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## OSI TRUSTEE JOHN ERNST TAPPED TO CHAIR ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

Hosting 12 million visitors each year, and home to more than 100 communities, New York's 6-million-acre Adirondack Park is the largest park in the continental United States — and one of its most unique in terms of land use and management. Now, in recognition of his dedication and tremendous skillset, OSI Trustee John Ernst has been tapped by Governor Kathy Hochul to chair the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). "John has proven to be a leader of great integrity and a consensus builder. I cannot think of a person better-suited to take on the critical work of the APA," said Kim Elliman, OSI president and CEO.

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## PRESERVING HISTORY IN SC

One of the last and largest inholdings within the Ashley River Historic District is now protected forever, thanks to OSI and its partners. The Oaks property represents more than 300 years of cultural and ecological significance, including rice cultivation, the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the history of African Americans from slavery to freedom.

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## GREATER SAFETY AT BREAKNECK

Often cited as “the most popular day hike in America,” Breakneck Ridge is a treasured destination for outdoors-loving New York City residents. Now, a critical OSI acquisition sets the stage for the construction of a new trailhead that will relieve traffic congestion at the start of the trail, create safe parking, and protect the region’s striking and scenic views.

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## NEW NORTHERN NEW JERSEY TRAIL

A long-sought project to allow public access to northern New Jersey’s Boonton Reservoir is one significant step closer to completion, thanks to OSI. This month, OSI unveiled blueprints for a seven-mile loop trail — with safety and water quality enhancements — that will benefit nearly 15,000 residents living nearby.

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## MORE TERRAIN FOR WILD TURKEY

## PADDLERS PARADISE

Running Creek, a new OSI addition to South Carolina’s Congaree National Park, permanently secures a scenic, two-mile stretch of a treasured paddling creek. The project also adds striking bald cypress and tupelo trees to the park, home of the largest intact expanse of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest remaining in the Southeast.

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## ACCESS IMPROVED AT WALKWAY

Once hunted almost to extinction, wild turkeys are making an impressive comeback — thanks in part to OSI. This month, OSI, the Forest Service, and the National Wild Turkey Federation announced the addition of the 481-acre “Duncan Creek” property to Sumter National Forest, providing more of the hardwood forests and open clearings that comprise wild turkeys’ favorite habitat.

Land protected by OSI is expanding access to Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park. The new “East Gate Plaza,” located on a property acquired by OSI in 2014, improves public access and community engagement opportunities for Poughkeepsie residents. The pedestrian bridge, the world’s longest, offers Hudson Valley views and draws 600,000 visitors annually.

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Top photo: John and Margot Ernst (Amanda Gentile); Turkey (Steve Maslowski USFW); Walkway (NYSP)

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