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## MOMENTOUS MILESTONE FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE NJ GREENWAY PROJECT

A major milestone, decades in the making, was announced this month when the Open Space Institute's Kim Elliman joined New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy to announce that the state of New Jersey had officially acquired nine miles of former rail line to create a multi-use greenway spanning Essex and Hudson Counties. OSI played a critical role in the transaction, negotiating with the rail line, securing the purchase rights, and providing technical experience to help the state achieve the single largest conservation investment in its history, and that will lead to much-needed green space in the nation's most densely populated and diverse region.

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## CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS LANDS

OSI officials joined U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and members of the Muscogee Creek Nation at a celebration of an OSI project that dramatically expanded Ocmulgee Mounds National Park in Macon, Georgia. The celebration coincided with Ocmulgee Mounds Indigenous Celebration, an event that has been held annually for 30 years.

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## VOTE FOR CLEAN AIR AND WATER

This November, New Yorkers have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do something extraordinary to protect clean drinking water, conserve land for wildlife habitat and recreation, reduce pollution, and modernize New York's outdated infrastructure by voting "Yes" for the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act.

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## MAINE CARBON PROPERTY SAVED

With support from OSI's Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund, more than 600 acres of forested land in Maine is now permanently protected for carbon storage and recreation. The "Buck's Ledge" property, a home to nesting peregrine falcons, was owned by a timber investment management organization before town residents rallied for its conservation.

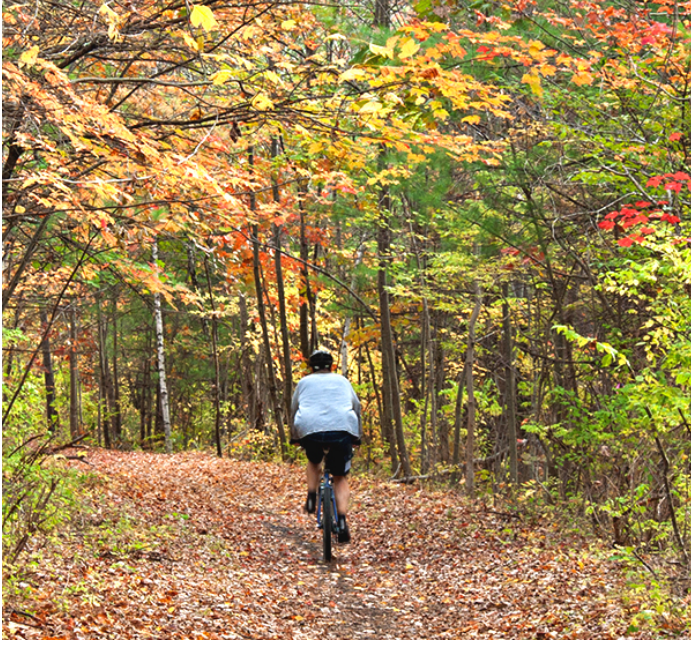
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## OSI EXPERTISE AT RALLY 2022

OSI leadership in the field of conservation was on full display this month at the Land Trust Alliance's (LTA) Rally 2022: the National Land Conservation Conference. OSI staff members from across its geographies and areas of expertise presented on such topics as embedding climate priorities in land protection, climate change resilience, and using digital tools to communicate with greater impact.

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## NEW RAIL TRAIL UPGRADES

Building on recent success to upgrade to the northern 13.5 miles of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail in New York's Hudson Valley, a new round of projects aimed at improving public access and safety along a five-mile section of the trail are underway. The OSI-led project is being completed in partnership with the Wallkill Valley Land Trust and with funding provided by Ulster County.

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## ACCOLADES FOR OSI CONSERVATION

Calling it a "big conservation win for a part of S.C. that hasn't seen many," the *Post and Courier*, Charleston's main daily newspaper, recently hailed a major land protection project by the Open Space Institute and The Nature Conservancy. The Buckfield acquisition will create a 12,000-acre expanse of protected land in a region lacking publicly accessible open spaces.

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