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## OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT 2020



### CELEBRATING LAND FOR CLEAN WATER, PARKS, WILDLIFE, AND CLIMATE

Dear Friend,

With this presentation of the Open Space Institute's Annual Report, we are proud to share a year's worth of accomplishments that not only met our mission, **but also met the moment.**

Last year, OSI protected over 16,000 acres and added more than 23,000 acres to federal-and-state owned parks. We led the way to winning full funding for the nation's Land and Water Conservation Fund. In New York, we helped to build a new visitor center at Minnewaska State Park, and our nearby River-to-Ridge Trail provided free, outdoor relief to 208,000 visitors. In South Carolina, our land protection efforts along the Black River will set the stage for the first new state park in 15 years.

We could not have accomplished so much without your support, and there is still so much more to do. If you have not yet **[made a donation to OSI](#)** to our special match campaign, I urge you to do so before July 4th! This will help double the opportunities to protect the lands we love and need.

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## NEW LIFE FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

"In a wonderful sense of timing, as Americans were most in need of the land and all it offers, funding for the single most important land protection initiative in our nation's history was made permanent," says OSI's Kim Elliman. Thanks to OSI's Outdoors America Campaign, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is now permanently guaranteed \$900 million annually to protect America's natural, recreational, and cultural resources.

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## CONNECTING TO SOUTH CAROLINA'S BLACK RIVER

An exciting collaborative of conservation partners, state agencies, and local governments is launching a visionary effort to link a series of riverside public and private parks along a 70-mile stretch of South Carolina's scenic Black River. The proposed Black River Water Trail & Park Network, led by the Open Space Institute and its partners, will feature the first new state park in 15 years, and is being planned to meet the access needs of communities along the water, while creating nature-based tourism opportunities to boost the local economy.

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## MARVELING AT MINNEWASKA

For over three decades, OSI and its partners have left a lasting mark on Minnewaska State Park Preserve, not only protecting the property from development early on, but also slowly and steadily doubling the size of the park to its present 24,000 acres; restoring more than 12 miles of once-crumbling carriage roads; and, most recently, unveiling the vibrant Lake Minnewaska Visitor Center.

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## GIVING THE GIFT OF NATURE

Through OSI's Citizen Action Program, iDig2Learn gains access to mentorship, professional training, increased fundraising capabilities, and legal assistance, as the organization works to expand its impact. When the pandemic hit her New York City community last spring, it became clear to Christina Delfico that family life was being turned upside down for so many of her friends and neighbors. Determined to do something positive, she developed the idea to create "plant therapy" kits and give them away outside.

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