



PROTECTING LAND MATTERS NOW MORE THAN EVER

Today, as concerns over clean water, fresh air, and access to open space have become increasingly important, the Open Space Institute is responding with a renewed energy and commitment for land protection and all the benefits that come with it. In this newsletter, we are proud to update you on some recent projects that highlight the real and permanent value of conservation. We invite you to read about our ongoing efforts to provide additional places for people to connect with nature, improve water quality, and promote conservation to reduce the impact of climate change.

As much as we've accomplished this month, so much more remains to be done to protect the land and all that it provides. As always, we are grateful for the support of our donors and partners. Together, we are saving land for people, for wildlife, forever.



SHORES OF SC'S BLACK RIVER PROTECTED

The 150-mile long Black River in South Carolina is renowned for its magnificent birding, paddling, and fishing opportunities. OSI's latest conservation project along the river will not only improve recreational access for the community, it will also help safeguard low-lying areas from the impacts of flooding.



TRAIL CONNECTION IN SARATOGA COUNTY

A 13-mile trail connection between Saratoga Spa and Moreau Lake State Parks is closer to reality with OSI's acquisition of a key property in densely populated Saratoga County. "With access to trails and open space at a premium, it is critical that we continue to move forward and

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support projects that boost community recreation, transportation, and health,” says OSI’s Kim Elliman.

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OSI PROTECTS THE 'BEST OF THE BEST' IN TENNESSEE

Funding from OSI’s Resilient Landscape Initiative and Southern Cumberland Protection Fund has led to the permanent protection of a biodiverse gorge property surrounding Whites and Piney Creeks in eastern Tennessee. The project marks the 24th property conserved with OSI support in the Southern Cumberland Plateau, totaling some 37,000 acres.

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OSI GROUP ADAPTING TO EDUCATE

As an OSI Citizen Action Group, *Sprout Up*, teaches children about environmental science and sustainability. Responding to the current crisis, the group has adapted their operations and is now creating videos and other materials for students and their families to access at home. OSI’s Citizen Action program provides technical and professional support for newly formed grassroots organizations.

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PODCAST FEATURES OSI'S SC WORK

The still waters of the Waccamaw River National Wildlife Refuge have long been a favorite of paddlers and a haven for threatened and endangered species. Today, OSI and partners are demonstrating how this quiet place and others like it, can also be critical in the long-term battle against flooding. Listen to OSI’s Maria Whitehead discuss her two decades of work on the Waccamaw River on this American Rivers podcast.

CONSERVATION TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Just a few years ago, the land trust community was still uncertain of its role in combatting climate change. Thanks to an initiative by OSI and the Land Trust Alliance aimed at boosting education, communication, and planning among the groups, 85 percent of land trusts say they understand their role in climate resilience, and 60 percent report that

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their strategic conservation planning has become more climate-focused in the last three years.

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