

# TALBOT COUNTY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

*Talbot County, Maryland*

## CLIENT

- Talbot County

## SERVICES

- Green Infrastructure Planning

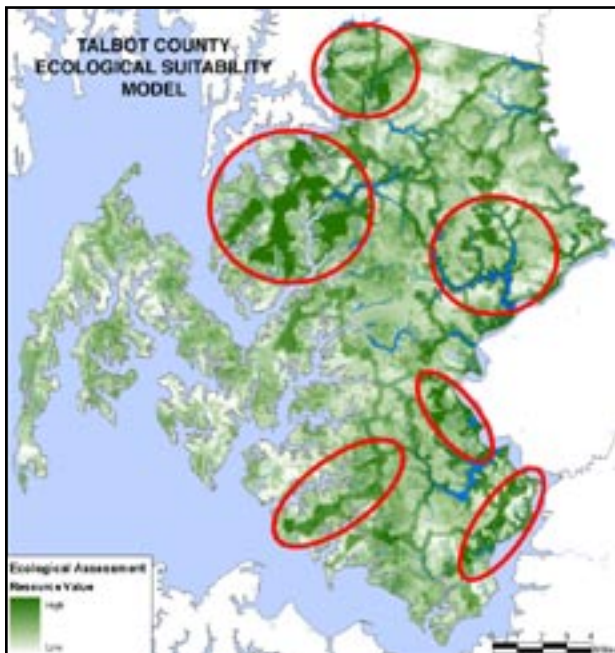
## PROPERTY

- 168,000 acres of woodlands, wetlands, farmfields, and historic communities

Green infrastructure is a strategic approach to land and water conservation that identifies conservation priorities and provides a planning framework for conservation and development. Highlighting the importance of protecting large blocks of contiguous land and establishing connectivity, it aims to establish a matrix of natural areas, conservation lands and working landscapes. A Green Infrastructure Plan provides a blueprint for accommodating appropriate growth and development while preserving a region's most valuable natural resources, native species, cultural assets and agricultural economy.



The Conservation Fund was engaged to produce a county-scale Green Infrastructure Plan for Talbot County, which is centrally located on Maryland's Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. The County features a fragile system of islands and peninsulas that make up almost 600 miles of coastline bordering the Bay and its multiple inlets, as well as the Choptank River and Tuckahoe Creek to the east and the Miles and Wye East Rivers to the northwest.



The Talbot County Green Infrastructure Plan identifies critical areas for conservation, establishes priorities for protection, and recommends tactics for implementation and funding. The Plan focuses on ecologically important resource areas (*woodlands, high quality wildlife habitat*), highly productive working landscapes (*farmland and forestland*) and critical areas for the protection of aquatic resources (*wetlands, sensitive shoreline areas, riparian corridors, floodplains*). Talbot's Green Infrastructure Plan was developed in coordination with the County's updated Comprehensive Plan in order to reflect the community values, future vision, and local interests set forth by Talbot County and its residents.

The Green Infrastructure Plan is intended to help County planners preserve natural resources, ensure the economic viability of working landscapes and orient development in a way that is compatible with the resources and character of the County. If successfully implemented, it could provide a model for other counties faced with similar pressures.