attribute table forms etc. weren't saved to the .shp file. I had no idea until now about the existence of the .qml file, and it's a huge relief for me. For sure an obvious concept to others, but it wasn't to me. Thank you for this post! :)

Jorge Acuña

7 years ago · 0 Likes

Instalé SLYR y MDBTools siguiendo los pasos indicados, pero en los complementos me aparece slyr-master en rojo con un mensaje que dice "complemento inválido - roto o incompatible".

Saludos.

Rob Jones 7 years ago · 0 Likes

I think you were missing some ESRI fonts when you created these. E.g. conversation should reference the font 'ESRI Conservation' not 'Lucida Grande' for symbols. It might be worth pointing out that those fonts do have to also be installed on the computer running QGIS. It would be nice if SLYR could also convert the font symbols to SVG to avoid needing these.

Stephanie Saephan 7 years ago · 0 Likes

Hi Jim,

I'm not sure what exactly your issue is but I just downloaded the SLYR files and tried on my machine and it works fine for me. Maybe trying checking the following:

1. I noticed that when I unzipped the downloaded file there are two subfolders created like this: ...slyr/slyr/then bunch of other files. Try copy/paste the second slyr subfolder to your python plugins folder of QGIS (see blog post above). The slyr plugin should show up in your QGIS plugins menu - you just need to activate it.
2. Double check the path setting to the mdbtools is correct in the Processing options for SLYR.

These are the only 2 things I can think of without more info. Hope it helps. But if you are still having trouble please feel free to email me directly and I'll see if I can help you.

Thanks for reading!

Steph

7 years ago · 0 Likes

First of all, thanks for posting this. I'm new to Qgis, and I've been trying to find utility symbols, and this looks like the best way to go about it.

Anyway, I downloaded the SLYR.zip file, unzipped it and moved the SLYR folder to the plugins folder. When I try to install it into Qgis, I get a "Couldn't load plugin 'SLYR' due to an error when calling its classFactory() method" error.

What am I doing wrong?

Thanks

Jim

Jigme Tenzin 7 years ago · 0 Likes

I have problem in installing the SLYR plugin. Could you elaborate where should we install mdbtools ??

Stephanie Saephan 7 years ago · 0 Likes

Hi. All you need to do is download and extract the files to your hard drive (e.g. C:\mdbtools-win) then tell the SLYR plugin where to the mdbtools are located (see step 2 above on changing the plugin setting). That's it.

Good luck and I hope you get it to work.

Carolina 8 years ago · 0 Likes

Thank you for sharing your workflow! But I had problems with the installation, the error said that the plugin was broken. I am not a programmer, so I have difficulty with codes. And comment here if someone else has the same difficulty.

After much persistence I got it! I realize that I was using the .zip file outdated by the link provided above "Go to SLYR on GitHub (<https://github.com/nyalldawson/slyr>) and download and unzip to your hard drive". The updated zip is here <https://github.com/nyalldawson/slyr/releases> .

Stephanie Saephan 7 years ago · 0 Likes

Thanks for your comment. I will update my post with the new download link.

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ArcGIS

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