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OSI CELEBRATES RESTORATION OF MINNEWASKA CARRIAGE ROADS

The Open Space Institute continues its revitalization of Minnewaska State Park Preserve with the restoration of nearly three miles of the High Point Carriage Road. In addition to re-establishing recreational access to a largely inaccessible part of the popular park preserve, the project creates a long-sought connection between Sam's Point and Lake Minnewaska, and marks a total of 15 miles of historic carriage roads restored to date by OSI. The \$1.2 million project is the latest of OSI's decades-long efforts to protect this spectacular Shawangunk landscape, expand recreational access, and improve the visitor experience at the popular park preserve.

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INVESTING IN FUTURE LEADERS

The Open Space Institute welcomes Toluwalase (Ennie) Akinwunmi and Michio Agresta, its newest Conservation Diversity program fellows. Now in its seventh year, the program invests in emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds with opportunities to gain experience, develop skills, and launch careers in the environmental and conservation fields.

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A NEW REFUGE IN TENNESSEE

The Open Space Institute's Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund (ALPF) played a key role in the acquisition of what will soon become Paint Rock River National Wildlife Refuge in Tennessee. With OSI's ALPF providing the largest source of funding, conservation of the property will safeguard the river's headwaters, protecting a diverse array of aquatic life.

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GROWING GREENWAYS: REVITALIZING THE O&W RAIL TRAIL

The Open Space Institute is launching a slate of new projects intended to transform the O&W Rail Trail into a recreational destination. OSI is working to restore the fragmented O&W Rail corridor into a contiguous, 57-mile shared-use greenway trail stretching from Kingston in Ulster County southwest to Port Jervis in Orange County.

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CONSERVING 3,800 ACRES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The Open Space Institute recently joined with key local partners to celebrate the addition of 3,800 acres to the state's beloved Wee Tee State Forest. A collective effort since 2021, this expansion protects diverse habitats and preserves recreational access for boating and fishing along the Santee River.

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PROTECTING FORESTS FOR CARBON STORAGE AND CLEAN WATER

In northern New Hampshire, 870 acres of forest have been saved for carbon emissions storage, thanks to the Open Space Institute's Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund. The property has been added to the Maidstone Bends Preserve, protecting a regional drinking water source and re-establishing forested buffers across several miles of riverbanks.

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PLANNING FOR THE NEXT CENTURY AT NEW YORK STATE PARKS

Leading into the 2024 New York State Parks Centennial Celebration, the Open Space Institute is conducting a statewide visitor survey to help shape agency priorities for the next century. The study is part of a year-long celebration highlighting the role state parks play in preserving natural and cultural resources, and providing unparalleled visitor experiences.

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Open Space Institute
1350 Broadway Suite 201
New York, New York 10018
212-290-8200
webmaster@osiny.org

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