



**OPEN SPACE
INSTITUTE**

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Protecting land for people, for wildlife, forever.



OSI ISSUES BLUEPRINT TO MAKE PARKS & OPEN SPACE MORE WELCOMING FOR ALL

Working to create more equitable and inclusive access to parks and nature, the Open Space Institute issued a comprehensive report earlier this month detailing both challenges and recommendations aimed at making the outdoors of New York State more welcoming for all.

Incorporating years of research, planning, and stakeholder engagement, *Open Spaces for All* identifies structural and societal barriers that prevent the public from fully enjoying and accessing public parks, open spaces, and other outdoor amenities. In addition, the plan seeks to guide future policies, programs, initiatives, and creative partnerships, to engage and support a growing and increasingly diverse constituency of open space users.

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SC BARRIER ISLAND SECURED

OSI has permanently protected a key portion of Waites Island, one of the last stretches of undeveloped seashore near Myrtle Beach and a decades-long target of conservation. "To have OSI acquire this property is amazing and inspirational, but that's what I've come to expect from their footprint throughout the Southeast," said local guide and naturalist Chris Crolley.

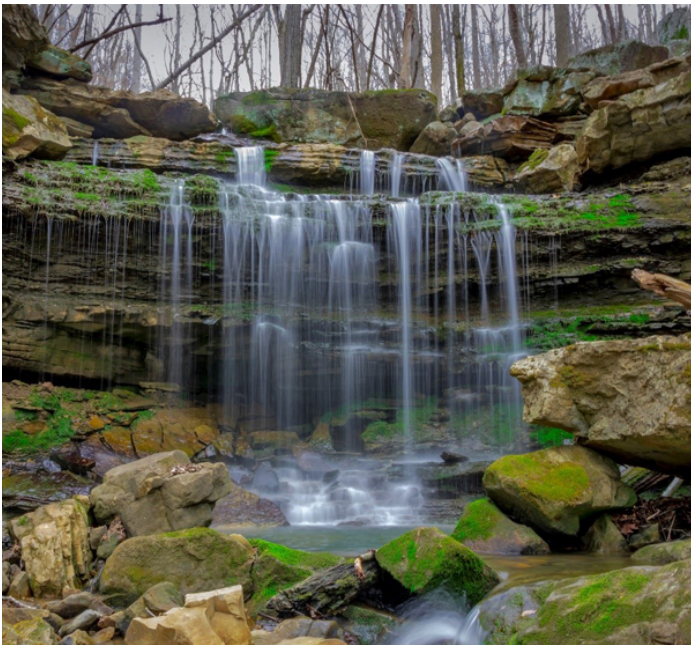
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IMPROVEMENTS FOR GLENCLYFFE TRAIL

In New York's mid-Hudson Valley, OSI joined together with project partners and donors to celebrate the opening of the newly improved Glencllyffe Loop Trail with a ribbon cutting and hike. The two-mile trail traverses land protected by OSI and will provide better access into Hudson Highlands State Park, especially for those arriving via the Metro North Commuter Rail.

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PROTECTING LAND FOR CARBON

With key support from OSI's Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund, more than 800 acres of pristine forests are now permanently protected in central Tennessee. Home to stunning waterfalls, steep bluffs, rock houses, and caves sheltering endangered bats, the property, now added to beloved Fall Creek Falls State Park, provides important carbon storage.

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CLIMATE GRANTS FOR GOOD

To help vulnerable communities harness land-based solutions against climate change, OSI and the Land Trust Alliance have awarded nearly \$400,000 in planning grants to 30 nonprofits nationwide. The funding supports the crucial role played by land trusts and other community organizations as quiet leaders in addressing and mitigating the devastating effects of a changing climate.

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SUPPORTING BLACK URBAN GROWERS

For more than ten years, Black Urban Growers has been one of the most active participants in the OSI Citizen Action program. This fall, the group hosted its 10th annual Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners Conference for more than 600 attendees in Atlanta, a success achieved after several months of planning, contracting, legal, and logistical support from OSI.

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PROTECTING APPALACHIAN FORESTS

OSI's Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund is now accepting applications for grants and low-to-zero interest loans to support projects that will protect the Appalachian's pristine forests — an irreplaceable resource naturally absorbing one million tons of air pollution each year. Land trusts, Tribes, nonprofits, and public agencies are invited to apply.

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Photo Credits: Open Spaces for All: Darren McGee / NYSDED; SC Island: Mac Stone; Glenclyffe Trail: Steve Aaron; Land for Carbon: Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; Climate Grants: Greg Miller; BUGs: Tabia Lisenbee-Parker; Protecting Appalachian Forests: Chuck Sutherland.

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