



**OPEN SPACE
INSTITUTE**

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Protecting land for people, for wildlife, forever.



Dear Friend,

For the Open Space Institute (OSI), 2022 was a year of record-breaking deals for land protection and transformative improvements around public access to nature and open space. And in every deal and project completed this year, OSI's expertise, creativity, and dogged determination were absolutely critical.

With these achievements — which will yield long-term benefits for people and wildlife up and down the eastern United States — we have proven, once again, that OSI is in a class by itself in getting complex and stalled deals across the finish line.

Land protection has never been more important and more in demand across the country. There is a growing understanding that protected land is providing solutions that will sustain the planet, provide clean drinking water, improve recreational opportunities, and build healthy communities.

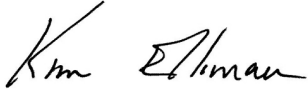
OSI is uniquely positioned to leverage historic levels of public funding, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the newly enacted Inflation Reduction Act, record-setting state funding in places like New York and South Carolina, and expanded local initiatives.

By the close of this year, OSI expects to protect more than 48,000 acres across nine states and two countries. In fact, the total fair market value of the lands we've protected totals an astonishing \$180 million. But this year's achievements go way beyond property size and project costs — indeed, the current and future impacts of our work this year are nothing short of extraordinary. This year alone, we:

- Secured **nine miles of rail line** in northern New Jersey, to provide much-needed greenspace for the nation's most densely populated and diverse region.
- Secured a **12,000-acre corridor** of ecologically critical land outside Beaufort, South Carolina - a region experiencing some of the most intense development pressures in the nation.
- Doubled the size of Georgia's **Ocmulgee Mounds** National Historical Park, one of America's most important cultural landscapes.
- Expanded OSI's **Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund** across 10 million acres of climate-critical land in western and central Pennsylvania.

- Released [Open Spaces for All](#), which aims to make public land and other protected open spaces more welcoming and accessible to users of all backgrounds.
- Unveiled the [Black River Master Plan](#) to shape a 70-mile water trail and park network in rural South Carolina.
- Completed a two-year, [\\$1.5 million project](#) overhauling 9.5 miles of multi-use trails in New York's Fahnestock State Park to better accommodate a range of park users.

Read on to learn more about these and other victories, and [please consider a year-end gift](#) to help continue our work protecting the land you love and welcoming more people to enjoy nature and open space. Together, we are saving land for people, for wildlife, forever.



Kim Elliman
President & CEO

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IMPROVING ACCESS FOR ALL

Improving access to nature through greenways, trails, and other protected land is critical if we are going to serve the public, expand support for land protection, and build the next generation of conservationists. OSI projects that serve cities, suburban neighborhoods, and rural communities are making parks and open spaces more welcoming for people of all backgrounds.

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SAFEGUARDING WATER FOR LIFE

Strategic conservation is vital for protecting the rivers, lakes, and streams we all rely on for clean drinking water. Key projects in the Delaware River Watershed and Maine are protecting the clean water we rely on today – while a \$4.2 billion New York State environmental bond act, which OSI championed, will do the same for future generations of New Yorkers.

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LAND FOR CLIMATE AND WILDLIFE

Land protection continues to gain ground as an effective way to fight climate change and support wildlife. From carbon absorption and habitat connectivity to combatting increasing destructive floods, OSI is leading the way through conservation and education.

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STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Fostering a long-term commitment to saving the world around us starts in local communities through the support of young people and grassroots organizations. OSI is encouraging young environmental leaders, sponsoring enthusiastic startups, and strengthening communities.

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