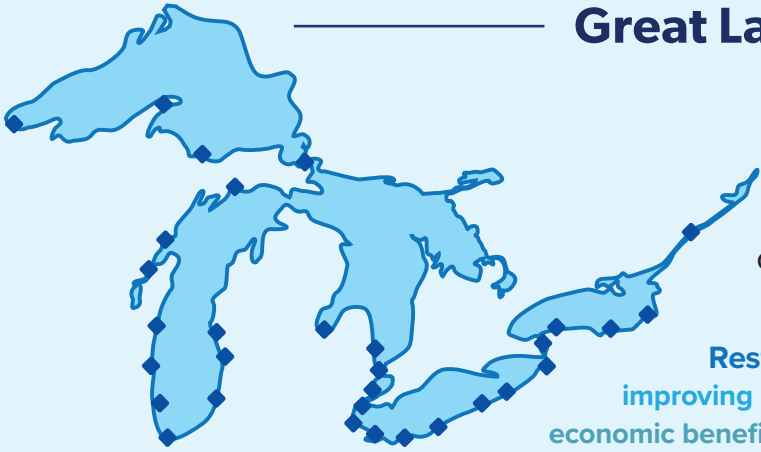




Habitat Restoration Partnerships

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 suffer from **degraded environmental conditions** stemming from **historic and ongoing pollution**.

Restoration projects contribute to **delisting AOCs**, **improving priority coastal habitats**, realizing environmental and economic benefits, and enhancing the **quality of life for people living nearby**.

Regional Partnerships

Utilizes GLRI funding to implement habitat restoration projects 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

The GLC guides local sub-recipients that collectively implement a suite of restoration projects

Organizations are awarded partnerships due to demonstrated success in implementing a variety of habitat restoration projects



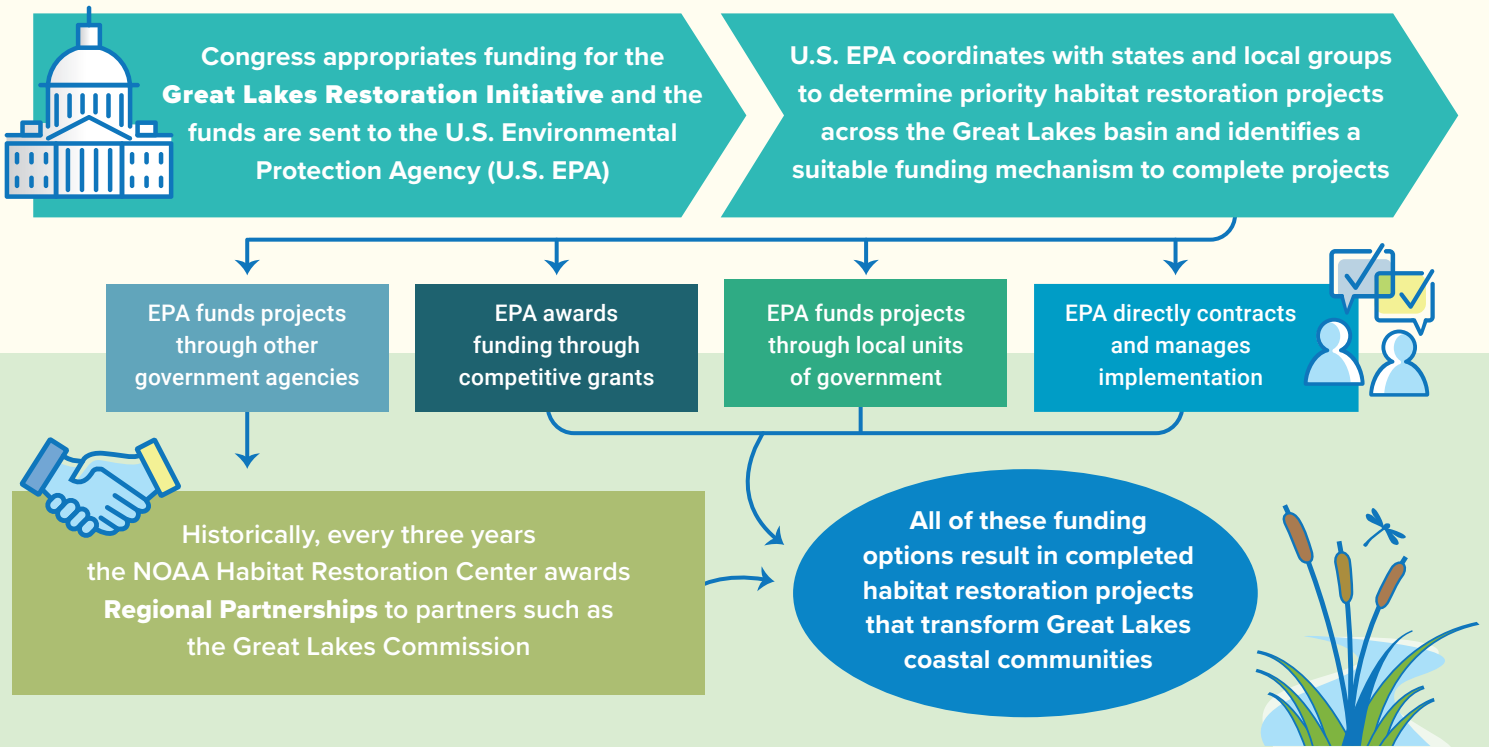
Funding Regional Partnerships



- **Congress sets funding for the GLRI each year.** For example, in 2023 the GLRI was funded at \$368 million for all focus areas
- **Administrators at U.S. 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**

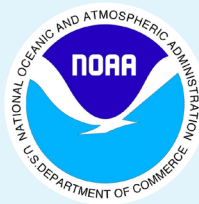
Funding Regional Partnerships



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.

\$70 MILLION
8 AREAS OF CONCERN
45 PROJECTS
15 LOCAL PARTNERS



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

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