

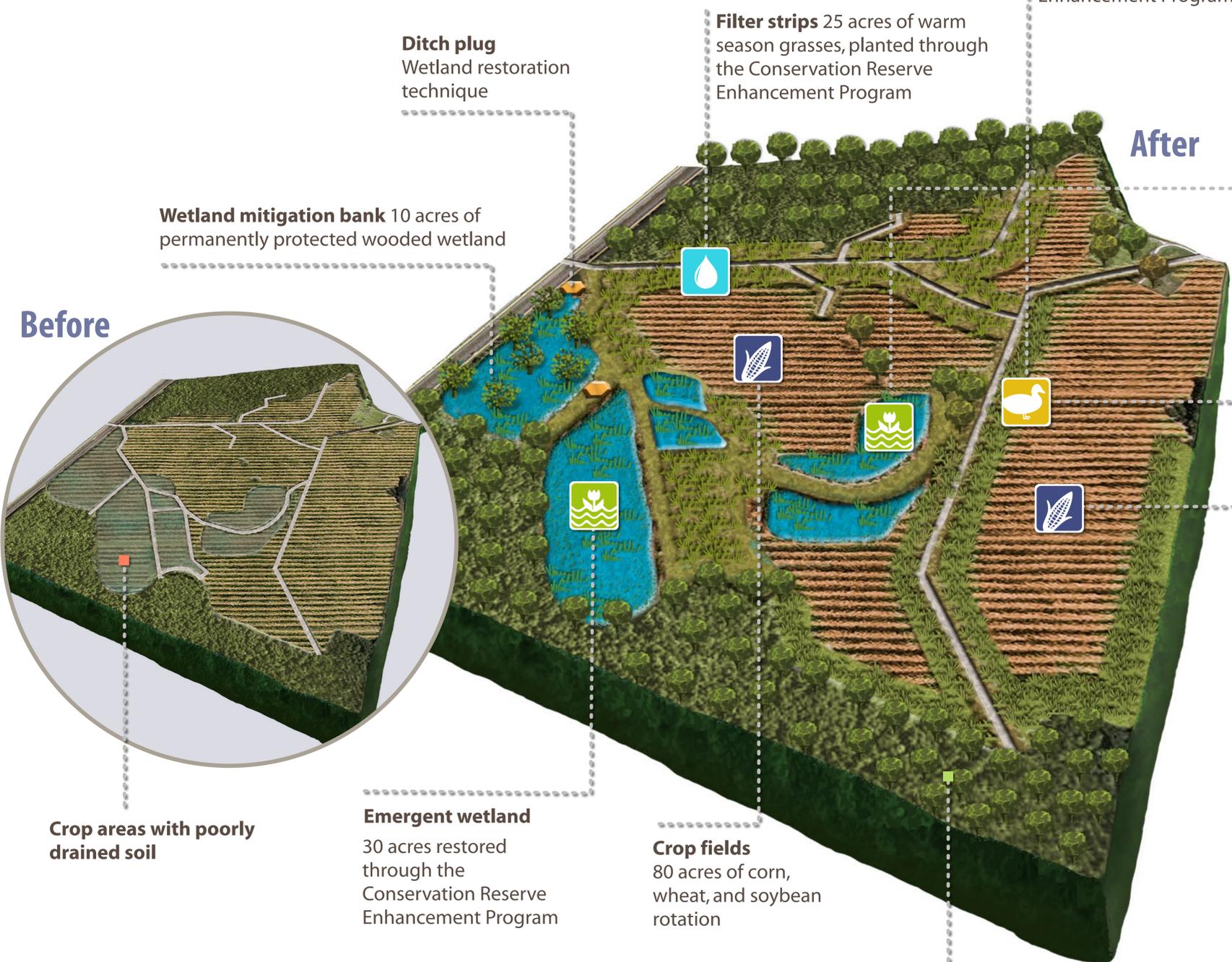
Mudford Farm

The Biophilia Foundation buys farm properties and implements conservation practices on marginal land to increase the farm's ecological and economic value.



Chesapeake Bay

Mudford Farm is located within the Chesapeake Bay region on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary and one of the biologically richest areas in the United States. Historically an important fishing and seafood production region, the Bay has been adversely impacted by nutrient runoff causing algal blooms and the creation of a dead zone in the Chesapeake. Non-point source agricultural runoff from fertilizer and manure comprise a significant portion of excess nutrients in the Bay.



Before

After

Wetland mitigation bank 10 acres of permanently protected wooded wetland

Ditch plug
Wetland restoration technique

Filter strips 25 acres of warm season grasses, planted through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Field borders 15 acres of habitat for grassland birds created through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Crop areas with poorly drained soil

Emergent wetland
30 acres restored through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Crop fields
80 acres of corn, wheat, and soybean rotation

Temperate woodland
112 acres, naturally occurring



With the assistance of Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage and USDA state-federal partnerships, the Biophilia Foundation is restoring 30 acres of wetland, creating 40 acres of warm season grass meadow, and re-establishing 10 acres of wooded wetland on Mudford Farm.

Nutrient reduction credits generated from restoration activities were sold to the State of Maryland as part of a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Easement sale. By selling a CREP Easement the Biophilia Foundation permanently protected all of the farm's values, including the woodlands, restored wetlands and buffers, and productive cropland.

All 80 acres of restored habitat were formerly marginal farmland. The newly established wetland and grass meadow set up natural filters for agricultural runoff and create habitat for wildlife, including waterfowl, shorebirds, turtles, frogs, and song birds.

The Biophilia Foundation plans to resell the property. The new buyer can continue to produce crops on 80 acres of tillable land and will earn annual CREP rental payments and enhanced hunting lease revenues.

Farm Revenue Sources (Gross), 2009

| Source | Revenue | Customer |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Corn, soy and wheat revenue | 45% | Poultry companies |
| CREP rental payment | 35% | The state of MD |
| Wildlife hunting leases | 20% | Sportsmen |

Post restoration revenue during 15-year CREP rental period is 132% greater than pre-restoration revenue. Landowner anticipates that revenues from wildlife hunting leases will double in value. Revenue calculations and all financial information provided by the landowner.



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