



**OPEN SPACE  
INSTITUTE**

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Protecting land for people, for wildlife, forever.

# OSI 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Protecting land for people, for wildlife, forever.



## A YEAR OF LAND SUCCESSES

In a year marked with extraordinary challenges and unrest, land and nature took center stage as people increasingly turned to the natural world for sanctuary, emotional strength, and physical well being.

As the public flocked to the outdoors, the Open Space Institute's (OSI's) legacy of protecting millions of acres, and improving access to many beloved parks and lands, took on renewed meaning. People were coming home to the land, and - thanks to OSI - the land is there to welcome us. [\(Continued\)](#)

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## PROTECTING LAND FOR DRINKING WATER

Pristine, forested headwaters are a natural filter for the clean drinking water we all need to survive. OSI's work this year protects land around watersheds, rivers, lakes, and streams to help ensure reliable supplies of clean water. OSI is also highlighting the value of targeted land protection to curb local flooding.

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## MAKING LAND AND PARKS MORE WELCOMING

Through land protection and park improvement projects, OSI continues to create new opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors and make nature more welcoming. Before year's end, OSI anticipates the addition of almost 13,000 acres to state and national parks and forests in Georgia, South Carolina, and New York.

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## ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND HABITAT

As the climate continues to change, land conservation plays an essential role for humans and animals. This role can be seen in terms of carbon capture in trees and soil, providing a haven for at-risk wildlife, and helping to mitigate fiercer storms and rising waters.

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## CREATING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Through strategic partnerships, support of local grass root organizations, and urging greater public investment in land protection at the federal, state, and local levels, OSI is working to strengthen communities by adding green space, supporting civic involvement, and promoting economic activity.

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