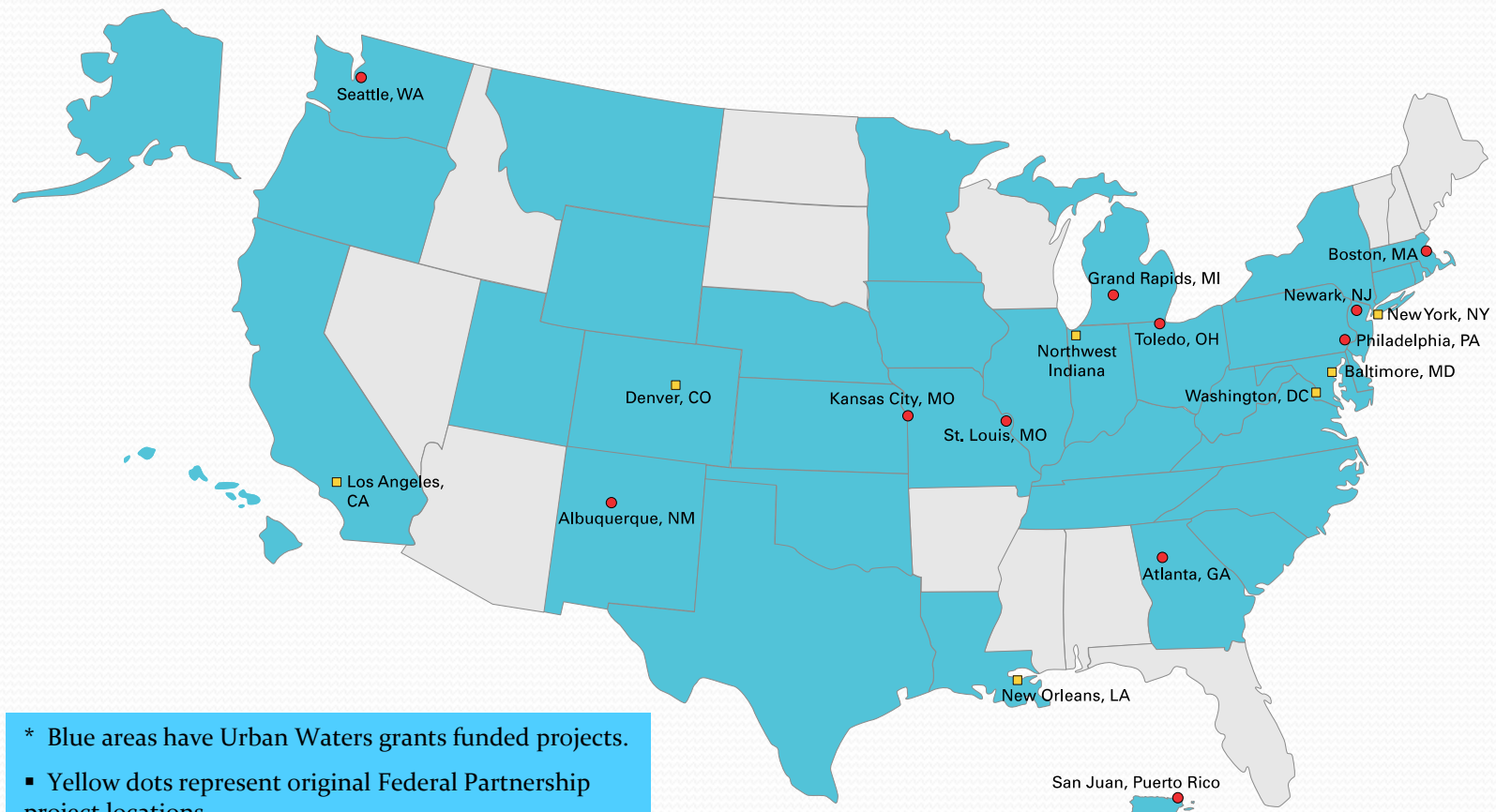


# Urban Waters Program

- Launched in 2009, Urban Waters program supports local efforts to restore water quality, particularly in underserved communities by advancing community and economic development and reconnecting residents with their urban waters.
- ***Urban Waters Federal Partnership:***
  - An EPA-led, 13 member Partnership working together with local stakeholder groups in 18 locations on projects to restore urban waterways and expand the scope of on-the-ground support.
- ***Urban Waters Funding:***
  - EPA Small Grants: more than \$3M has been awarded nationwide in 55 locations.
  - Urban Waters fund: a collaboration between EPA and USDA providing grants and leveraging private investments to address a broad array of community priorities. Sponsored by the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.
- ***Learning Network:***
  - Working collaboratively with River Network and Groundwork USA, the Urban Waters Learning Network provides technical assistance and facilitates peer-to-peer sharing across the Urban Waters grantee community.
- ***Online learning tools:***
  - The EPA Urban Waters page features 14 video interviews with community organizers. A second website, [urbanwaters.gov](http://urbanwaters.gov), is maintained to update federal partnership information and each designated urban waters location can post information.

# SCOPE OF URBAN WATERS

## Urban Waters Projects Across the Country



- \* Blue areas have Urban Waters grants funded projects.
- Yellow dots represent original Federal Partnership project locations
- Red dots represent new Partnership locations announced in 2013

# Urban Waters Accomplishments

The Urban Waters Program and Federal Partnership has created a model infrastructure for coordinating support for on-the-ground projects and connecting communities to technical, informational and financial resources at the federal level. The program aims to positively impact these areas:

- ***Green infrastructure:*** Equipping communities with the skills and tools to plan, implement, and maintain green infrastructure projects.
- ***Environmental justice:*** Identifying and engaging underserved communities in reconnecting with the economic, environmental, and health-based benefits of their local waters.
- ***Community engagement:*** Planning and supporting water restoration efforts that directly involve the beneficiary communities and sustain involvement.
- ***Value/importance of water:*** Driving organic interest among communities in the value of their local waters.
- ***Water quality:*** Volunteer monitoring, report card models, and other tactics to measure and improve the quality of local waters.



# FIVE STAR AND URBAN WATERS PROGRAM

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY

- Nationwide program with an emphasis on urban conservation, water quality and stewardship
- Locally-focused projects that engage communities in restoration and conservation of local resources

## URBAN WATER ISSUES

- Polluted runoff from metropolitan areas including streets, highways and rural roads
- Invasive species (aquatic and terrestrial)
- Shoreline and stream bank erosion
- Loss of aquatic, wetland and upland habitat





# FIVE STAR AND URBAN WATERS PROGRAM



## STRATEGIES

- Restore wetlands, streams and riverbanks.
- Reduce water pollution through
  - stormwater runoff abatement
  - green infrastructure strategies for water impairment reduction
- Implement green infrastructure in urban areas including increasing tree canopy and urban tree restoration
- Build community capacity through engagement and support

# FIVE STAR AND URBAN WATERS PROGRAM

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Program partners for 2015:
  - US EPA
  - USFS
  - USFWS
  - FedEx
  - PG&E
  - Bank of America
  - Southern Company
- Key component to any project
- Invests communities and leverage local resources
- Local partnerships involve at least five key local groups
- Increase direct community engagement
- Strong local project visibility





# FIVE STAR AND URBAN WATERS PROGRAM: NFWF LEVERAGE MULTIPLIES IMPACT

