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Protecting land for people, for wildlife, forever.

An Earth Day Celebration of Land



KIM ELLIMAN: CELEBRATING ALL THE LAND DOES FOR US

As spring gives us opportunities to get outside and reconnect with the land, it also provides a chance to celebrate all the ways protected land lifts our lives.

A walk in the forest is especially wonderful this time of year as budding trees and plants seem to awaken before our eyes. Still, these same protected forests are doing double — or even triple — duty for our planet's health, as they act as nature's filters for clean drinking water and absorb the carbon that is contributing to climate change.

Further downstream, land protection is improving recreational opportunities and strengthening communities, all while reducing the ever-increasing risk of flooding. So, this season as we venture outside to soak up the sun, get our feet wet, and breathe in the fragrant springtime air, give a thought to how forests and other protected land are hard at work for all of us.

There are solutions in the land. We are ever grateful for your support of OSI. Happy Earth Day!



"GREENING" RIVER-TO-RIDGE

Up to 200,000 users enjoy OSI's River-to-Ridge Trail in New Paltz each year. These visitors are likely unaware of the series of projects integrated into the trail and landscape that improve soil health, create habitat for ground-nesting birds, and protect the water quality of the Wallkill River.

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LARGE-SCALE CONSERVATION IN SC

With its third major Jasper County land protection project in less than a year, OSI is achieving large-scale conservation in the fast-developing coastal South Carolina. The three newly conserved properties total more than 5,000 acres, offering critical habitat for the endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker.

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GRANTS TO BOOST CLIMATE EFFORTS

Seeking to harness land's ability to combat climate change, OSI and the Land Trust Alliance are inviting proposals for their Land and Climate Catalyst Planning Grant program. Land trusts, nonprofits, and Indigenous Tribes can apply for a total of \$300,000 for the development of climate-aligned land protection and forest stewardship plans.

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A CARRIAGE ROAD MAKEOVER

OSI's eleventh carriage road restoration project at Minnewaska State Park Preserve is underway this spring. Once completed, the High Point Carriage Road will connect the interior of Minnewaska to Sam's Point, creating access to areas of the park that have been inaccessible to most users for more than 25 years.

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CADETS BUILD TRAIL BRIDGE AT HARRIMAN STATE PARK

Cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point are, once again, partnering with OSI and NYS Parks to design and build a recreational trail bridge — this year at Harriman State Park. The partnership allows the cadets to apply the skills they acquire from their civil engineering education toward a project that benefits the community, as they prepare for their military careers.

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PROTECTING EDISTO ISLAND FROM RAMPANT DEVELOPMENT

In the face of incompatible development, OSI has protected a scenic property along the beautiful, oak-canopied entrance to one of South Carolina's most heavily visited nature preserves. The beloved Botany Bay Plantation and Heritage Preserve is one of the very few waterfront public lands on the Lowcountry's historic sea islands.

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