



# Habitat Restoration Partnerships

## Great Lakes Areas of Concern



### Habitat restoration in Areas of Concern (AOCs)

and other important areas is a priority for many agencies and organizations across the Great Lakes.

**43 watersheds**, or portions of watersheds, along the Great Lakes suffering from **degraded environmental conditions** stemming from **historic and ongoing pollution**.

**Restoration projects** contribute to **delisting AOCs**, realizing **environmental and economic benefits**, and enhancing the **quality of life for local and regional citizens**.

## Regional Partnerships

NOAA GLRI funding mechanism resulting in implementation of habitat restoration projects focused in U.S. AOCs

Funding through the Partnerships is more flexible than traditional competitive grants to ensure adequate funds are available to meet project needs

Partnership recipients guide local sub-recipients that collectively implement a suite of restoration projects

Organizations apply for Partnerships through a competitive process to demonstrate capacity to implement a variety of habitat restoration projects



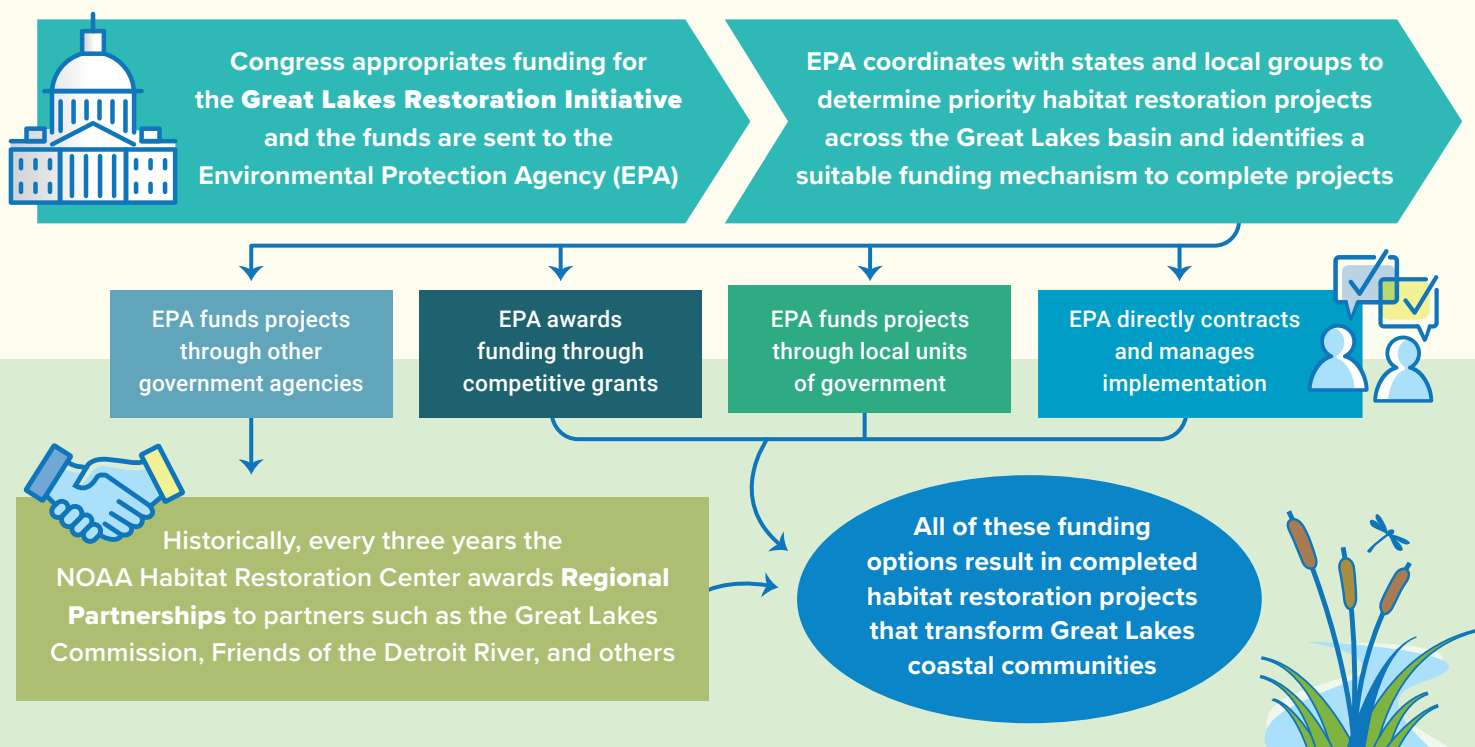
## Funding Regional Partnerships



- **Congress sets funding for the GLRI each year.** For example, in 2019 the GLRI was funded at \$300 million for all 5 focus areas
- **Administrators at EPA determine priority projects** by consulting with the Great Lakes states, other federal agencies involved with AOCs, and AOC coordinators
- **AOCs create EPA approved lists that outline their habitat restoration projects.** These are the best, and most feasible, projects that will lead to "de-listing" the AOC

Sometimes AOCs don't have a local unit of government willing, or able, to oversee large-scale habitat restoration projects. Instead, EPA gives funding to other government agencies that either implement projects directly, or administer programs to distribute funds through competitive grants or programs like the **NOAA Regional Partnerships**

# Funding Regional Partnerships



## NOAA-GLC Regional Partnerships

The NOAA-GLC Regional Partnerships fund design, construction and monitoring of priority projects across the basin.

These Partnerships are flexible and enable distribution of funds as they are needed to fully implement habitat restoration.



### NOAA

- ▶ Funder
- ▶ Reporting agency
- ▶ Provides technical monitoring
- ▶ Enforces federal requirements

### GLC

- ▶ Regional Partnership recipient
- ▶ Completes reporting
- ▶ Manages multiple subrecipients
- ▶ Manages funding and requirements
- ▶ Coordinates regional communication



### LOCAL PARTNERS

- ▶ Implement projects in AOCs
- ▶ Manage contractors and construction
- ▶ Conduct monitoring
- ▶ Plan local events

For more information please visit [www.glc.org/work/habitat](http://www.glc.org/work/habitat)

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