

Open Space Institute



2010 Annual Report



Where We Work

 **Open Space Institute
Priority Landscapes**

- Canada
- New England
- Northern Forest
- Adirondacks
- Capital Region
- Catskills
- Shawangunks
- Hudson River Valley
- New Jersey
- New Jersey Bayshore
- Pennsylvania Highlands
- Southern Appalachians
- Georgia

Open Space Institute 2010 Annual Report

The Open Space Institute protects scenic, natural and historic landscapes to ensure public enjoyment, conserve habitats and sustain community character. OSI achieves its goals through land acquisition, conservation easements, regional loan programs, fiscal sponsorship, creative partnerships and analytical research.



We Protect the Best Lands

OSI continues to build on its core values—the preservation of lands from Canada to Georgia that have defined our heritage and will shape our future.



We are a Conservation Leader

OSI is at the forefront, responding to the challenges facing land protection through local, regional and national advocacy efforts.



We Continue to Innovate

OSI is innovative and effective, conducting research that seeks solutions to the key issues of planning, land use and climate change in an era of scarce public funding.

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From the Open Space Institute's Leadership



The imperatives of change come to us all, and in 2010 change came to OSI. Some changes occur swiftly, as the Open Space Institute witnessed as our president and friend, Joe Martens, left to become commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Or change can creep up on us, as it has these past few years, in the form of falling real estate markets and declining government support for conservation.

Throughout, OSI has reexamined its strategies for protecting land so that we can continue to use your funds and our opportunities wisely and effectively. That we had one of our best years in 2010 underscores OSI's quick adaptation and reflects well on our board, staff and culture. Thank you for your support and your assistance as we move into a different era for land conservation, one in which we believe OSI is poised to thrive.

OSI's mission is to protect landscapes. A quarter-century has passed since we became the grateful beneficiary of the Reader's Digest's Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Fund for the Hudson Highlands, and in that time OSI has evolved and has used this financial backing to foster a culture of conservation leadership. We began as a local land trust working in the Hudson Valley and the Catskills, expanded to a broader New York geography and have now grown into a regional conservation organization, working from Canada to Georgia. Beyond our own acquisitions, OSI underwrites the conservation work of others who purchase land, sponsors grassroots efforts, and conducts research into conservation trends and public policy. Acting alone and with partners, OSI protects farms and forests, parks and open space, wildlands and historic sites, cultural and natural landscapes, corridors and shorelines.

In 2010, we used your support to conserve 4,435 acres in New York and to assist in the protection of another 318,000 acres. We supported 52 Citizen Action groups that helped achieve myriad environmental goals. Our research and policy initiatives in Washington and elsewhere created priorities for future national and regional land protection. At year end, we redefined our strategy to rely less on government funds and more on policy and private sector conservation in the years ahead.

Much of what OSI achieved in 2010 was accomplished in the face of tremendous headwinds. OSI has had to be more resourceful with its partners to stretch each dollar and operate with greater efficiency and collaboration. We expanded our advocacy work around land and parks in 2010 with the Outdoors America Campaign, propelled by the Obama

ABOVE, LEFT: Kiernan Farm in town of Gardiner, NY with view to the Shawangunks; ABOVE, RIGHT: Kingston Bridge with the Catskill mountains in the distance; photos: Greg Miller.



administration's conservation effort, America's Great Outdoors (see page 16 for details). With the launch of the Alliance for New York State Parks (see pages 10-12), we leveraged private funds to match state money to restore New York's singular parks system.

We bought land in concert with two cultural institutions, Storm King and Olana, to preserve beloved viewsheds and local agriculture. We purchased farmsteads in the Hudson Valley and the Catskills, and funded others in New Jersey and Massachusetts to help ensure local produce, diverse economies and community cores for the 21st century.

We provided funds to preserve rare wildlife habitat throughout northern New England. We buffered and protected camps and educational centers that provide urban populations with a place to experience the natural world, away from the commotion of city living. This kind of land protection extends beyond nostalgia to provide tangible benefits.

Following American naturalist Aldo Leopold's dictum, we are preserving all the pieces to ensure that our future landscapes will be as rich and diverse as those we have enjoyed in the past. Thank you for helping us protect these special places, and thank you for your support.



John Adams
John H. Adams
Chairman



Kim Elliman
Kim Elliman
President & CEO



Putting Climate Change on the Map

Protecting Biological Hot Spots

“Guiding development in the southern Appalachians through the use of sophisticated computer modeling will not only help to protect the rich, unique biodiversity that occurs here, but will help develop sustainable local economies that can weather change.”

— Rob Baldwin, conservation biologist, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Clemson University

When conservation first began to flourish in America nearly two centuries ago, the painter's brush was a high-tech tool. If a landscape was worthy of an oil painting, it was worth protecting. We've come a long way since then, and the beauty of land worth protecting is more than just skin-deep. Today, the latest technology cuts across the layers of digital maps created by computer scientists, and reveals layer upon layer of complicated and interrelated information. Geographic information systems (GIS) are literally transforming the way we see our world.

As climate change becomes the most pressing issue of our time, OSI is using this new vision to inform smart land conservation that protects threatened and endangered wildlife habitat. 2010 marked a pinnacle year for OSI, as we collaborated with scientists, policy makers and conservationists across the East Coast, together working to preserve the planet's biodiversity more strategically than ever.

Gathering information from existing GIS modeling projects and commissioning our own, we expanded OSI's conservation efforts in three key regions during 2010: the southern Appalachians, the Catskills in New York State and the transborder region along the eastern United States and Canada.

OSI has been active in the southern Appalachians since 2005—adding the Northwest Georgia Land Protection Fund in 2007, which focuses on partnerships with regional land trusts and public agencies to save habitat identified by state wildlife action plans. But what if that critical habitat is shifting because of climate change? The federal mandate that originally required the state plans now seeks updated versions by 2015. It's a prime opportunity for states to collaborate across borders to define—and then protect—biological hotspots.

OSI is assisting in this significant undertaking, helping

to develop and integrate seven southern state wildlife plans into one comprehensive map. The maps will assess ideal habitat regions and migratory corridors for more than 150 high-priority species across this diverse landscape, which includes the Cumberland Plateau, Ridge and Valley, and southern Blue Ridge geologic provinces—each distinct yet part of an ecological continuum.

“This is a chance to inform policy and conservation for the next decade and beyond,” said Marc Hunt, OSI's southern Appalachians field coordinator.

Rob Baldwin is a conservation biologist with Clemson University who has been serving as an adviser on the mapping project. “The Open Space Institute is leading the



way in putting climate, land-use change, and biodiversity conservation science into practice,” he said. “Working at the regional scale with researchers, conservationists, and landowners, OSI is making the science come alive.”

Drawing on his experience working on a similar mapping project in the northern Appalachians, Baldwin has teamed up with OSI staff, advisers from state and federal agencies, and GIS specialist Andy Carroll of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to assess the region.

Together, they are working to translate available data about threatened species, habitat, and climate vulnerability into useful mapping tools that will be shared broadly within

the land conservation community.

“Guiding development in the southern Appalachians through the use of sophisticated computer modeling will not only help to protect the rich, unique biodiversity that occurs here,” said Baldwin, “but will help develop sustainable local economies that can weather change.”

In the Catskills, OSI completed a long-term project that fills in the mapping gaps in a region that is struggling economically as it faces development pressure from casinos as well as natural gas drilling. It is also prime dairy land and an essential New York City watershed. Addressing such juxtapositions of land use and priorities is increasingly becoming a focus of OSI’s conservation work. How can land simultaneously benefit peoples’ pocketbooks and the open spaces that sustain wildlife and natural resources?

The goal of the Catskills project was to identify habitat, water quality, recreation and agricultural values across the 2.7 million-acre region, which is distinctly rural despite its close proximity to New York City. The right kind of development could benefit this area, and creating detailed maps that locate the core resource values is the first step toward determining where best to direct that development.

Making the information in these maps easily available to city and county planners has been the task of Abigail Weinberg, OSI’s conservation research manager.

Encouraging appropriate development in the region secures habitat for species while ensuring that humans are living in thriving economic and social communities. Our research is showing that preserving open spaces and encouraging economic development are wholly compatible, even necessary. With flooding occurrences on the rise in the Catskills, it could literally be a matter of public safety.

For the transborder region along the Canadian-American divide, mapping is helping to define wildlife migration corridors before they’re lost to development. This is especially critical because 75 percent of Canada’s human population lives within 100 miles of the U.S. border,

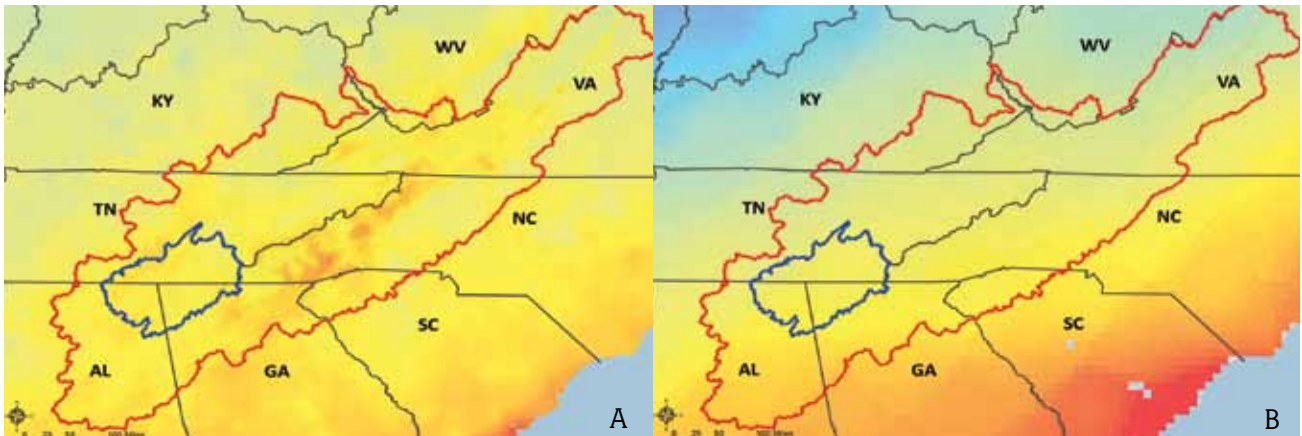
resulting in dense development and intensive agricultural use that form a barrier between the relatively unbroken forest on the U.S. side and the vast woodlands farther north.

In 2010, with support from the Partridge Foundation, OSI launched the Transborder Land Protection Fund to create conservation bridges across the political border that splits this important ecosystem. OSI is working with the Wildlife Conservation Society’s Human Footprint project, which has layered important data relating to human density and settlement onto maps of habitat for threatened and endangered species, and with 2C1F (Two Countries, One Forest; Deux Pays, Une Forêt), a bilateral organization dedicated to conservation in the northern Appalachian—Acadian ecoregion. In the first round of grants, more than 13,000 acres were protected through five land deals.

Mapping technology is increasing exponentially. Each layer—water features, flora and fauna habitat, housing development, roadways, recreational sites—adds an opportunity to conserve biomes better than in the past. It will take concerted action by conservationists, communities, and governments across the political divides to transform this invaluable information into lasting landscape protection that allows the most vulnerable species to adapt to climate change.

OSI commends all stakeholders and leaders who are committed to addressing climate change, especially the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, which has been an unwavering supporter of these scientific initiatives. It’s a practical matter, really. As Duke’s Environment Program Director Andrew Bowman put it: “I need to know which ecosystems I can bet on. We need to identify which regions will remain functional and biologically productive as climate change bears down.”

OSI is working hard to ensure that those bets pay off, for funders and the myriad species with whom we share the planet.



ABOVE: Research incorporates the latest climate change predictions. Shown here are spatially explicit models depicting how temperature is predicted to increase from an average high variation of 90 degrees (map A) to as much as 95 degrees variation between 2040 to 2069 (map B); OPPOSITE: Water is an important natural resource in the Catskills; photo: Carl Heilman II.



Open Space Institute

2010 Conservation Finance Program Accomplishments

Since 2000 OSI has made 128 loans and grants for over \$93 million to protect nearly 2 million acres valued at more than \$623 million.



New England

OSI created the Saving New England's Wildlife Fund with a lead grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The initiative awards grants in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire to sustain, protect and enhance ecologically critical land identified by State Wildlife Action Plans.

Cobscook Bay, Pembroke, Trescott and Eastport, ME Maine Coast Heritage Trust 362 acres

Total: \$3,300,000
Grant: \$300,000

Local, state, federal and non-profit partners have worked to permanently protect over 5,800 acres within the Cobscook Bay Wildlife Action Plan Focus Area. An OSI grant helped conserve three additional areas, including an undeveloped coastal island, boasting important wildlife habitat.

Cranberry Marsh North Biddeford, ME Upper Saco Valley Land Trust 168 acres

Total: \$260,000
Grant: \$25,200

The property is situated within a 1,350-acre undeveloped habitat block, hosts endangered turtle species and is part of the adjacent 500-acre working farm and woodlot. Unfragmented forest blocks of this size are rare in southern coastal Maine.

Grain Point, Millbridge, ME Downeast Coastal

Conservancy - 209 acres
Total: \$530,000
Grant: \$30,000

Grain Point, which lies within Maine's Pleasant Bay Focus Area, is remarkable as the largest undeveloped parcel remaining in Back Bay and the Beaver Meadow estuary. It contains exceptional habitat for migrating water birds.

Maquoit Bay, Brunswick, ME Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust - 53 acres

Total: \$1,380,000
Grant: \$150,000

The property, which includes more than 2,000 feet of tidal frontage, is considered significant by state and federal wildlife agencies for the high-value habitat it provides for wading birds, ducks and migrating shorebirds.

Mason Bay, Addison, ME Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation - 656 acres

Total: \$1,300,000
Grant: \$100,000

OSI's grant contributed toward a multi-partner effort to protect eight properties with 4.2 miles of intertidal shoreline and 656 acres of coastal wetlands and surrounding uplands.

Piscataquis Preserve Atkinson, ME Northeast Wilderness Trust 1,163 acres

Total: \$1,300,000
Grant: \$200,000

Conservation of the Piscataquis Preserve leveraged the permanent protection of an additional 3,859 acres of habitat rich land. The project is a key component in a larger matrix of contiguous conservation land, totaling nearly 20,000 acres.

Ashuelot River Headwaters Lempster, NH Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

773 acres
Total: \$2,100,000
Grant: \$250,000

The project includes 29 miles along the headwaters of the Ashuelot River as well as three miles of undeveloped frontage on Ashuelot, Long and Sand Ponds and the summit of Silver Mountain.

Clay Pond, Hooksett, NH Bear Paw Regional Greenways

539 acres
Total: \$1,000,000
Grant: \$150,000

Clay Pond Headwaters encompass ecologically significant natural lands, including habitat for Blandings and spotted turtles and bobcats.

Schoodic Brook Webster, NH The Nature Conservancy

680 acres
Total: \$660,000
Grant: \$103,560

The parcels link 5,700 protected acres, resulting in the conservation of a complex matrix of forests, riparian areas and wetland systems large enough to provide endangered turtle populations with sufficient food, shelter and nesting areas.

Deadbranch Brook Chesterfield, MA The Nature Conservancy

378 acres
Total: \$340,000
Grant: \$44,500

More than 78 miles of the Westfield River's tributaries and main branches have been designated *Wild and Scenic* by the National Park Service. An additional 2,000 feet of frontage along this high-quality tributary to the Westfield River has been preserved.

Westville Conservation Area Taunton, MA The Trustees of Reservations

54 acres
Total: \$1,090,000
Grant: \$50,000

With almost a mile of frontage on the Three Mile River, the property contains seven of 22 habitat types in the Massachusetts Wildlife Action Plan and habitat for two rare turtle species.

Amplification Grants

Saving New England's Wildlife offers grants for projects that help broadcast the importance of State Wildlife Action Plans.

Trust for Public Land Maine Community Scape

Grant: \$50,000

TPL is providing a conservation model to help implement Maine's Wildlife Action Plan and leverage land protection funding by bringing together stakeholders to identify, prioritize, and map critical natural resources in Maine's western mountains.

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences Adaptation Plans for Demonstration Sites

Grant: \$45,000

Manomet Center is working on demonstration sites in New England to develop and disseminate practical tools that land managers can use to help wildlife adapt to a changing climate.

The Nature Conservancy and Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

The Case for Wildlife
Grant: \$55,000

The project partners conducted public opinion research, documented unfunded SWAP priorities, and developed recommendations for new statewide wildlife funding.



Conservation Finance Program Grants

Western Massachusetts

The Western Massachusetts Land Protection Fund focuses on the conservation of intact forested landscapes.

Mt. Darby
Mt. Washington, MA
Berkshire Natural Resources Council - 326 Acres
Total: \$630,000
Grant: \$60,000

The Mount Darby parcels lie in the Taconic Range, where the cool mountain climate supports a mixed northern hardwood forest and rare plants and animals. The property is adjacent to state conservation land and was a key missing piece in the Commonwealth's Forested Habitat Reserve.

Northern Forest

The Northern Forest Protection Fund was established in 2000 to provide grants and loans to protect large forested landscapes in northern New England.

Moosehead Forest Project, ME
The Nature Conservancy
44,000 acres
Total: \$16,000,000
Grant: \$500,000

TNC, the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Forest Society of Maine have teamed up to protect 15,000 acres in western Maine as an ecological reserve, the 29,000-acre Roach Pond area and a significant working forest conservation easement.

Transborder

The Transborder Land Protection Fund, launched in 2010 with generous support from the Partridge Foundation, offers grants in the Northern Appalachian/Acadian eco-region of the eastern United States and southern Canada.

Chignecto Isthmus
Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Canada
Nature Conservancy Canada
491 acres
Total: \$607,000
Grant: \$95,000

This grant helped conserve the coastal Baie Verte property, one of the largest remaining undeveloped properties along the southern reaches of the Northumberland Strait. OSI's funding also helped conserve 17 forested parcels within the Missaquash Marsh that are particularly important in the winter for wide ranging animals as they move across the frozen wetland.

Green Mountain Corridor

Sutton, Quebec
Nature Conservancy of Canada
1018 acres
Total: \$1,280,000
Grant: \$100,000

The Green Mountains are a model for transborder cooperation and an essential wildlife corridor from Vermont into Quebec for more than 50 different at-risk species. Two properties were added to 17,000 acres, previously protected on the Quebec side of the mountains range.

White Mountains
Quebec
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Grant: \$35,000

A support grant was made to investigate and develop significant land conservation opportunities in Quebec's White Mountains, an ecologically significant region along the western Maine border.

Green Mountains
Jay, Vermont
Trust for Public Land
Grant: \$10,000

This planning grant is helping TPL develop a critical conservation project that lies on the Canadian/US border in Vermont's Green Mountains.

New Jersey

The New Jersey Land Protection Fund was launched in 2003 with support from the Geraldine R. Dodge and William Penn foundations. In 2010, OSI made two loans totaling almost \$1,800,000 to protect 273 acres.

Cider Mill Farm
D & R Greenway
88 acres
Total: \$2,039,410
Loan: \$1,644,888

A loan supported the permanent protection of an 88-acre tract of land critical to grassland bird conservation. As one of the few large remaining farms in the Amwell Valley, the preservation of the property adds to hundreds of acres of surrounding protected farmland.

Stamets Farm
Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance
185 acres
Total: \$1,440,000
Loan: \$151,000

A farmstead for over 200 years, Stamets Farm is the largest single tract of unpreserved farmland in Holland Township, NJ. It was identified by local authorities as an agriculture priority area and as critical wildlife habitat.



A New Decade in New York

Embracing Stewardship and Sustainability

“OSI can be just as effective, if not even more effective, in achieving our overall mission by supporting state parks, making public land more accessible, promoting education and helping communities make better, more sustainable decisions regarding development.”

— Kim Elliman, OSI's president and CEO

Protecting the landscapes of New York State has long been at the forefront of the Open Space Institute. Without question, the OSI land conservation program—led for 16 years by Joe Martens, now the commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation—has been a model of success, preserving nearly 120,000 of acres of spectacular landscapes, unique habitats and important farmland.

In 2010, OSI's robust commitment to land preservation continued. And even in these challenging economic times, OSI scored some notable acquisition achievements in New York State, with a focus on targeted hotspots in the Shawangunks, the Hudson River Valley and the Adirondacks.

Although land preservation and acquisition remain the cornerstone of the OSI mission, new opportunities to build on these successes have emerged. OSI has embarked on a number of projects that embrace the callings of stewardship and sustainability.

“Land conservation and the pursuit of responsible stewardship go hand-in-hand,” said OSI CEO and President Kim Elliman. “OSI can be just as effective, if not even more effective, in achieving our overall mission by supporting state parks, making public land more accessible, promoting education and helping communities make better, more sustainable decisions regarding development.”

Rooted in Preservation

A common theme for OSI in 2010 was access—creating recreational and educational opportunities for as many people as possible.

Early in the year, OSI acquired Millbrook Mountain Cliffs, one of the most spectacular and historically significant rock-climbing sites on the East Coast. The project opened up what had been private land for hikers and rock climbers in the Shawangunks and added to a nearly 30,000-acre

preservation campaign that has been ongoing for a quarter-century.

A fundraising effort in Sullivan County helped OSI fill in an important gap in the 347-mile Long Path, and we're moving forward, with our partners at the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, to restore and repair the historic railroad trestle over Rondout Creek, which will be the centerpiece of the improved 24-mile Wallkill Valley Rail Trail.

In the southeast corner of the Adirondack Park, OSI acquired the 2,195-acre former Camp Little Notch property in November. We are now transitioning its ownership to a sustainable timber operation, which puts the bulk of the property back on the local tax rolls, while carving out a 425-



acre parcel where a dedicated group of former Little Notch campers and counselors plan to open an outdoor education and recreation facility for a new generation of campers.

In 2010, OSI also added to the 3,200 acres-plus of productive farmland it has protected in the Rondout and Wallkill valleys that straddle the Shawangunk Ridge.

One such project was the nearly 300-year-old Appeldoorn Farm, known locally as the Sykes Farm. The 140-acre piece of property contains both farmlands and woods and has been in agricultural use since Jochem Schoonmaker helped his son Benjamin build a home on the property in 1722, nearly three centuries ago. Located

OPPOSITE: The Studley property is home to the Millbrook Mountain cliffs, a popular climbing area in the Shawangunks, NY; photo Greg Miller; ABOVE: The Alliance for New York State Parks advocates for funding to restore the facilities at Robert Moses State Park to their former glory; photo: Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

in Accord, in Ulster County, the farm is now operated by Wayne and Cathy Brooks, who raise beef cattle that provide homegrown meat for local communities.

Promoting Sustainable Development Patterns

Having established itself as a leader in the land protection movement, OSI is building on this success by embracing its stewardship mission in new and critical ways.

OSI researchers weighed in with recommendations for sustainable development patterns in the Catskills. *Private Lands, Public Benefits*, three years in the making and released in early 2011, identified more than 500,000 acres of land in the four Catskill counties of Sullivan, Ulster, Greene and Delaware where new, well-planned development could potentially occur without damaging the region's natural resource base.

On the surface, the report appeared to represent a change in philosophy, but a careful reading of its findings reveals OSI's trademark values of land protection and stewardship.

"OSI recognizes the need to conserve natural

Preservation. This partnership has resulted in both the creation of new parks and the expansion of existing parks. Although strong support for these types of opportunities continues, a new partnership, consistent with the longstanding mission of OSI has emerged in the form of a new program initiative—the Alliance for New York State Parks.

"OSI's land acquisition program has long been known as one of the most effective in the state," said Erik Kulleseid, the director of the Alliance for New York State Parks. "By broadening its work to include support for the state park system, OSI is demonstrating real leadership in the areas of stewardship and conservation, while enriching the public's appreciation and enjoyment of public parkland."

The mission of the Alliance is to protect and enhance New York State's 178 parks and 35 historic sites for present and future generations. The Alliance directly advocates for the restoration, maintenance and support of New York's renowned but financially hamstrung system which includes such landmarks as Jones Beach, Niagara



resources," said Peter Howell, OSI's executive vice president, who helped design the Catskills study, "but we realize we can be just as effective if we can help people plan and place development in the right place. This report shows leadership and a willingness to think against the grain. It makes us more relevant to parties that might not normally work with a conservation organization."

Launching the Alliance for New York State Parks

For decades, OSI has found a strong partner in the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic

Falls and Bear Mountain.

It also seeks to build a network of public-private partnerships to support the operations and capital infrastructure needs of the parks. As part of that effort, the Alliance is spearheading capital campaigns at a number of parks and sites throughout the state.

"The introduction of the Alliance reinforces OSI's commitment to conservation in New York State," Elliman said. "The broad spectrum of projects and initiatives being pursued by OSI will continue to build lasting and meaningful impressions for generations of New Yorkers."

ABOVE, LEFT: President Franklin D. Roosevelt designed Top Cottage in Hyde Park, NY; photo: Brett Cole; ABOVE, RIGHT: Hiker in the Catskills; photo: Carl Heilman; OPPOSITE: Rosendale Trestle from Joppenburgh Mountain, Rosendale, NY; photo: Greg Miller.



New York must take back its rightful role as the nation's leader in providing outdoor recreation, access to nature and cultural education. OSI's Alliance for New York State Parks is committed to helping the state restore its leadership and engaging all New Yorkers in the effort.

Open Space Institute

2010 New York Land Acquisitions

From the Catskills to the Hudson River Valley and the Adirondacks, in its nearly 40 years of land conservation, OSI has protected 116,736 acres across some of New York State's most scenic landscapes.

Adirondacks

Camp Little Notch Washington County 2,364 acres

OSI purchased the lands from the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York. The surrounding forestlands will be sold to a timber company, and the camp will be operated by Friends of Camp Little Notch.

Adirondacks Easement Warren County, 511 acres

OSI acquired a donated conservation easement on Adirondack forestland in the town of Horicon. The easement protects significant wetlands, waterways and hilltops, all within the viewshed of the Lake George Wild Forest.

Capital Region

Leiser Farm Columbia County 180 acres

The protection of this important farmland, located in the town of Stuyvesant, expands on the work OSI has done in conserving a farming corridor that extends south from the town of Kinderhook to the town of Hudson.

Battleview Farm Washington County, 49 acres

Battleview Farm sits above the Hudson River, directly across from the Saratoga Battlefield. The property is bounded on the west by the river and has rolling open fields, an historic barn and farmhouse. OSI is working with a farmer to ensure not only the long-term protection of the historic viewshed, but the farm's future viability.

Catskills

Walton Floodplain Restoration Delaware County, 3.5 acres

An acquisition in the village of Walton on the West Brook Stream, a tributary of the West Branch of the Delaware River is part of the DEP Watershed area.

Bucktail Hunting Club Easement Ulster County, 433 acres

135 acres in the town of Hardenburgh were conveyed to the Bucktail Hunting Club in exchange for a conservation easement on all 433 acres of forestland in the Beaverkill.

Woodbury Conservation Easement Sullivan County, 13 acres

Undeveloped land in the Beaverkill town of Rockland adjoins the State Park Preserve. The easement will ensure that views from protected public lands will be preserved.

Shawangunks

Millbrook Cliffs Ulster County, 66 acres

With cliffs reaching 350 feet in height, this land has played an important role in regional rock climbing history. It provides key habitat for rare plants and cliff-dwelling animals (such as peregrine falcons and five-lined skink) and is part of an international flyway for raptors and migratory songbirds.

Rosendale Waterworks Ulster County, 63 acres

The Waterworks is part of the northernmost section of the Ridge known as the "Giant Ledge." Its cliffs and boulders are popular with rock climbers.

Peterskill Conservation Area Addition Ulster County, 150 acres

This acquisition continues OSI's 15-year effort to protect a wilderness gorge on the northern boundary of the Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

Shawangunk Ridge Addition Ulster County, 66 acres

This property is another portion of the "Giant Ledge" and is adjacent to the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail.

Roosa Gap/Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest Long Path Trail Sullivan County, 2.5 acres

This small but important parcel filled in the gap in the Long Path Trail between the Shawangunk Ridge State Forest and the Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest.



New York Land Program 2010 Projects

Hudson Valley

The Gilbert Estate Teatown Lake Reservation Westchester County, 59 acres

This acquisition expands a network of open space, connects important trails, and provides corridors for wildlife. It lies within an important water supply basin for local and New York City populations.

Houghton Farm Orange County, 151 acres

The acquisition of an historic farm, in the town of Cornwall, is part of a wildlife corridor between Black Rock Forest and Schunemunk Mountain.

Appeldoorn Farm Ulster County, 140 acres

This historic Dutch farm, in the town of Rochester, dates back to 1752, and was protected as part of OSI's Rondout Valley farmland program on the western side of the Shawangunk Ridge.

Mr. Martens Goes to Albany

At a speaking engagement in March of this year, OSI CEO Kim Elliman introduced Joe Martens—OSI's former president, who was about to be confirmed as the new commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation—by warning the audience that they were missing out on Martens' best quality.

Martens was speaking to supporters of the Ashokan Foundation that evening, but his greatest trait, Elliman said, has always been his capacity to listen.

"Joe is simply a tremendously nice guy who is an incredible listener," he said. "He is patient, speaks up at the right time and is always genuine. He knows the state budget chapter and verse, and with over 20 years of experience in the environmental field, he has cultivated a wealth of knowledge about land issues throughout New York State."

On January 4, 2011, the second work day of the New Year, Martens resigned after 16 years with OSI—leaving the organization in considerably better shape than when he arrived. Under Martens' leadership, OSI grew from a \$6 million organization with a staff of seven people to a \$25 million annual budget and a staff of 35 dedicated to protecting open space in New York State and beyond.

"We didn't know what we were getting in Joe," said John Adams, the chairman of OSI's Board of Trustees.



"We knew he was talented and savvy, but the expertise and credibility he brought our organization helped take our work to an entirely different level. The impact he made on OSI over 16 years is virtually immeasurable."

But if one is inclined to measure, OSI doubled the acreage it has protected in New York State (now totaling nearly 120,000 acres) during Martens' tenure. Martens himself was particularly involved in the acquisition of the 10,000-acre historic Tahawus tract and OSI's \$25 million loan that helped The Nature Conservancy acquire 161,000 acres of Finch, Pruyn forestland in the Adirondacks.

OSI's Conservation Finance Program, which has helped preserve nearly 2 million more acres along the East Coast, was launched a decade ago with his input, and recent public policy and research programs have greatly expanded the scope of OSI's work.

Joe's lasting impression on everyone at OSI, however, goes well beyond dollars and acres. Knowledgeable and experienced yet down to earth and, yes, always willing to listen, Joe never carried himself like anything more than one of the gang.

We wish him well in the next phase of his career, and we know that New York State is better off having him on board, just as OSI was for 16 years.



ABOVE: Camp Little Notch, a 2,346-acre former Girl Scout camp in the southeastern corner of the Adirondack Park, NY; photo Ellen Tuzzolo.



Investing in America's Best Lands

OSI's Outdoors America Campaign



The role of the Land and Water Conservation Fund cannot be overstated. It is an essential element of the federal conservation and recreation budget designed to protect the very best of America.

In congressional budget negotiations during the waning moments of 2010, reauthorization of funding for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), despite apparent momentum in its favor, was omitted.

Undeterred, the advocacy efforts of the Open Space Institute's Outdoors America Campaign (OAC) and its Washington, D.C. partners paid their greatest dividends to date when the Obama administration released its America's Great Outdoors report in early 2011. The report called not only for new local initiatives to increase access to the outdoors, but for full funding of LWCF in the upcoming 2011-12 federal budget.

OSI launched the OAC in 2009 to advocate for a fully funded LWCF, as the need for conservation funding was becoming more critical than ever. The fund, established by Congress in 1965, is due to expire after 50 years. If it's not renewed by 2015, it will cease to exist.

"This is a buyers' market that affords conservation a tremendous opportunity," said Kim Elliman, OSI's president and CEO. "Federal funding will help connect the dots in landscapes at much lower prices where conservation has stalled in recent years due to the recession."

LWCF has been funded at the \$900 million level only once in its history, and 2011 marks the first time a president has ever recommended full funding in his proposed budget. To fully grasp the magnitude of Obama's proposal, it's helpful to examine what a \$900 million LWCF could really mean.

State and local budgets for conservation have been decimated by the recession, in many cases—such as New York—dwindling to just a fraction of what they once were. A fully funded LWCF would pump valuable dollars back into state conservation and recreation budgets, freeing up funds for partnerships with land trusts like OSI.

The role of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

cannot be overstated. It is an essential element of the conservation and recreation budget designed to protect the very best of America. Every state has benefited from its funding. Among its many projects in New York State, LWCF funded the 17,000-acre Sterling Forest acquisition and other Appalachian Trail purchases in the Hudson Highlands, and it enabled the National Park Service to acquire OSI buffer lands in Kinderhook and Hyde Park. It has also contributed to the cost of creating hundreds of recreational facilities in state and local parks.

"Over the last 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has funneled hundreds of millions of



needed dollars—matched by hundreds more in state and local funds—to the conservation of landscapes and the development of recreational facilities in New York State," said Rose Harvey, commissioner of New York's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. "We so appreciate this partnership with the federal government. Over 1,100 state and local parks have been enhanced, and it is of grave concern that the fund is in jeopardy."

The fund's effects extend well beyond the high-profile projects it has capitalized. From the citizen's perspective, LWCF benefits everyone who takes to the outdoors. It helps support conservation initiatives that appeal to

participants across the recreational spectrum, from hikers and bikers to urban sports players to hunters and anglers.

For an organization like OSI, LWCF contains a full suite of individual “pots,” each focused on a specific aspect of conservation: forests, public parks, recreation and clean water initiatives, among others. Because of its broad reach, a fully funded LWCF would enhance virtually every aspect of OSI’s work—from habitat protection in the southern Appalachians and New England to landscape conservation in the critically important Catskill watershed to the restoration of deteriorating facilities in New York’s state parks.

“Historically, federal funding has played a catalytic role in advancing significant regional conservation projects, including many that OSI is helping to support today through loans and regrants in the eastern U.S.,” said Peter Howell, OSI’s executive vice president. “Legacy and Forest LWCF funding, for example, attract matching dollars from state, county and local government, not to mention philanthropy, thereby bringing imprimatur to these transactions.”

Yet there is still more to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. For every dollar invested in federally conserved lands, recent studies show that four dollars are infused into the economy—an essential point to consider in today’s economic climate.

An attempt to drain LWCF was defeated in the House of Representatives earlier this year, but there are still many in Congress who are pushing to sweep money from the fund. Such efforts overlook the significant and lasting benefits of conservation on Americans’ quality of life and the economy.

National forests and parks create hundreds of thousands of jobs while sustaining the close-to-home vacation and recreational opportunities that are indispensable in today’s belt-tightening economy. An OSI-funded study by our colleagues at The Trust for Public Land shows that at 16 federal parks and forest preserves, 10.6 million visitors spend \$511 million each year in surrounding communities.

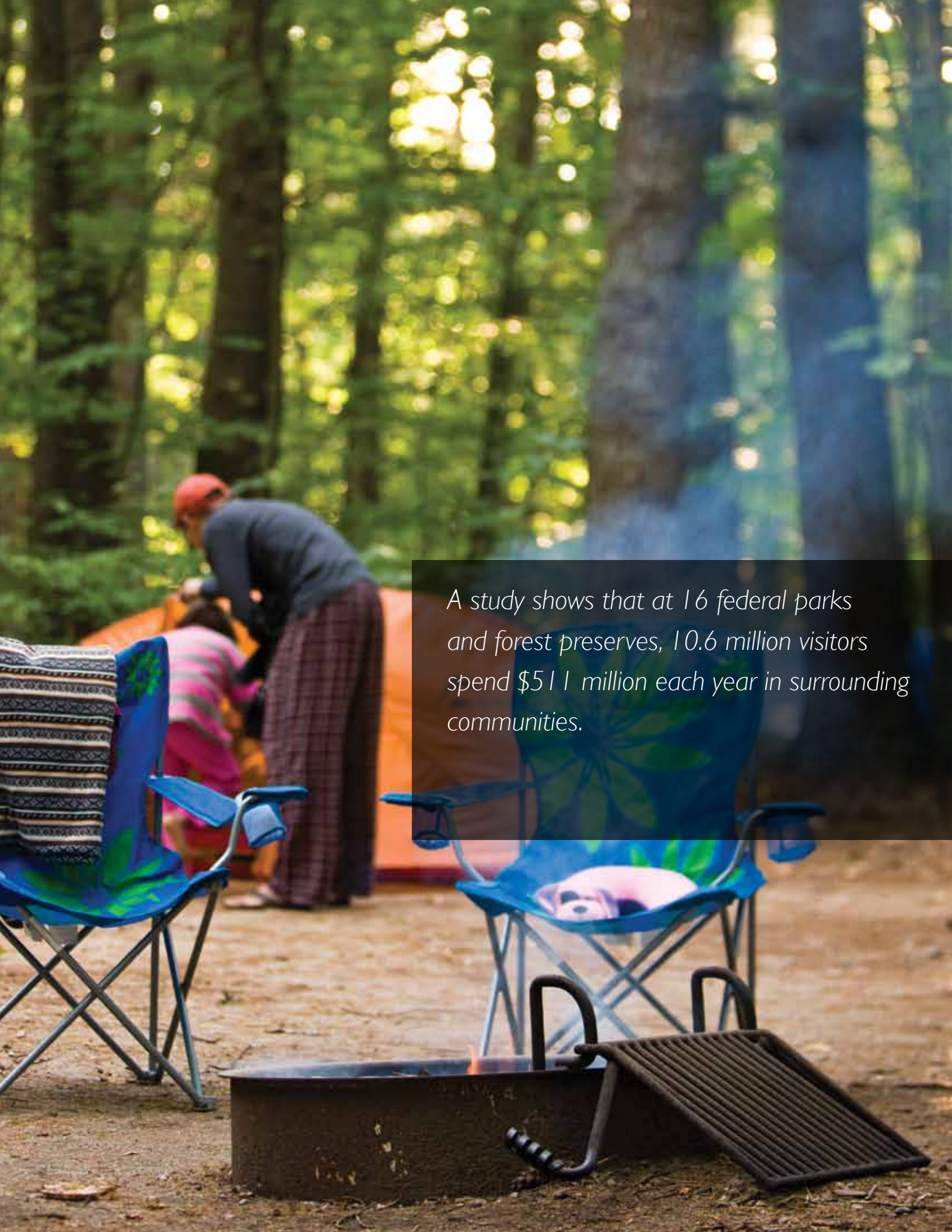
An additional 2009 study by Parks & Trails New York found that every dollar of public investment in New York’s state parks generated five dollars in private sector economic activity.

Extrapolated nationwide, the effect would be in the billions, repaying the federal government’s investment in open space many times over.

It is this effect that illustrates how conservation is good for America, in any economic climate and at any time. Through its Outdoors America Campaign, OSI will continue leading the push in 2011 for a new land agenda—one made possible by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.



ABOVE: Frenchman Bay and the Porcupine Islands at sunrise as seen from Cadillac Mountain in Maine’s Acadia National Park; RIGHT: Camping in Greenfield State Park in Greenfield, NH; photos: Jerry and Marcy Monkman.



A study shows that at 16 federal parks and forest preserves, 10.6 million visitors spend \$511 million each year in surrounding communities.

Citizen Action Program

Bringing “Farm to Table” to Life in New York



As OSI's land acquisition program preserves farmland in focus areas throughout New York State, its Citizen Action Program is simultaneously working with grassroots organizations, many in New York City, set on educating a new generation of consumers on the connection between land and food.

Citizen Action is one of OSI's oldest programs, dating back nearly 30 years. Today it provides fiscal sponsorship and administrative assistance to more than 50 grassroots projects, freeing their volunteers from managerial burdens so that they can focus on mission-related work.

In Manhattan, **Growing Chefs** teaches children and young adults, through hands-on learning in both urban garden and kitchen settings, how their food choices can have a positive effect on the environment. The focus of the **Brooklyn Food Coalition** is sustainable food and agriculture—new food co-ops, farmers markets and local and regional sourcing of food.

Turf is working to improve the health of its Bronx neighbors by holding educational workshops on cooking and nutrition, creating access to sustainable agriculture, and taking on stewardship opportunities at urban and rural farms.

“Much of what we're doing with smaller groups in New York City is on the same continuum as the preservation work we're doing upstate,” said Antonia Bowring, OSI's chief operating officer. “Citizen Action groups are connecting people, primarily school children, with knowledge about where food comes from and how it is grown, and creating new mechanisms to help them and their families access good, fresh food.”

Citizen Action, however, isn't restricted to New York City. In Ulster County, where OSI has protected 13 farms comprising 1,785 acres of agricultural land, the **Rondout Valley Growers Association** is promoting the distribution of local farm products, helping farmers and consumers develop a truly local food system.

And **The Corbin Hill Road Farms' Project** plans to offer internships on a 95-acre Schoharie County farm to South Bronx teenagers as part of its campaign to promote interaction between communities and farms. Its organizers believe that, for students willing to get their hands a little dirty, the practical experience underscores the value of farms and farmland protection.

2010 Citizen Action Groups

93rd/94th St. Preservation Alliance
Abingdon Square Alliance
Affirm, Inc.
Ananda Harvest
Better Future Project
BK Farmyards
Brooklyn Food Coalition
Butterfly Project
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Citizens Emergency Committee to Preserve Preservation
Citizens for a Better Canada Lake
Concerned Citizens for Open Space, Inc.
Deuel Hollow Conservation Association
Earth Matter NY
East 5th St. Beautification Project
Farming Concrete
Friends for a Better Amenia

Friends of Bleecker Playground
Friends of Catskill Park
Friends of Gulick Park
Friends of the Housatonic
Friends of the Hudson River
Greenway in the Bronx
Germantown Neighborhood Association
Green Apple Kids
Green Edge Collaborative
Green Spaces Innovation Institute
Greendeeds
Grounded Knowledge
Growing Chefs
Grow Smart Dover
Harlem4
Hudson River Valley Wine & Culinary Center
Hudson River Watershed Alliance
Infrastructure USA

Kensho Community
Lithgow Association
Millbrook Matters
National Young Farmers' Coalition
New York WILD Film Festival
No Time to Lose
Oblong Valley Association
Parents for Climate Protection
Philipstown Citizens Association
Preserve Salisbury
Project F
Prospect Heights Community Farm
Protect the Village Historic District
Public Sustainability Group
Quaker Hill Civic Association
Rego Park Green Alliance
Rivers Alive at Wall Street
Roaring Brook Lake Project
Rondout Valley Growers Association
Saugerties Citizens for Smart Development

Science Partners Learning about Animals of the Sound and Hudson
Sensible Wireless for Gardiner
Snap Gardens
Stand for Land
Stewardship + Environmental Mapping
Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition (SPARC)
Sunset Ridge Coalition
Sustainability Practice Network
Sustainable Flatbush
Target Tuxedo, Inc.
Thomson-Clarks Mills Residents Committee
TreeKIT
Turf
Union Square Park Native Plant Display Garden

2010 Barnabas McHenry Awards

Young Leaders in the Hudson River Valley

Since creating the Barnabas McHenry Hudson River Valley Awards in 2007, the Open Space Institute has invested more than \$60,000 in the future leadership of this culturally and ecologically important region.

Each spring, OSI awards \$5,000 grants to four young leaders (originally three, and expanded to four in 2010) who partner with regional nonprofits to complete projects in the fields of environmental conservation, historic preservation, the arts and tourism. The awards are named for OSI Trustee Barney McHenry, who has long championed the Hudson Valley's cultural and scenic wealth.

"The Hudson Valley is a special place for its history, art, architecture, gardens and landscape," McHenry said, "and most of these marvels are rather well-kept secrets to 21st-century America."

"In encouraging young leaders to be involved with one of these disciplines and to document a program or a place, we likely not only add to their store of knowledge, but we also enlist their minds in the task of making the Hudson Valley a better place."

In 2010, **Aaron Ahlstrom** received the McHenry Award for the arts and went on to develop activities and lesson plans to help attract a younger demographic to the Historic Hudson Valley sites. **Matthew Colon**, the winner for historic preservation, worked to digitize the slide collection at George Washington's Headquarters, a state historic site in Newburgh, enhancing and preserving the availability of the art collection to the public.

After receiving the award for environmental conservation, **Kate Ito** studied, on behalf of the Hudson River Watershed Alliance, how designation as a national park could support the Hudson Valley's economic, environmental, social, and natural institutions. **Chelsea Sorrento**, the McHenry Award winner for tourism, teamed with the Mohonk Preserve to investigate the economic value of protected land while developing a marketing plan to showcase the advantages of protected open space for local communities.



ABOVE: Washington's Headquarters on the Hudson River; photo: Brett Cole; OPPOSITE, LEFT & RIGHT: Scenes from the Urban Farm Volunteer Day organized by Brooklyn Food Coalition; OPPOSITE, CENTER: A Bronx resident picks up fresh produce from a CSA organized by Turf.

The Open Space Institute 2010 Financial Report

Open Space Institute, Inc. and Consolidated Entities

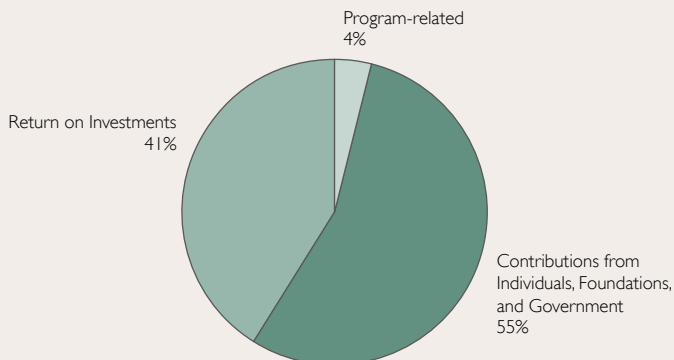
Condensed Consolidated Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

December 31, 2010 and 2009

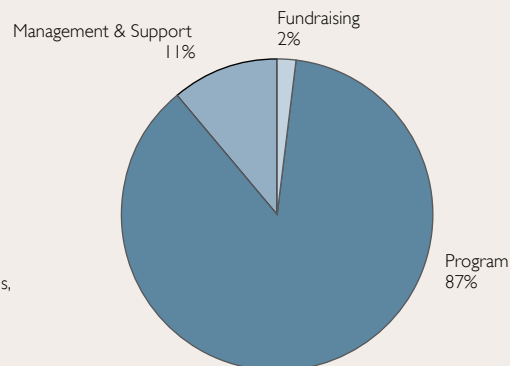
	2010	2009
Support and Revenue		
Contributions	\$3,828,953	\$2,910,324
Program-related investment interest income	531,257	891,452
Miscellaneous income	792,991	1,176,720
Total Support and Revenue	5,153,201	4,978,496
Expenses		
Program services		
Acquisition	6,144,945	10,267,496
Stewardship	2,740,409	2,864,102
Public Policy	1,949,216	946,725
Environmental participation and education	868,940	1,101,477
Total Program Services	11,703,510	15,179,800
Supporting Services		
Management and support	1,489,806	1,495,030
Fundraising	267,215	285,538
Total Supporting Services	1,757,021	1,780,568
Total Expenses	13,460,531	16,960,368
Deficiency of support and revenue to cover expenses	(8,307,330)	(11,981,872)
Other additions (deductions):		
Capital contributions	20,200,403	9,907,505
Loss on impairment of real estate	(7,803,957)	—
Gain on sale of natural land areas	753,967	673,707
Net return on investments	17,795,373	21,294,133
Total Other Additions (Deletions)	30,945,786	31,875,345
Increase (decrease) in net assets	22,638,456	19,893,473
Net assets at beginning of year	205,481,472	185,587,999
Net assets at end of year	\$228,119,928	\$205,481,472
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$243,649,810	\$240,132,795

Note: Land is normally carried on OSI's books at cost. The loss on impairment of real estate is a write-down in the value of four properties whose value has subsequently been impaired from their original purchase price through easements, disposals, or leases.

Sources of Funds 2010



Uses of Funds 2010



Open Space Institute, Inc. and Consolidated Entities
 Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
 December 31, 2010 and 2009

	2010	2009
Assets		
Cash and investments	\$186,830,346	\$170,362,594
Grants receivable and other receivables	7,029,108	2,758,636
Program-related investments receivable, net	9,549,177	27,772,527
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,571,856	2,046,829
Natural land areas, improvements, and other fixed assets, net	38,669,323	37,192,209
Total Assets	\$243,649,810	\$240,132,795
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Loans payable	13,172,329	30,136,019
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities	2,357,553	4,515,304
Total Liabilities	15,529,882	34,651,323
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	64,160,959	58,050,629
Temporarily restricted	163,958,969	147,430,843
Total Net assets	228,119,928	205,481,472
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$243,649,810	\$240,132,795

Please note: This financial information includes activities of both the Open Space Institute and the Open Space Conservancy, the land acquisition affiliate of OSI. The condensed consolidated financial information as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, has been derived from OSI's 2009 consolidated financial statements, audited by *McGladrey & Pullen*. The condensed consolidated financial information should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and related notes, available from OSI on request. In the interest of a timely annual report, this analysis was prepared based on the 2009 Audited Financial Statements and the draft 2010 Audited Financial Statements. Please contact OSI if you would like to receive our final 2010 audited numbers when they are issued.

A significant portion of our land conservation work is made possible by the Lila Acheson and Dewitt Wallace Endowment, a permanent endowment which was transferred to the Open Space Conservancy in 2001 from the Lila Acheson and Dewitt Wallace Fund for the Hudson Highlands.

The Open Space Institute, Inc. was incorporated in 1974 under section 402 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of New York and is a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. All contributions to the Open Space Institute, Inc. are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained by writing to OSI or the New York Department of State, Office of Charities Registration, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12231.

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When the Open Space Institute launched the Alliance for New York State Parks in 2010, **Lucy Waletzky** was already one of its greatest supporters. Inspired by her family's long and distinguished history of conservation, she has advocated for parks and other environmental issues for much of her life.

"Without the legacy of its unbeatable state parks, I firmly believe New York would be a lesser place," she said. "Parks are critical in a densely developed state, for both people and wildlife."

In 2007, Waletzky was appointed chairperson of the State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, following in the footsteps of her late father, Laurance Rockefeller, who led the advisory panel from 1963 to 1973. Waletzky says it was her father's commitment to conservation—he funded the expansion of Grand Teton National Park and was instrumental in establishing Virgin Islands National Park, among many other acts of philanthropy—that instilled a similar land ethic in her.

"I think wistfully of the conversation I might have with my father about the challenges facing the park system in the 1960s and those facing it now," she said. "I think we might have found a lot of common issues around funding and infrastructure needs."

As the Alliance strives to draw attention to the challenges faced by the state's park system, Waletzky hopes it will lead to increased public support and, ultimately, the creation of new public and private funding sources to help remedy decades of underfunding. New York State's 178 parks and 35 historic sites are among the country's finest, but a lack of funding has left many of them in severe disrepair, including Fahnestock State Park, Waletzky's personal favorite.

"Thanks in large measure to OSI, Fahnestock now shelters 18,000 acres of mostly unfragmented habitat, a rarity in the New York City metropolitan area," she said. "It is a true four-season park, a treasure for hikers and swimmers in the summer and a destination for snowshoe enthusiasts and cross-county skiers in the winter."

"Our parks have something for everyone. They truly are the jewels of our state, and we must do everything we can to protect them."

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Bruz Clark isn't sure whether it's coincidence or karma, but he has spent the better part of his adult life protecting many of the southern Appalachian landscapes he visited as a child.

"I grew up on Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tennessee," he said, "in a little neighborhood with creeks, ravines and magnificent

sandstone rock formations. That was my backyard. I had the freedom to roam and explore, and those early childhood experiences really helped cement my connection with the outdoors."

Both of Clark's grandfathers were raised on farms in areas steeped in American history—one in the shadow of Mount LeConte in the Great Smoky Mountains; the other on the banks of the Watauga River at Sycamore Shoals, the gathering site of the Overmountain Men who fought in the Revolutionary War's Battle of Kings Mountain. The impression both grandfathers made on him, especially during childhood trips to places like Roan Mountain and Cades Cove, will last a lifetime, Clark said.

"Those two people, more than anybody, instilled in me a deep love for the forests, farmlands, people and culture of the southern Appalachians," he said. "Old-time music, agriculture, wildlife and history—my interests can all be traced to the times I spent with my grandparents and family traipsing around the hills and hollows of east Tennessee and western North Carolina."

Now president and treasurer of the Chattanooga-based Lyndhurst Foundation, Clark has teamed up with OSI to study and preserve wildlife habitat in the southern Appalachians, a region that scientists call one of the most biologically diverse in the country. Together, the organizations have protected more than 20,000 acres of imperiled habitat, including many parcels identified as conservation priorities in the region's state wildlife action plans.

In 2010, Lyndhurst also helped OSI launch an innovative climate mapping initiative that seeks to identify the most critical habitat lands to protect—before the effects of climate change render them unstable.

For Clark, these projects are of the utmost importance. From his early years spent outdoors to a professional career spent searching for ways to preserve those lands, the appreciation of the majestic southern Appalachians is virtually all he's ever known.

"That's why the work that OSI and Lyndhurst are doing together is so essential," he said. "My ancestors' bones are part of this landscape. It is sacred ground of immeasurable beauty and splendor that is deserving of our attention and stewardship."

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Every day, the cows from the 149-acre Domino dairy farm in Accord, New York wander over to graze on the neighboring property, a 95-acre tract with a 17th-century farmhouse and barn owned by **Robert and Eileen Rominger**.

By growing alfalfa and other feed on both properties, the two landowners—the Romingers and the DeWitts, who own Domino—have in some ways allowed their properties to merge, a smart move for both farming and conservation.

In 2009, OSI purchased the development rights to the Domino Farm in partnership with the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets Farmland Protection Program. However, the deal probably wouldn't have happened had the Romingers not begun taking steps to protect their land.

The Domino Farm, named for its black and white Holsteins, had previously been turned down by the state program. But with the Romingers willing to place an easement on their property, the prospect of protecting more than 240 contiguous acres ultimately proved more attractive to the state.

"We were going to place an easement on our land anyway," Robert Rominger said, "and we knew that by signing on with Domino, that would increase the odds that the state would take the deal and allow this great dairy farm to continue. We wanted to see that happen."

In 2011, in conjunction with OSI and the Rondout-Esopus Land Conservancy, the Romingers will place an easement on their property, permanently protecting it from development.

Once protected, the Rominger property will be added to the 12,000-plus acres OSI has preserved in Ulster County—home of the Shawangunks and a longtime focus area for its awe-inspiring landscapes and rich farmlands.

"We have been in Accord for 14 years and we were attracted to the town by its exceptionally beautiful terrain and landscapes," Eileen Rominger said. "This area is so rich in history, and OSI's work to preserve large land tracts in this region will allow future generations to experience this beauty and historic character."

"We are really appreciative of those who have supported OSI in past years, and we are delighted to join their ranks."

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For more information, please contact: Tally Blumberg, vice president of External Affairs, at 212.290.8200, ext. 228.



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ABOVE: The view south from the summit of Silver Mountain in Lempster, NH; photo: Jerry and Marcy Monkman.



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