



**OPEN SPACE  
INSTITUTE**

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Protecting land for people, for wildlife, forever.



## SAVING SOUTH CAROLINA'S REMOTE AND WILD SANTEE RIVER

The Open Space Institute has added more than 2,200 protected acres to South Carolina's Santee River Wilderness Corridor, the state's largest and most intact wilderness area. The acquisition, together with OSI's 2021 purchase of 5,700 acres in the region, is a major preservation achievement for the vast Wilderness Corridor, which stretches from the Atlantic Ocean into the Wee Tee State Forest. The newly protected property contains miles of riverfront flanked by forested wetlands, which filter water for marshes that host an array of waterfowl and aquatic life.

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## APPLY NOW FOR AN OSI McHENRY SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to apply for the Open Space Institute's 2023 Barnabas McHenry Hudson Valley Awards. The awards fund seasonal fellowships for students partnering with Hudson Valley-based nonprofit organizations on environmental conservation, environmental justice, historic preservation, the arts, or tourism projects. Applications accepted through April 3.

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## EXPANDING A NORTHEAST CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

More than 100 acres adjacent to New York's West Mountain State Forest have been protected by the Open Space Institute, an acquisition protecting forests that safeguard important wildlife habitat and migration pathways. The purchase expands the Berkshire Wildlife Linkage Corridor, a 2.4-million-acre swath of conserved land between the Hudson Highlands and Vermont's Green Mountains.

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## NEW FUNDING SECURED TO IMPROVE BLACK RIVER ACCESS

The OSI-led effort to improve access to the South Carolina's Black River received a major boost with a \$4.6 million federal grant. The funding will expand recreational access in three parks along the 70-mile waterway, a riverine park network connecting residents to the state's scenic Black River and providing expanded economic opportunities and critical flood mitigation for local communities.

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## OSI PROJECT EXPANDS WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Some of the most biodiverse and ecologically important habitats in North America are now permanently protected thanks to a recently completed Open Space Institute project. The property, located just west of the Waccamaw River in South Carolina, offers protection to critical intertidal freshwater wetlands and will be added to the celebrated Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge.

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## BUILDING DIVERSITY IN CONSERVATION

## HONORING A LANDSCAPE'S COMPLEX HISTORY

The Open Space Institute and the Village Group have conserved a 10-acre site in Georgetown County, South Carolina, that will become home to the Plantersville Cultural Complex. This community park will showcase and interpret rice fields built and worked by enslaved Africans, who grew the area into the world's largest rice-producing region.

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OSI is investing in the next generation of leaders through the Conservation Diversity Fellowship. Now in its seventh year, the program offers one- and two-year paid fellowships for college graduates and postgraduates from diverse backgrounds. Based in New York City, fellows work within OSI programs to gain experience in the conservation field.

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