

Open Space



Protecting Places We Love

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Turns 50

On September 3, 1964, President Johnson signed into law the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This landmark legislation established a dedicated and permanent means for the conservation and protection of America's irreplaceable recreational, natural, historic, cultural and outdoor landmarks.

LWCF is fully paid for without relying on the support of American taxpayer dollars. Every year, \$900 million of the many billions of dollars collected from offshore oil and gas drilling leases is deposited into the LWCF account. The foundation of LWCF is the common sense idea that a small portion of the money gained from extracting resources held in the public trust should be invested into the protection of our shared natural areas and iconic landmarks.

Recent polling found Americans overwhelmingly support this legislation: 86 percent of voters support committing funds from offshore drilling fees to LWCF. Yet LWCF faces chronic underfunding. Over the course of the program, more than \$18 billion has been diverted into general revenues for other, unintended purposes. President Obama's fiscal year 2015 budget restores full funding for LWCF. With the program set to expire in September 2015, if Congress

(continued on page 6)

INSIDE

2 - Reflections on
Life & Land

3 - 40 Years and 2.2
Million Acres

5 - Land Matters

7 - Q & A with
Theodore Roosevelt IV



Our Mission

The Open Space Institute protects scenic, natural and historic landscapes to provide public enjoyment, conserve habitat and working lands, and sustain communities.

Founded in 1974 to protect significant landscapes in New York State, the Open Space Institute is a leader in environmental conservation. OSI has partnered in the protection of nearly 2.2 million acres in North America. All of OSI's work is directed by a consistent strategy emphasizing permanent protection on a landscape-level scale.

Reflections on Life & Land

Dear Friends,

Since mankind began marking the passage of time—from full moons to religious holidays, and seasons to hours—we humans, and nature itself, have developed innumerable tools to count the ticking of a clock. Doing so connects us with those who walked this earth before us, and those who will follow.

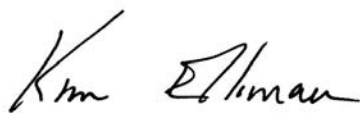
In this edition of *Open Space*, anniversaries take center stage. The Open Space Institute is 40 years old, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is 50. By honoring the land protection successes of the past, we celebrate the work we're all performing together today and dream big for the future.

Looking forward, OSI is poised to be a stronger leader than ever before. We are working creatively and effectively, across the organization and with partners, to address the environmental issues that concern you the most.

OSI is committed to its original calling—direct land protection in New York State. And we're expanding beyond New York with strategic, significant land transactions in new geographies. OSI is leveraging funds to protect key parcels in the Delaware River basin to safeguard the clean water on which so many of us depend. We are helping land trusts up and down the East Coast develop screens to identify the places that will provide habitat for wildlife in the face of climate change. In New York State, we are escalating our commitment to parkland by increasing access points to existing state parks and improving the visitor experience.

We couldn't do any of this without you. When you next find yourself out in nature, where you might even lose track of time for a few minutes, I hope you'll remember the work OSI is doing everyday with your support.

Sincerely,



Kim Elliman
President and CEO

Open Space is distributed to friends and donors of the Open Space Institute. We welcome your support, suggestions, contributions and photographs. Please contact us at:

1350 Broadway, Suite 201
New York, NY 10018
Tel: 212.290.8200
Fax: 212.244.3441
info@osiny.org
www.osiny.org

Board of Trustees

John H. Adams, *Chairman*
Edward A. Ames
Carol Ash
Susan Babcock
Douglas Bateson
Peter A. Bienstock
Elizabeth Borden
Dale Bryk
Gilman S. Burke
John Cahill
Stephen Clearman
T. Jefferson Cunningham III
J. Matthew Davidson
Paul J. Elston
John L. Ernst
Joshua Ginsberg

Jeremy Guth
Holly Hegener
Samuel G. Huber
Samuel W. Lambert III
Yuki Moore Laurenti
Barnabas McHenry
Caroline Niemczyk
Katherine O. Roberts
Amelia Salzman
Betsy Smith
Hume R. Steyer
Patricia F. Sullivan
Valerie Anne Mars,
Honorary Trustee

Kim Elliman, *President and CEO*

Newsletter Contributors

Tally Blumberg
Elizabeth Carden
Eileen Larrabee
Ryan Lemier
Kelly Proctor
Production: Susan Morningstar
Graphic design: Jenkins & Page
Printer: Wheal-Grace
Front cover photos:
Inset: Nick Golebiewski
Below: FDR site view: Brett Cole

Copyright © 2015
All rights reserved.



40 Years and 2.2 Million Acres

A Legacy to Build On



clockwise from top: Adirondack Mountains; Bob Stone; Snowshoeing in the Northern Forest; Jerry and Marcy Monkman; Ashokan Reservoir; Ernie Cozens; Hudson Valley; Greg Miller

A birthday is an opportunity to assess progress and look ahead to the future. Who could have imagined that when a small group of dedicated, forward-thinking individuals joined forces to form the Open Space Institute in 1974, a legacy of smart, innovative land conservation was in the making?

What began as a volunteer organization based in New York's Hudson Valley has become one of the nation's most effective land trusts, working up and down the eastern seaboard and spanning two nations. As OSI turns 40, we celebrate

our accomplishments, recommit ourselves to the goal of smart land conservation and focus on meeting new challenges. This underscores the motivation for the work we do.

Simply stated, OSI's primary goal is to protect land—for a host of reasons, from preserving scenic vistas and valuable farmland, protecting irreplaceable natural resources, and saving community landscapes to inspiring stewardship, providing recreational opportunities, and combating the effects of climate change on habitats and ecosystems.

(continued on page 4)

*In 2014
through direct
acquisition, loans
and grants, OSI
worked to protect
over 12,800 acres
along the eastern
seaboard.*

40 Years *(cont. from page 3)*

OSI has fulfilled this mission in many ways:

Conservation of the best lands. OSI has directly protected more than 135,000 acres in New York State alone, plus another 2,200 acres outside the state. This work has involved almost 900 transactions valued at more than \$208 million.

Leveraging capital for land. OSI has distributed more than \$109 million through 117 capital-related grants to enable small land trusts to protect land in perpetuity in their region. Using innovative financing tools and forming strong partnerships, OSI has had a hand in the protection of 2.2 million acres on the spine of the Appalachian Mountains.

Building excellence for New York State parks. Through 77 transactions that enlarged and enhanced New York state parks, OSI has conserved more than 40,000 acres—a full 10 percent of the park system's total land area—for recreation and respite.

Encouraging communities. Through its Citizen Action program, OSI currently sponsors 46 grassroots groups whose programs and activities are aligned with our overall mission.



OSI's board and staff at Bear Mountain, 2014

Amanda Gentile

Looking to the future, OSI is eager to build on its successes through new and expanded initiatives. We are committed to rebuilding our state park system and, through a combination of public and private funds, enhancing experiences for park visitors.

OSI's cutting-edge work is identifying resilient landscapes that can serve as wildlife refuges as the climate changes. OSI is seeking support for conservation at every level, from local municipalities to the federal government.

Even as these new challenges provide us with tremendous opportunities to promote the ideals on which we were founded, OSI retains its unwavering commitment to effective land conservation. We are doing more work, in more places, utilizing more conservation tools than ever before. But we're not stopping at 40—we're just getting started.

In His Own Words... John Adams Remembers

When asked about the evolution of the Open Space Institute over its 40-year history, OSI chairman and founder John H. Adams spoke about his hopes for the organization when it was established and the importance of land conservation.

Forty years ago, we had a goal—I thought that those of us engaged in the environment would be able to see to it that the most important lands were protected. It was that simple. We had no idea, though, how much the Open Space Institute would grow, and how it would become a national organization working to help protect more than two million acres. Here we are 40 years later



and hungry for more! Success begets success.

The progress that the Open Space Institute has made in the places in which we work is inspiring. We just celebrated our anniversary in Garrison, New York, which is where it all began. It is amazing to see the impact we've had on this community. The historic sites, the recreational assets, the scenic vistas are all part

of this beautiful place, and to know it is protected forever is a wonderful reward. And this is just one of the many places that OSI has worked.

We have learned how to do this effectively, and we will continue to work at protecting the most important lands for another 40 years—at least.

Amanda Gentile

Land Matters *News & Events*



Brett Cole

Giralda Farms is a new park in Chatham Township

Dodge Estate Will Remain Forever Green

During her lifetime, the spirited Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge (1882-1973) cultivated her vast New Jersey country estate, known as “Giralda Farms,” into an internationally-renowned locale for horse and dog shows. Since her death, regional population growth and development—including construction of a massive corporate park—have chipped away at the edges of bucolic Giralda.

That is, until early last year, when the Open Space Institute led a collaborative effort to purchase 136 acres of the former Dodge property. In December, OSI, Chatham Township, and Morris County announced the conservation of one of the largest undeveloped tracks of land in the heart of eastern Morris County. The project adds 2.3 miles of pedestrian trails to the adjacent 744-acre Loantaka Brook Reservation.

Several public and private sources came together to provide \$14.1 million in funding to secure the property. Funding was provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program, Chatham Township, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the F.M. Kirby Foundation, Normandy Real Estate Partners, the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority, Morris County Park Commission and the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a grant from the Morris County Preservation Trust, which awarded its largest grant in the program’s history in the amount of \$10 million.

Already park-like, Giralda Farms consists of footpaths through gently rolling, maintained fields and forested areas as well as a network of streams and wetlands. Located near downtown Madison and its train station and close to Drew and Fairleigh Dickinson universities, the property will continue to be the home of the Giralda Music & Arts Festival, a much-loved outdoor concert event that has been running at the site for 31 years.

Additionally, because the land is within the watershed of the federally protected Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, its protection will also benefit an important resting and feeding area for more than 244 species of birds.

Partnerships = Success for New York State Parks

In December 2014, OSI secured \$1.02 million in New York State Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) grants for major visitor enhancement projects at Letchworth and Thacher State Parks.

The grants complement the private dollars being raised by OSI through its Alliance for New York State Parks program to construct a nature center at Letchworth State Park, southwest of Rochester; and a visitor center at John Boyd Thacher State Park, outside of Albany.

The projects, located in two of New York’s most prominent state park landscapes, will expand and deepen visitor experiences through enhanced orientation, interpretation and public amenities. In each case, emphasis will be placed on encouraging and improving the outdoor experience, particularly for families and visitors.

An initiative of Governor Andrew Cuomo, the REDC oversees competitive state grants, focusing on economic impact projects and underscores the important role that parks play as economic drivers.



Jim Vallee

Letchworth State Park

OSI and LWCF Projects

Fairlawn Plantation, South Carolina

In 2014 OSI, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, acquired two tracts consisting of more than 2,200 acres in the heart of the Francis Marion National Forest, outside Charleston. The two tracts have been a priority of the U.S. Forest Service for more than a decade because of their importance for conserving and restoring native longleaf pine forests.

Androscoggin River Headwaters, Maine and New Hampshire

Covering 31,300 acres of remote forests, streams and ponds, the Androscoggin Headwaters, near Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, was one of the largest unprotected properties in New Hampshire. OSI supported the Trust for Public Land's Androscoggin project in 2011 with a \$500,000 grant from Saving New England's Wildlife, a conservation initiative established with support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. An additional grant from the Transborder Fund helped preserve the 934-acre Greenough ponds.

Little Yellow Mountain, Tennessee

In 2009 the Open Space Institute made a \$1.2 million loan from the Southern Appalachians Land Protection Fund to help The Nature Conservancy protect a significant peak and a prime wildlife habitat corridor in western North Carolina on the summit of Little Yellow Mountain in Avery and Mitchell counties.

Places We Love (*cont. from page 1*) does nothing, we could lose this precious source of American pride forever.

"This asset-for-asset agreement has served our nation well, helping to realize a long list of conservation successes over the past 50 years without costing taxpayers a dime," said Kim Elliman, president and CEO of OSI. "Lands protected by LWCF include recreational access, working forests and ranches, national parks, national wildlife refuges and national forests."

Among the protected areas are some of New York's most important places, like Bear Mountain State Park, where the first stretch of the Appalachian Trail was blazed; Gateway National Recreation Area, a park in the heart of the New York metropolitan area; and the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, FDR's home.

LWCF is about more than federal land acquisition. In fact, over the past 10 years, 50 percent of LWCF funds went to grants that support state and local conservation and recreation projects. The Highlands Conservation Act, Forest Legacy Program, the American Battlefield Protection Program and the National Park Service State Grants Program help drive local conservation priorities.

Through the Forest Legacy Program, for example, a 17,500-acre tract of Sterling Forest—less than an hour from New York City—was permanently protected, assuring drinking water quality for more than 2.5 million New Jersey residents

while also setting aside a huge block of forested land less than an hour from New York City. Development of this critical tract would have significantly raised water treatment costs for northern New Jersey communities.

"Not only do these investments by LWCF help protect the beauty and health of America for future generations, they also provide an important economic stimulus," said Ted Roosevelt IV, a conservationist. "Acquisition of conservation easements using LWCF protects jobs in timber, ranching and other traditional land-based economies. LWCF makes a substantial contribution enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities. Hunting, fishing, camping and other activities contribute a total of \$646 billion annually to the economy, supporting more than six million jobs."

Land and Water Conservation Fund projects range from wilderness areas to children's jungle gyms, from national parks to city parks. LWCF funding supports places that people love to visit every day, like Battery Park, as well as cherished weekend getaway sites, like Fire Island. The breadth of LWCF's scope is one of the program's great successes, one that has led to the creation of outdoor recreation opportunities in every state and 98 percent of counties across the country.

"Like so many land conservation organizations in the United States, the Open Space Institute has benefitted from, and worked for the LWCF," said

Elliman. "Our work on the ground investing in recent projects—like Fairlawn in the Francis Marion National Forest, the Androscoggin Headwaters, and Little Yellow Mountain—was made possible because of LWCF support. We take our work to secure full and dedicated funding and reauthorization for LWCF very seriously. The LWCF is crucial for the future of conservation."



(L-R) David Ray, OSI, Jay Leutze, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior, Tom Cors, The Nature Conservancy hiking the Roan Highlands N.C.

A Conversation with Theodore Roosevelt IV

Conservation in the Face of Climate Change

Theodore Roosevelt IV is an investment banker and managing director at Barclays Capital Corporation. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Economic Club of New York, and the Foreign Policy Association. Like his great-grandfather and namesake, he is also a prominent conservationist.

Can you speak about the importance of land conservation in the 21st century?

Land conservation has *always* been important. Now, it's more important than ever. The human race is increasing so rapidly, placing so many stressors and demands on the land, that protection is absolutely essential. We are living in an era where we can clearly see damage everywhere, even just in changes in patterns—migratory birds arriving weeks earlier than they used to, pine beetles showing up on eastern Long Island. Climate change has an enormous impact on habitat, and we need to recognize that we are under tremendous pressure. But luckily, we are now able to target the most biodiverse lands, and we have the science to identify corridors that are essential for habitat survival.

What do you think your great-grandfather would make of the challenges and opportunities we currently face?

Teddy Roosevelt would be championing the need for more conservation. As a fine scientist, he understood the importance of land conservation as the underpinning for healthy systems. He understood the value of wide-open spaces and recognized their

importance both for people and for species. If one looks at his efforts to protect bison habitat, what we see is a man who was well ahead of his time. Land conservationists are doing the same thing now that he was doing 110 years ago. We have come full circle.

Can you speak to the effectiveness of tools like the Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect open space?

As conceived in 1964, the LWCF was an excellent idea. As put into practice, it's troubling that it has not been fully funded. What Congress has is an incredibly powerful tool, one that they should fully utilize. Spend part now and invest the remainder. The LWCF will not exist forever—oil is finite—yet through investment, Congress could become a very powerful steward for future generations. It's an enormous challenge in today's political climate.

What is your message to the general public on the critical nature of conservation?

We don't want to bequeath to our grandchildren a world whose surviving species are rats and cockroaches. This is a magnificent planet, and it is a hopeful sign that we are taking notice of what is going on and making efforts to correct it. E.O. Wilson introduced the theory of biophilia, the bond between humans and nature, and I believe that we do have a prime craving for nature. It is our job to make sure we always have access to it—so incredibly rich with all its wonders—and to take care of what has been bestowed on us.



Theodore Roosevelt IV

“We have to step up now to the responsibility of being great stewards. We cannot fall short of this moral obligation.”



OPEN SPACE
INSTITUTE

1350 Broadway, Suite 201
New York, NY 10018

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Hackensack NJ
Permit #1121

www.osiny.org

Land Matters *News & Events*

The White House Highlights OSI's Resilient Landscapes Initiative

In October, when the White House Council on Environmental Quality announced a series of executive actions updating the president's 2013 Climate Action Plan, it also spotlighted public and private sector initiatives that are playing a vanguard role in U.S. climate protection. On the list for this special mention was OSI's Resilient Landscapes Initiative.

Since its inception in 2013, OSI's Initiative has distributed \$851,000 to enable seven land trusts to conserve over 3,200 acres in Maine, New Jersey, New Hampshire, West Virginia and Massachusetts—land that will support a diversity of wildlife despite climatic uncertainty. OSI also supported 11 projects across the

Northeast to accelerate the adoption of climate science—efforts that will result in two climate-adjusted, state-wide wildlife conservation plans and nine regional projects, impacting the work of over 35 conservation organizations.

Funding for the initiative comes from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Jane's Trust, the New York State Conservation Partnership Program, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

Land trusts have a critical role to play in ensuring resilience in the face of climate change. OSI helps facilitate this work by providing the information, capital, and tools conservationists need to succeed.



"President Obama has made it clear that we have a moral obligation to our children and future generations to leave behind a planet that is not polluted and damaged....The Climate Action Plan recognizes that even as we act to curb the carbon pollution that is driving climate change, we must also improve our ability to prepare for the climate impacts we are already seeing across the country."

— From the Executive Office of the President Council on Environmental Quality