

Integrating Natural Areas Management with Small Scale Agriculture and Restoration

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Managing and restoring natural areas for maximum biodiversity has many positive effects on adjacent small-scale agriculture. DBG Chatfield Farms has been integrating regenerative agriculture techniques to eliminate toxic pesticide applications while enhancing long term soil health, soil fertility, and soil water holding capacity in a vegetable cropping system. Actively restoring prairies and riparian areas on the property sustain pollinator populations and other wildlife that depend on high quality habitat. Healthy raptor populations that rely on riparian habitat are essential to controlling rodent and rabbit pests in the fields. Trap crops and flower strips in production fields further enhance pest control and increase beneficial insects as a sustainable alternative to insecticides.

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