

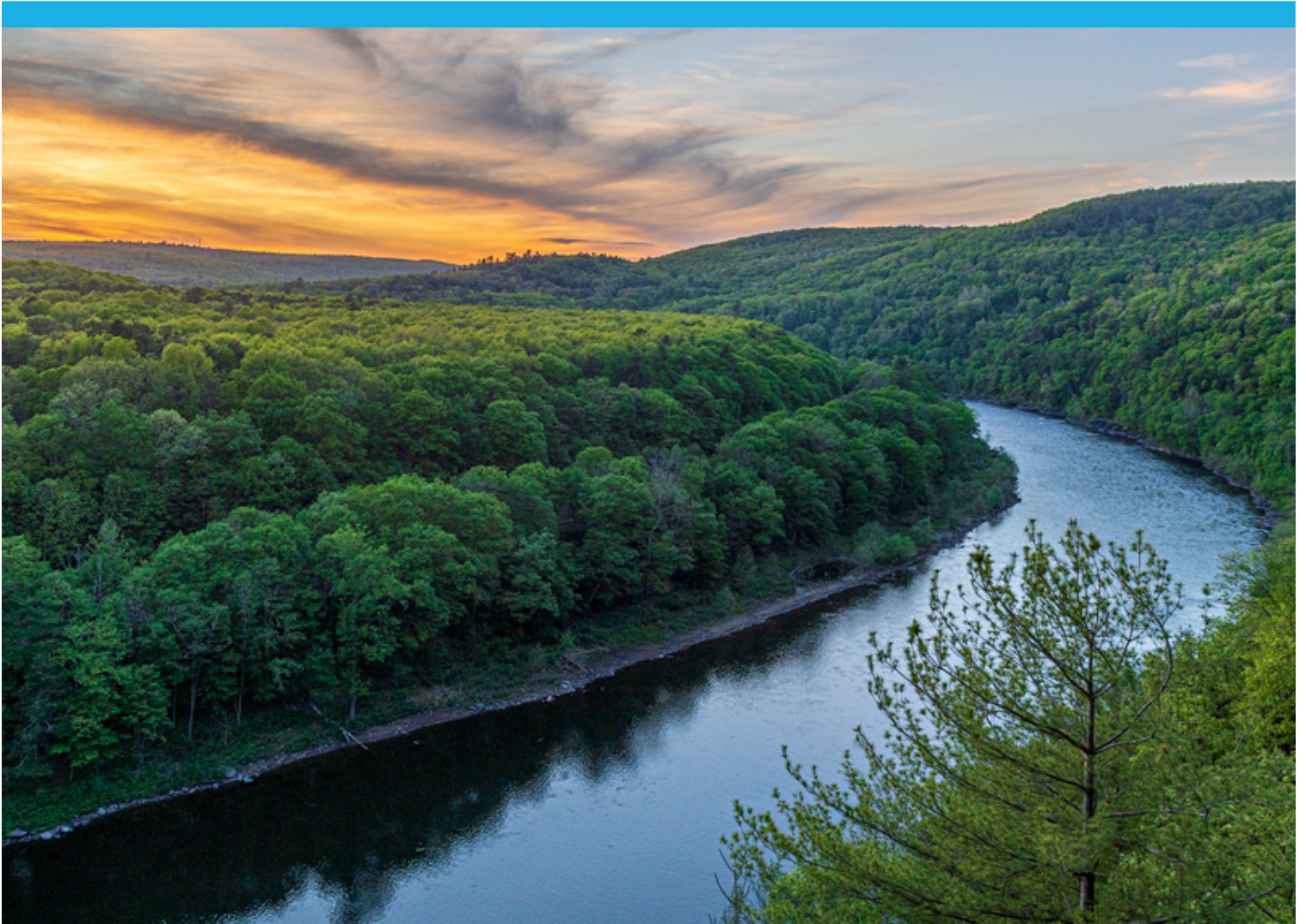
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## **NEW OSI LOAN FUND AIMS TO PROTECT DELAWARE WATERSHED**

A new funding mechanism aimed at ensuring clean water for the 15 million people living in the Delaware River Watershed, including in New York City, Philadelphia, Trenton, and Wilmington, is now available through the Open Space Institute. The new Delaware River Watershed Revolving Loan Fund will provide short-term, low-interest loans for the completion of important, time-sensitive land protection and restoration projects, as well as the creation and development of trails and community engagement, within the watershed. The program is the latest development of OSI's Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund, capitalized by the William Penn Foundation, which has protected some 22,000 acres across New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware, since its launch in 2014.

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## SAVING THE SEBAGO

Near Sebago Lake in western Maine, a pair of landowners have teamed up with conservationists to achieve the successful protection of 12,000 acres of forestland. It's the latest victory for OSI and the rest of its partners in Sebago Clean Waters — one of the nation's most closely watched efforts demonstrating the role forests play in ensuring clean water.

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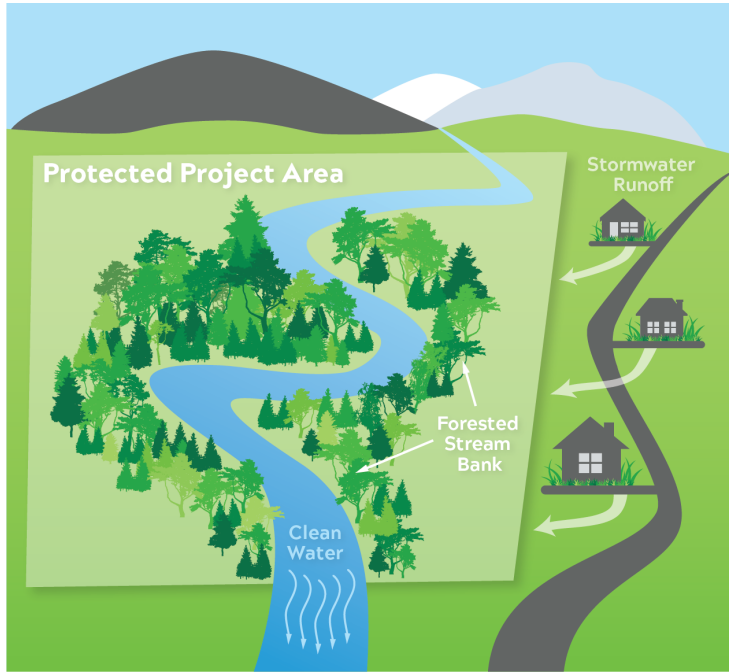
## TRAILS AND CLEAN WATER

In northern New Jersey, OSI scored a win for drinking water when it unveiled new designs for the 1,300-acre Boonton Reservoir in Morris County. The Boonton Reservoir Protection and Trail Project will improve stormwater runoff filtration and provide enhanced security to safeguard the reservoir, a primary source of clean drinking water for Jersey City since 1904.

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## RESCUING RUNNING LAKE CREEK

An OSI-protected creekside property and home to beautiful bald cypress and tupelo trees is now part of South Carolina's Congaree National Park, one of the most biodiverse landscapes remaining in the Southeast. Acquired by OSI in 2019, the property contains two miles of the creek and creates buffer protection for the park.

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## MEASURING THE VALUE OF FORESTS

New research from OSI and its partners in the Delaware River Watershed Initiative offers three new approaches to quantify the impact of land protection on water quality. The findings conclusively show the critical role that forests play in filtering pollution and maintaining healthy streams for drinking water, recreation, wildlife, and much more.

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## BUDGETING FOR CLEAN WATER IN NYS

Kim Elliman, OSI's president and CEO, testified before the New York State Legislature in support of funding to protect the water, lands, and clean air that sustain all New Yorkers. His testimony included support for a \$4 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act to prioritize water protection and address increased threats of flooding due to climate change, and more.

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## A NEW PRESERVE IN NJ

OSI's support for a growing nature preserve in northwest New Jersey holds hope for ensuring clean water in the Paulins Kill. "This is a very important project for our town and region," says Rob Moorhead, the local mayor. "We have a responsibility to protect the forestland that can absorb runoff and rainwater that might otherwise flow into the Paulins Kill."

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Top photo: Greg Miller; Paulins Kill photo: Sandy Urgo

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