

OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE

2014 ANNUAL REPORT





OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE

We believe land is worth saving. It's our most important natural resource, providing clean air and drinking water, habitat and economic opportunity through forestry and farms. The great outdoors is a place to inspire us, motivate us and provide us solace.



We protect great landscapes, forever.

Targeting critical parcels along the eastern seaboard, OSI's work ensures permanent protection.



We invest in land wisely.

Saving important lands using science, capital and more than 40 years of experience.



We make parks better for visitors.

Improving parks and making them more welcoming gets more people out on the land.



We build healthy communities.

Working with local partners, OSI focuses on conservation issues where they matter most.

COVER: Fisherman on Ashokan Reservoir, West Hurley, NY, Catskills; photo: Greg Miller; OPPOSITE: Farmland in the Champlain Valley; photo: Greg Miller; ABOVE, TOP LEFT: A New Hampshire Community Forest; photo: Jerry and Marcy Monkman; View to High Top Tower from Smiley property; photo: Greg Miller; Farming in the Champlain Valley; photo: Greg Miller; Hiking in Minnewaska State Park Preserve; photo: Mike Levak

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FROM THE OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE'S LEADERSHIP

Trees have strong root systems to ground them as they reach higher and farther; the Open Space Institute has New York State, our home and source of strength. Our conservation accomplishments here are our pride and joy, a foundation from which we have grown.

As we seek more opportunities to apply OSI's transactional expertise, our work elsewhere stems from what we continue to achieve in New York. From this base, which laid the groundwork for boldness, OSI has flourished into an East Coast conservation organization working from Alabama up the Appalachians to southern Canada.

From strength to strength, OSI had an excellent 2014. We completed 18 land transactions, acquiring over 3,300 acres in fee and conservation easements worth \$25.6 million. Of these transactions, 16 were in New York, one in South Carolina and one in New Jersey. OSI distributed 20 capital grants to 16 conservation partners in the eastern United States, utilizing \$1.9 million in capital to protect over 7,200 acres.

In New York, OSI strives to go deeper in our legacy landscapes. We are advancing a potential five-mile public trail connection between two parks, 1,500-acre Goosepond and 22,000-acre Sterling Forest state parks. OSI is restoring historic carriage roads in Minnewaska State Park and developing concept plans for improved access at Fahnestock and Jones Beach state parks. We partnered on public-private campaigns around the



state to enhance programming and orient park visitors.

Also in New York, OSI studied climate resilience, working with state agencies to add a scientific dimension to their land acquisition priorities. We helped 45 grassroots groups through fiscal sponsorship, furthering our mission by enabling others to make their communities greener, more livable and environmentally sustainable.

Branching out across the eastern United States, OSI

combines research and capital to accomplish significant conservation objectives with a program now 15 years strong. In 2014 we expanded this effort with the launch of our Southeast Resilient Landscape Initiative, adding capacity to our presence in the region with the Southern Cumberland Fund. We also began a remarkable effort to help restore water quality and quantity in the 13,000-square-mile watershed of the Delaware River. Our Catalyst Grants are guiding biodiversity conservation efforts on the ground. On the heels of our South Carolina and New Jersey direct acquisitions in 2014, we are looking at additional noteworthy properties that will increase public access to conserved land.

We are grateful for your support and partnership, and thank you for your dedication to the conservation of significant landscapes. We are proud of the work we can accomplish together, continuing to invest in our home, New York, while setting our sights higher to protect more landscapes each year.

John Adams
John H. Adams
Chairman

Kim Elliman
Kim Elliman
President & CEO



IN THE SOUTH

Under the Pines



Determination, collaboration, hard work, and a bit of luck all came together in April of last year, when OSI and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) announced the acquisition of two vital tracts of the Fairlawn Plantation property outside Charleston, South Carolina.

The tracts, which formed the largest piece of private land within the nearly 259,000-acre Francis Marion National Forest, were a top priority of the U.S. Forest Service for decades.

That is because the property and the surrounding national forest provide critical habitat for a host of rare and threatened plant and animal species, with Fairlawn itself nestled in the heart of the forest's richest block of longleaf pine. Its protection was critical for the integrity of the thousands of acres of public land that surround it.



Through the decades, conservationists have been working to preserve this valuable habitat, which has become very rare in the Southeast. Longleaf pine ecosystems once covered 90 million acres in this region but have been reduced to approximately three million acres today. What is more, longleaf is a fire-adapted ecosystem—the species requires frequent prescribed burning for its health and perpetuation—but through the years, development of longleaf properties and adjacent land has made controlled burns difficult, dangerous and even impossible.

Despite the widely recognized value of Fairlawn

OPPOSITE: *Pinus palustris* and *Pteridium aquilinum* forest Francis Marion National Forest, Berkeley County, SC; photo: Alan Cressler; TOP: OSI staff Nate Berry (left) and Samalya Deutch with partners from The Nature Conservancy and the Forest Service at Fairlawn; INSET: Longleaf pine sprout; photo: John Petranka



Plantation, conservationists' efforts had met with frustrating results. After a 2012 deal to protect the property using Charleston County funding fell through, TNC asked OSI to partner on a second attempt.

A price was negotiated, and a short-term option agreed upon. "We were planning to use federal funds," says OSI Vice President Nate Berry, referring to money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which supports the acquisition and protection of irreplaceable lands. "Then the federal budget came out, and we knew we were not going to get the funds that year.

"We sat back and considered what to do next," Berry said. "Should we buy it and pray for future funding? Should we try again next year, and risk losing it? We were talking about one of the most important conservation tracts in the East."

In a welcome surprise, funding arrived by way of aerospace giant The Boeing Company. Boeing needed to offset 468 acres of wetlands associated with the permitting process that it had announced it would lease from the state of South Carolina for potential future growth. To mitigate the loss, Boeing would protect and restore the most important conservation targets in the area: the 2,241-acre Fairlawn tracts, plus another 1,670 acres known as the Keystone property. Public and private conservation groups lauded this plan to conserve nearly 4,000 acres just 10 miles from Charleston, one of the most rapidly growing metropolitan regions in the country.

"This plan supports our business growth as well as our commitment to the environment and communities where we live and work," said Jack Jones, vice president and general manager of Boeing South Carolina. "It's exciting because it ensures our ability to grow while protecting the unique natural ecosystem of this state for future generations of South Carolinians and visitors."

With a funding commitment in hand, OSI and TNC quickly negotiated a series of agreements between the state and federal agencies involved. Going forward, OSI and TNC will co-own, restore and manage Fairlawn for up to five years, after which the land will be transferred to the U.S. Forest Service for long-term management.

"The Francis Marion and the neighboring publicly and privately protected lands are a national treasure," says OSI president and CEO Kim Elliman. "It was wonderful working with Boeing, The Nature Conservancy, the landowners and many others, and seeing the pieces come together to successfully conserve these extraordinary properties."

The owners of the remaining portions of Fairlawn have indicated their willingness to work with the conservation community, so that with hard work and perseverance more vital pieces of land may one day be added to the public trust.

ABOVE: Young pine growing in Francis Marion National Forest; photo: John B. Nelson; OPPOSITE: Mature longleaf pine; photo: The Nature Conservancy



PROTECTING THE LONGLEAF PINE

The South has its icons: sweet tea, grits and football are but a few. But one preceded them all—the longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*). Among the most diverse ecosystems in the world, longleaf forests once dominated 90 million acres of the coastal plain from North Carolina to Texas, even extending up into some mountainous areas. Today, only a fraction, 3 percent, remains. Thanks to a highly concerted effort the numbers are rising, but longleaf still faces an uphill battle.

The Fairlawn purchase is part of OSI's growing effort to give the forests a fighting chance: not only does it set aside more land for this keystone species, but it also makes controlled burning possible. A recent OSI loan of \$2.18 million to the Trust for Public Land will do the same, securing more than 1,400 acres for longleaf restoration at the Talladega National Forest in Alabama.

In addition to those transactions, OSI's research has informed longleaf-related conservation strategies and goals during the past few years. Seeking to increase dialogue about and conservation funding for places where multiple public values intersect, OSI in 2013 conducted mapping projects to identify 11 core working forest areas in longleaf country that are critical anchors for forestry-based economies, provide multiple conservation benefits and are at risk of development. It also released a related report, *Retaining Working Forests: Eastern North Carolina*, which focused in depth on one of those regions.

The report analyzed the largest forest ownerships, describing tools and incentives that can produce win-win results for conservation and economic well-being. Key opportunities include leveraging military funding where training and conservation needs intersect; maintaining forest uses by paying landowners for ecosystem services, such as clean water, carbon sequestration, and recreation; and encouraging emerging forest product markets that are compatible with conservation goals.

In 2013 OSI was asked by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to lead the business planning process for its five-year, \$7.5 million Forestland Stewards Initiative. The initiative focuses on advancing healthy forest ecosystems within three geographies across the Southeast, including longleaf in the piney woods of Texas and Louisiana and the coastal Carolinas. In these coastal plain landscapes, OSI worked with stakeholders to focus longleaf restoration strategies and goals, gathering and analyzing data to determine the effect of forest management techniques on different ecosystems and species. The business plan estimates that by making strategic investments in landowner outreach, tree planting, and accelerating controlled burning and other vegetation management, partners will improve the conservation status of at least 130,000 acres of longleaf forest in the next five years.

As OSI's work in the Southeast continues to grow, joining in the region's longleaf pine conservation efforts is a natural fit. Restoring this southern icon is a monumental task, but working together, the conservation community is making it happen.

GIRALDA FARMS PARK

How a Historic Preserve Came to Be



It all started with a routine check-in between OSI's Terrence Nolan and the Morris County Park Commission in northeastern New Jersey.

"Oh, by the way," said commission executive director Dave Helmer as he opened his drawer, revealing a property map, "I may have a new one for you." Helmer explained that the land, the last remaining green space within a gated commercial office complex known as Giralda Farms, had a special history. It had been on officials' radar for years as a potential addition to Loantaka Brook County Reservation, and he thought that there might be a new opportunity to conserve it.

OSI and its partners would spend the next 10 months engaged in a series of complicated chess moves in an effort to conserve this historic property.

"This was by far the most complex deal I have ever been involved in," said Nolan, OSI's senior vice president for conservation transactions, who has been

working in land conservation for 15 years, and in New Jersey for a decade.

Transforming a bucolic parcel, tucked away behind the gates of a corporate complex, into a new public park would involve bidding wars against developers, haggling with corporate neighbors over public access, and getting input and backing from no fewer than nine partners in the nonprofit, private and public sectors. And then the partners had to ask one of New Jersey's fastest-growing metropolitan counties to award its largest-ever grant for open space protection.

In accounts of the history of Giralda Farms, the spirit of its patroness, the legendary Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge (1882–1973), shines through. During its heyday, the manor was the stuff of local legend. Black-and-white images from the era show Giralda Farms hosting the tents and crowds of what was reportedly the world's largest and most elaborate dog show. In one photograph, Mrs. Dodge, christened the "dog fancier of

the century,” kneels on the Giralda lawn, training her beloved German shepherd Rin Tin Tin to sit upright with paws in the air.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Dodge became a storied philanthropist, establishing the St. Hubert’s Giralda Animal Welfare Center, still located next to Giralda Farms. The foundation bearing her name continues to fund leadership, education, and collaboration in the arts, education, environmental and media causes in New Jersey. Under her ownership, Giralda Farms was for years sheltered from the sprawling development enveloping most of eastern Morris County and the larger New York City metropolitan region. Yet after her death, portions of the 370-acre estate were subdivided for housing and ultimately commercial offices. “It is a premier office park in a market that can sustain more

Enter the Great Recession. Development plans were abruptly put on hold. By 2013, the owner of the property lost his investment through foreclosure, and the subsequent owner put the property up for sale. That’s when the Morris County Park Commission asked OSI to get involved.

In the weeks after the meeting with Dave Helmer, Nolan met Chatham Township mayor Kevin Sullivan and town administrator Tom Ciccarone, both of whom signaled Chatham’s early support for the project.

Sally Rubin, the executive director of the Great Swamp Watershed Association, was another early supporter of the plan to preserve Mrs. Dodge’s legacy.

At the same time, Nolan connected with a friendly development investor, Normandy Realty Partners, which was interested in purchasing a small portion of the property that jutted into the Borough of Madison but wanted the core 136-acre parcel within Chatham Township to be permanently protected as an amenity for the public. OSI and



development,” the spokesman for one buyer told the *New York Times* in 1997.

Over time, commercial buildings sprang up on the original estate grounds until only a 136-acre remnant of open space was left. Still, that patch retained much of the splendor of the original estate, with sweeping meadows, stately trees, wetlands, and a pond in a copse of dense woodland. The corporate owners of Giralda Farms invited the public each summer for New Jersey Symphony concerts on the great meadow.

Yet despite their value as a community space, the 136 acres were vulnerable to office or dense residential development.



Normandy decided to combine forces and submit a joint bid.

Bidding day grew closer. What was a field of 12 contenders dwindled to nine, and then two,

with OSI’s bid—the sole preservation offer—pitted against a well-known regional developer. The seller relayed that it liked the OSI offer but wanted an even tighter timeframe and a higher price.

The seller, a holding company, asked for a meeting. “It was a nail-biter,” said LoriJeane Moody, OSI’s director of development and a longtime resident of New Jersey who has been working in conservation in the state for 16 years. Representatives of the owner, calling in from Texas and Washington state and unfamiliar with the New Jersey conservation community, peppered the team with questions. Nolan tried to inspire confidence based on OSI’s track record in completing large conservation deals, yet neither he

OPPOSITE: Giralda Farms Park; photo: Brett Cole; ABOVE, L-R: Chatham Parks Dept. employee, Kevin Sullivan, Mayor of Chatham Township, Terrence Nolan, Senior Vice President of Conservation Transactions, Open Space Institute, Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen, Congressman, 11th District NJ, Nicolas Platt, Mayor, Harding Township, Kathryn A. DeFillippo, Freeholder, Director Douglas Cabana, Freeholder, Thomas J. Mastrangelo, Freeholder, Sue Seyboldt, NJ Green Acres, David Helmer, Executive Director, Morris County Parks Commission; photo: LoriJeane Moody; Fox; photo: Brett Cole; Opening day at Giralda Farms Park; photo: LoriJeane Moody



OSI has a long history of conservation in the nation's most densely populated state, beginning with the New Jersey Conservation Loan Fund, launched in 1993 with support from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Today, OSI's programs in New Jersey include grant making, lending and direct acquisitions.

nor Morris County had ever done anything this big. "We had to agree to timeframes with nothing more than advance promises from agencies, and the assurance that we would all work our hardest to get this done," he said. The seller decided to take a chance and accepted OSI and Normandy's proposal but insisted that the closing occur by year's end. OSI had from May until mid-November to secure \$14.1 million.

With the green light from the seller, all eyes turned to the next major hurdle: securing funding. "We had no margin of error for failure," Nolan said. "Either the deal got fully funded all at once, or we would lose it." Success depended on the willingness of Morris County to award the largest open space grant in its history.

Kevin Sullivan, mayor of Chatham Township, described conversations within the county ahead of the big meeting. Chatham was just one of 39 municipalities in the county yet was asking for \$10 million from the county, far more than the county had ever awarded. "We felt preserving Giralda would create a regional resource, but we didn't go to the meeting thinking this

was a done deal at all," Mayor Sullivan said.

The evening of November 12, 2014, saw a crowd gather within the red-brick Morris County government building. One by one, representatives from the Great Swamp Watershed Association, the Highlands Coalition, and Nick Platt, mayor of neighboring Harding Township, stood in support for the project. Despite some local opposition, in the end the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders unanimously approved funding for a \$10 million open space grant—a visionary decision, and the largest contribution in the county's history.

The room erupted in cheers. One Morris County Freeholder, who had often questioned the very need for

ABOVE, L-R: New trails map at Giralda Farms Park; Historic photo of the original house and property; courtesy: Nicholas Platt; Geraldine Dodge at the Morris and Essex Club Kennel Club Dog Show; photo: Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Archive; OPPOSITE: Opening Day crowds at Giralda Farms Park; photo: LoriJeane Moody; Pond; photo: Brett Cole; Geraldine Dodge with the famous German shepherd Rin Tin Tin, who was brought to the Morris and Essex Club Kennel Club Dog Show in 1931; photo: Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Archive



an open space tax, called the project a “model” for what the money should be used for.

A breakthrough, and then a roadblock. With the grant in hand and about 45 days left to close, the spotlight next turned to the corporate neighbors at Giralda Farms office park. Some were concerned about allowing public access to the property next door.

With time running out, Mayor Sullivan took a gamble and reached out to one of the principal owners for a one-on-one negotiation. As a result, the corporate owners and the conservationists struck a deal: the property would be used for passive recreation, with a fence and landscaping separating the office park from the preserved land.

Finally, with just one month to go before the seller’s deadline, the final pieces fell in place.

In June 2015, Giralda Farms officially opened to the public. Visitors streamed in with children in tow. Moody looked over the crowd and sighed. “I love my job,” she said, smiling.

Going forward, Chatham Township and the Morris County Parks Commission will share ownership of the property, which will add 2.3 miles of pedestrian trails adjacent to the 744-acre Loantaka Brook Reservation. The property will continue to be the home of the Giralda Music & Arts Festival, a much-loved outdoor concert event that has been at the site for 31 years.

Because the land is within the watershed of the federally protected Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, its protection will benefit an important nesting and feeding area for some 244 species of birds.

“If not for OSI’s involvement in the project, I don’t think we would have been able to react fast enough, or had the ability to work with multiple partners to satisfy the county open space committee and the land owner,” said Mayor Sullivan.

OSI staffers were overjoyed to see the successful outcome. “This kind of ‘must-do’ preservation project comes around once in a generation,” Nolan said. “We were grateful to partner with a highly committed group of people to protect Giralda Farms and look forward to expanding our work in New Jersey to help create new community parks.”

The following organizations contributed crucial funding and support to the preservation of Giralda Farms

Chatham Township
F.M. Kirby Foundation
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority
Morris County Park Commission
Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Green Acres Program

COMMUNITY FORESTS

Victory of the Commons



In northern New England, where hundreds of thousands of acres of forestland used to change hands between owners with faraway addresses, local communities are finally getting their share.

With help from OSI's Community Forest Fund, citizens are creating and expanding locally owned and managed community forests, which in turn help sustain local economies. Launched with support from Jane's Trust in 2010, the fund has made 18 capital and support grants for community forests in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, giving a total of \$1.16 million in grants to rural communities.

With land management in the hands of the townspeople themselves, community forest projects enjoy widespread grassroots support. The projects offer an alternative to state and federal ownership and, by broadening the pool of stakeholders interested in land protection, expand funding and support for conservation. They can also help augment efforts of established land protection organizations, knitting together preserved lands to achieve regional-scale conservation. Seeing the promise of community forests, in 2012 the federal government launched the national

Community Forest Program to support the movement.

Take the Cooley-Jericho Community Forest project, which preserved 843 acres in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. For several years, residents from surrounding communities worked to build support and raise funds for the project. The land's previous owner had proposed to build windmills and large subdivisions; now, however, the townspeople will harvest timber from the land to pay for the cost of forest management, and when revenue begins to flow from future harvests, each of the four towns that contributed toward the community forest will receive a share. In the meantime, residents can enjoy hiking, biking and backcountry skiing.

OSI recently spoke with Rebecca Brown, executive director of the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, which manages the land and spearheaded the project with town leaders, raising funds from the federal government, OSI and several other partners. She described how the community had been using the land

ABOVE: Two Rivers Community Forest; Machias, ME; photo: Downeast Coastal Conservancy

as an outdoor environmental education classroom for local schoolchildren, and how an Eagle Scout candidate built a welcome kiosk at the property.

"After years of talk, this project came to life because of OSI's commitment to feasibility planning, and later to actual funding of the purchase," Brown said. "Now we have a great forest, and an even greater place for building community."

Another example is in Machias, Maine. In this long-time fishing community, citizens raised funds from local

estate investment trusts). Some of these companies would log it and then sell it in smaller chunks, leading to the fragmentation of the forests. In many cases, the land would then be sold for development."

The community forest movement, with OSI's fund as a catalyst, has helped these small communities reclaim heritage land. "Community forests are a very palpable expression of individuals growing the local capacity for land stewardship," Lyman said. "OSI's fund helped demonstrate to the towns that the model

had value, and that it could be flexible and adaptable to diverse communities."

For the Nulhegan Abenaki tribe in northern Vermont, which secured a grant from the Community Forests Fund to purchase the land, the program meant reclaiming identity as well as spiritual and cultural heritage.

"We felt like we had let down the Creator [by not having a permanent place to carry on tribal traditions]," said Chief



banks, hospitals and foundations and set up a structure to receive revenue from 913 acres of local forest. In the future, a portion of the timber revenue will go to local schools. What's more, the land is within walking distance of the schools and will be used for outdoor education, recreational trails and river access.

Benefits from other projects have ranged from protecting community water supplies and facilitating the collection of tourism revenue from mountain biking in preserved forests to helping a Native American tribe own its first piece of land in 200 years.

"The community forest idea was pioneered by earlier generations of New Englanders," said Marcy Lyman, consultant to the Community Forest Collaborative and an advisory committee member of OSI's Community Forest Fund.

"For hundreds of years, these small towns have historically had the land open to them, and they got employment from it," Lyman said. "But in the 1980s, the communities began to see large chunks of forestland being sold and bought up by short-term owners (like timber investment management organizations and real



Don Stevens. "This land is the cement that created the foundation for our home."

Today, the Nulhegan Abenaki harness the land for harvesting medicinal plants and producing maple syrup, (which pays for managing the land); supporting an after-school program for tribal youth; and sowing heritage seeds such as skunk beans and Vermont cranberry beans, with surplus going to a food bank.

"I can't say thank you enough to OSI," said Chief Stevens. "You are a part of our history."

ABOVE, LEFT: Barre Town Forest; photo: Trust for Public Land; RIGHT: The 843-acre Cooley-Jericho Community Forest is owned by the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) on behalf of four communities, Easton, Sugar Hill, Franconia, and Landaff in NH. photo: ACT

GOOSEPOND MOUNTAIN SOUTH

Community Groundswell Saves a Landscape



When it comes to assessing OSI's value for New York's state parks, the numbers speak for themselves: an astounding 10 percent of the total park acreage has been conserved in partnership since our founding four decades ago.

Last year was no exception, with OSI spearheading additions and improvements to Minnewaska, Fahnestock, Jones Beach and other state parks. One project in particular held exciting promise.

In the last days of December 2014, OSI announced the achievement of a decade-long goal: the preservation of 400 acres adjacent to Goosepond Mountain State Park. Once slated to be a golf course and 200-unit housing development, the new property will instead remain a natural landscape of fields, trails, woods and wetlands. Goosepond Mountain State Park will now offer almost 25 square miles of wilderness to its devoted hikers and horseback riders. The addition also allows the park to reroute five miles of the multistate Highlands Trail, eliminating potentially dangerous roadwalk for hikers.

On a larger scale, by furthering a proposed connection between Sterling Forest State Park (which OSI helped create in 1997) and Goosepond, the project brings conservationists closer to fulfilling a years-long, regional initiative to link these state parks with others

in the Hudson Highlands—Storm King, Schunnemunk Mountain, Bear Mountain, and Harriman—all of which have been significantly expanded by OSI through the years. If fully realized, the effort will create a ring of

publicly accessible green space in a rapidly developing area that is less than an hour's drive from New York City.

For now, residents of Chester, New York, are applauding the immediate wins from the conservation of the new Goosepond property. Conservation of the land will safeguard an important aquifer recharge area. It also preserves sorely-needed greenspace, as

Goosepond is located just two miles from dense development sprawling north and west from the New York State Thruway and Route 17.

Rose Harvey, Commissioner of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, said: "Improving public access to parks is part of Governor Cuomo's conservation vision for the Hudson Valley. We applaud the Open Space Institute for protecting a property that was threatened by development and preserving it for the future."



TOP, LEFT: Goosepond Mountain State Park, Orange County, NY, is 1,558 acres of open space with access to the Highland Trail; photo: Greg Miller; INSET: Working on the Highland Trail. It will extend over 150 miles from the Connecticut to New Jersey; photos: New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

COME OUT AND PLAY

A Great Year for New York State Parks and Preserves



When park-goers set foot in a welcome center, view a visitor map, or explore a new trail, their first impressions go a long way toward determining whether they will return to the park another day. The key to repeat visits lies in two factors, accessibility and visitor experience. OSI has worked to improve both in 2014.

At Minnewaska State Park Preserve, whose acreage OSI has more than doubled over 20-plus years, the goal of OSI's \$500,000 fundraising campaign to restore the **Hamilton Point** carriage roads was achieved when the carriage road network reopened in September. The Victorian-era roads have been restored to their former glory, and afford a spectacular route overlooking bucolic valleys, making for a safe and fun family day-trip atop the Shawangunks.

OSI's next trails project gives visitors an unusual visit atop the longest elevated pedestrian bridge in the world. The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation will use a half-acre parcel OSI acquired adjacent to **Walkway Over the Hudson** to create a new base of operations at the park's Poughkeepsie side. This project will also help visitors explore the park, and integrate this extraordinary nontraditional public space into its surroundings.

Located in Orange County and about 100 miles from New York City are two projects to expand regional recreational prospects for the nation's most populous metropolitan area. In October, Governor Andrew

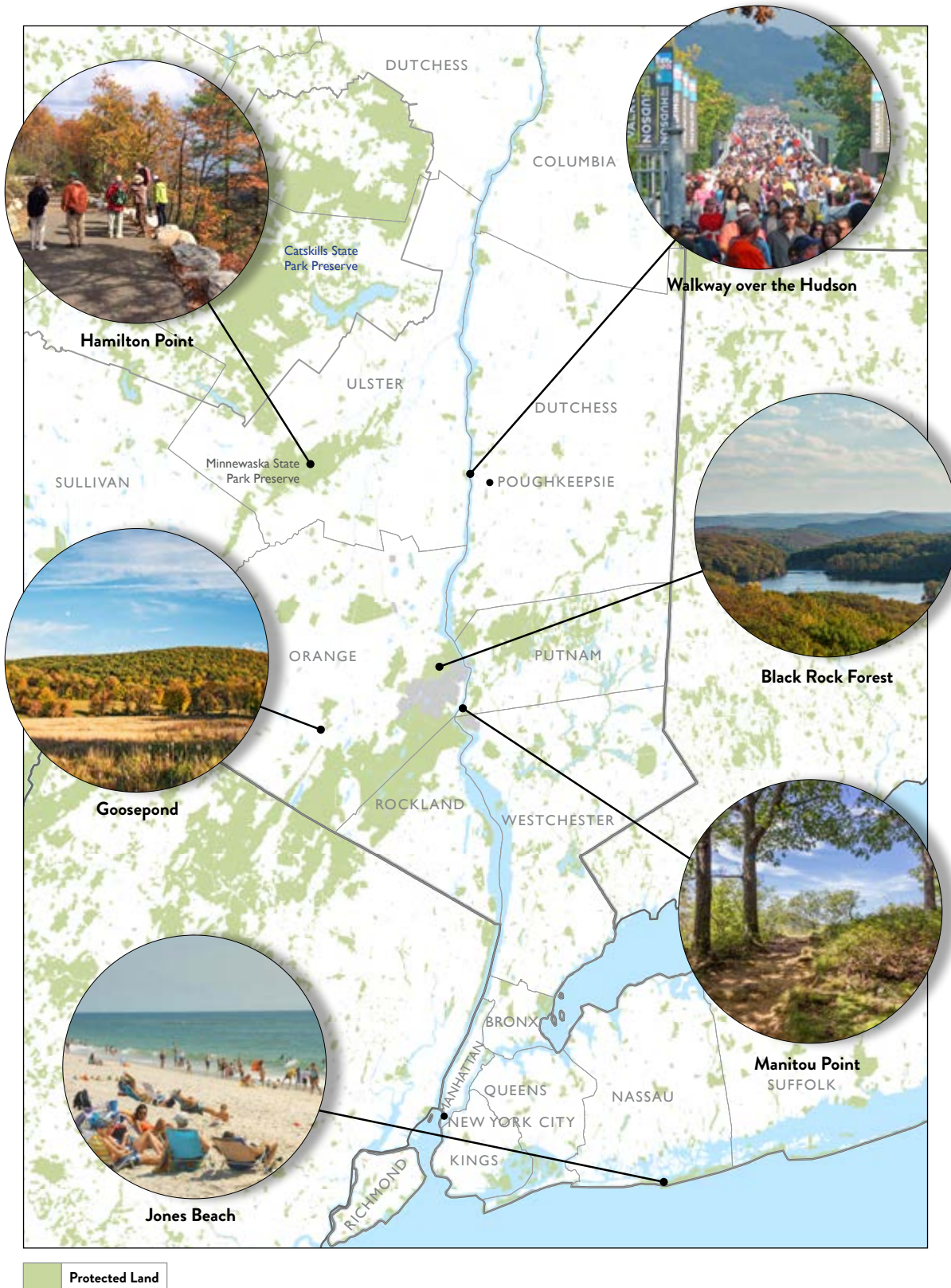
Cuomo, OSI and **Black Rock Forest** announced a deal to protect the forest, billed as the largest-ever conservation easement in the Hudson Highlands. The move will formalize public access to the land, giving hikers, outdoor enthusiasts and other park visitors an experience made up of nearly 60 miles of uninterrupted trails and 8,600 acres.

OSI's work at **Manitou Point**, a site with historical ties dating back before the Revolutionary War, began 25 years ago and is one of our longest-running projects. Manitou Point was purchased in 2013 by a conservation buyer, and OSI continues to be involved in managing public access to portions of the property, installing kiosks and rerouting trails in partnership with Hudson Highlands Land Trust and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

Governor Cuomo in March announced the **Jones Beach** Revitalization Plan, an initiative that took shape with financial support from OSI. The project aims to restore the grandeur of this waterfront destination while adding new activities, dining options and entertainment that will extend park-goers' enjoyment after sunset. The public space was originally designed by famed master builder Robert Moses.

ABOVE, LEFT: Joy of Swinging; photo: Brittany Randolph; RIGHT: All ages enjoy the restored Rosendale Trestle, NY; photo: Brett Cole; OPPOSITE: photos: Walkway, Jones Beach photos: New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation. Other photos: OSI

Over the past four decades, with nearly 80 conservation initiatives, OSI has added more than 40,000 acres to the 335,000-acre state park system.



Open Space Institute

2014 LAND PROJECTS



1 Understory Farm

127 acres

Town of Essex, Essex County

This is OSI's third lease-to-own farm project and the farmers intend to use the property to breed goats and produce milk and cheese. They plan to cultivate fruit and nut trees, mushrooms and other forest crops.

2 Bozen Kill Preserve

154 acres

Town of Knox, Albany County

OSI and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy acquired the land and added it to an adjoining 27 acres to create the new Bozen Kill Preserve. It will allow a large off-road addition to the Long Path Trail and a connection of the trail to the Wolf Creek Falls Preserve.

3 Mount Lebanon Shaker Site

61 acres, Town of New Lebanon,

Columbia County

OSI provided financing for the Shaker Museum to acquire an adjoining property, located in a designated National Historic Landmark District. Mount Lebanon has been recognized by the World Monuments Fund as one of the 100 most significant endangered historic sites in the world.

4 Studley Barn

46 acres

Town of New Paltz, Ulster County

The Studley Barn property is adjacent to the 856-acre Smiley Brothers land sold to Mohonk Preserve in 2014. It is a highly scenic land that protects one of the most treasured views of the Skytop tower atop the Shawangunk Ridge.

5 Walkway Landing

.47 acres

Town of Poughkeepsie

Dutchess County

The small lot, adjacent to the Walkway over the Hudson, provides additional public access to the Walkway Over the Hudson, parking and could serve as a future location for a park visitor center.

6 Hess Farm

75 acres

Town of Gardiner, Ulster County

Hess is one of Gardiner's most viable farms, producing feed hay and shelled corn for many neighboring farms that raise horses, cattle and livestock. The funding for the acquisition of the Hess Farm conservation easement was helped by a US Farm and Ranchland Protection Program grant.

7 Shawangunk Greenway

Schneller II, 63 acres

Towns of Shawangunk &

Wawarsing, Ulster County

Schneller II is the second acquisition on the southeastern side of Minnewaska State Park Preserve. It protects an important part of the vast, globally rare pitch pine barrens at Sam's Point and part of the Verkeederkill stream.

8 Hurleyville Rail Trail

Center for Discovery

85 acres and 9 miles

Towns of Liberty and Fallsburg

Sullivan County

The scenic rail trail runs through farms, woods and wetlands, and will connect Hurleyville and South Fallsburg. The proposed rail trail also runs along the Stonewall Preserve, an OSI protected working farm at the Center of Discovery.

9 Goosepond Mountain South

389 acres

Town of Chester, Orange County

The acquisition expands the public access to Goosepond Mountain State Park, providing a new park entrance, where the multi-state Highlands Trail will be relocated. Goosepond Mountain South is a part of the Hudson Highlands.

10 Giralda Farm

136 acres

Chatham Township,

Morris County, NJ

The successful protection of Giralda Farms marks the largest conservation transaction in Morris County, and one of the largest in New Jersey. The lands will expand recreational access to the adjacent Loantaka Brook Reservation.

11 Francis Marion National

Forest: Fairlawn Inholding

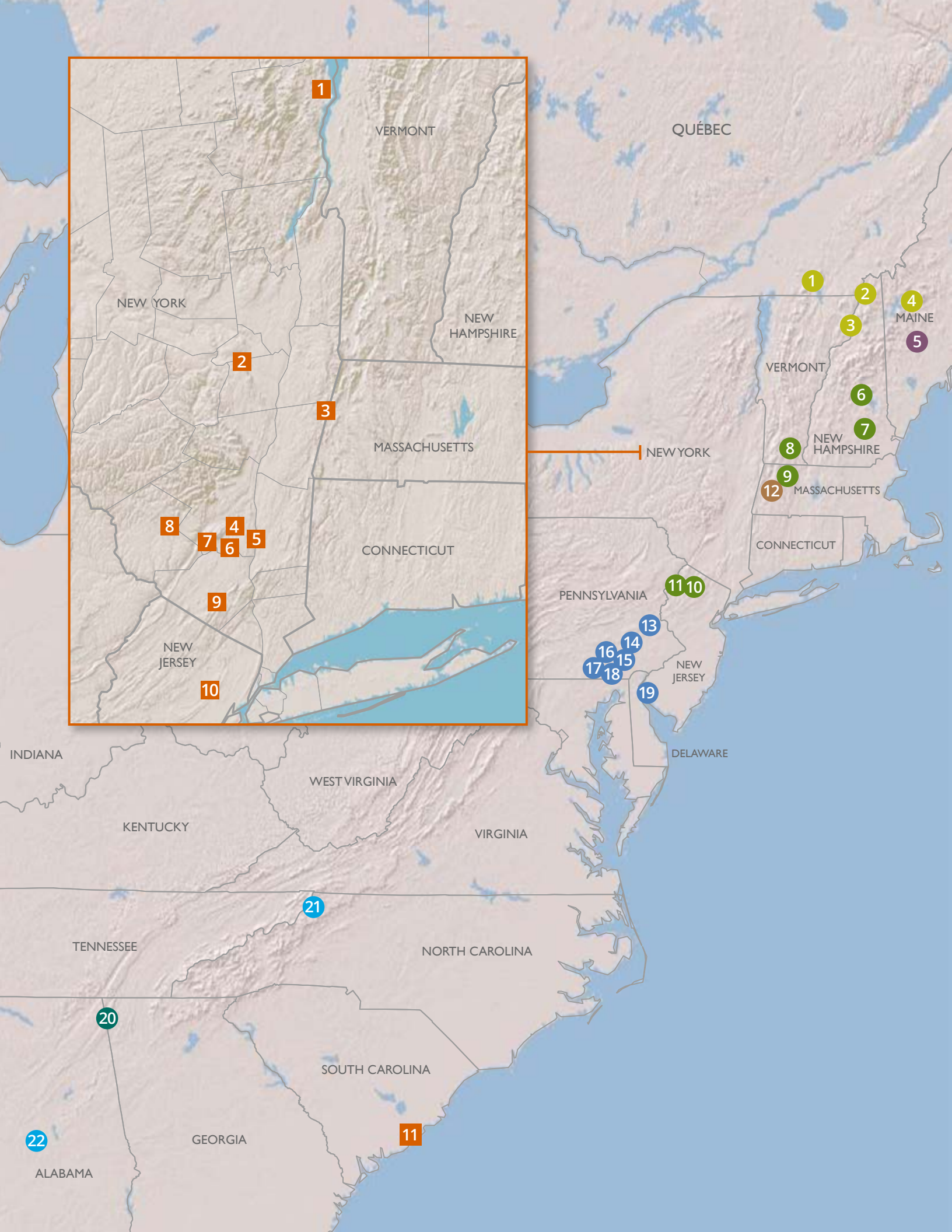
2,240 acres

Christ Church Parish, Charleston

and Berkeley Counties, SC

OSI and The Nature Conservancy acquired two tracts consisting of more than 2,200 acres in the heart of the Francis Marion National Forest. Fairlawn provides rare habitat for longleaf pines and for the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. (Read more p.5)

ABOVE, L-R: Hurleyville Rail Trail at The Center for Discovery in the Catskills. photo: Brett Cole; Studly Barn at the base of the Shawangunks; photo: John Fischer; Milking Cows; photo: Greg Miller



1

VERMONT

NEW YORK

2

NEW HAMPSHIRE

3

MASSACHUSETTS

8

7

6

4

5

9

CONNECTICUT

NEW JERSEY

10

QUÉBEC

1

2

4

MAINE

5

VERMONT

6

7

8

9

12

MASSACHUSETTS

CONNECTICUT

PENNSYLVANIA

11

10

16

14

15

17

18

13

NEW JERSEY

19

DELAWARE

INDIANA

WEST VIRGINIA

KENTUCKY

VIRGINIA

21

TENNESSEE

NORTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA

20

GEORGIA

11

22

ALABAMA

Open Space Institute

2014 CONSERVATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

TRANSBORDER FUND

1 Appalachian Corridor Appalachien

Mount Foster, 852 acres
East Bolton, Quebec
Project Cost: \$1,153,012
Grant: \$150,000
This project lies within an 11,900 acre forest block, forging a strategic link between Quebec's Sutton Mountains and Mount Orford National Park. The land provides a variety of habitats for rare salamanders, black bear, fisher, moose and river otter.

2 Society for the Protection of NH Forests

Maple Ridge Farm, 269 acres
Pittsburg, NH
Project Cost: \$262,493
Grant: \$50,000
Maple Ridge Farm lies one mile from the Canadian Border, within the headwaters of the Connecticut River and at the confluence of Indian Stream, a famed cold water trout fishery.

3 The Nature Conservancy Northeast Kingdom-Northern

New Hampshire Linkage,
165 acres, Groveton, NH and
Maidstone, VT
Project Cost: \$204,368
Grant: \$20,000
TNC conserved rich floodplain forest at the confluence of the Connecticut and Upper Ammonoosuc Rivers. The forest, bordering over two miles of river frontage, provides migratory and nesting habitat for over 120 bird species.

4 Trust for Public Land

Orbeton Stream, 5,774 acres
Madrid, ME
Project Cost: \$1,797,000
Grant: \$100,000
Lying within an international wildlife linkage, the project connects with 77,000 acres of conserved forest. Orbeton Stream is prized for its eastern brook trout and critically endangered Atlantic salmon, which are returning after 150 year absence.

COMMUNITY FOREST FUND

5 Androscoggin Land Trust Androscoggin Greenway

Community Forest, 1,225 acres
Jay & Canton, ME
Project Cost: \$635,000
Grant: \$14,300
Land bordering three miles of the Androscoggin River is conserved as a new community forest that will protect wildlife habitat and working lands, and ensure citizen involvement in the lands' use and management.

NORTHEAST RESILIENT LANDSCAPES FUND

6 Society for the Protection of NH Forests

Belknap Mountains
886 acres, Alton & Gilford, NH
Project Cost: \$983,438
Grant: \$160,120
The Belknap Mountains contain unfragmented, native habitat and a diversity of landforms—rocky slopes, steep ravines and wetlands. This project consolidated conservation ownership by protecting three adjacent parcels.

7 Bear-Paw Regional Greenway

Crooked Run
450 acres, Barnstead, Pittsfield
and Stratford, NH
Project Cost: \$664,350
Grant: \$110,000
Bear-Paw acquired a conservation easement on Crooked Run, located in a rapidly suburbanizing area that still contains intact forests, wetlands, vernal pools, streams and lakes. The land trust is working with adjacent landowners to link the property with 20,000 acres protected.

8 Vermont Land Trust Salmon Brook Headwaters

144 acres, Putney, VT
Project Cost: \$362,500
Grant: \$40,000
The Putney Mountain Association and VLT conserved 144 acres at the southern end of a 16-mile ridgeline within a 6,700 acre forest block. The property overlies rich, limestone bedrock and includes the headwaters of Salmon Brook.

9 Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

Leyden Woods
482 acres, Leyden, MA
Project Cost: \$1,055,222
Grant: \$131,370
Landowners, local land trusts and the state joined to protect this land—a priority climate refuge for wildlife that also includes local farms and productive forestlands.

10 The Land Conservancy of New Jersey

Pequannock Watershed Forest
257 acres, West Milford, NJ
Project Cost: \$1,546,375
Grant: \$50,000
An in-holding in the Newark Pequannock Watershed, its complex and varied topography supports mature hardwood and hemlock, sedge swamps, vernal pools and coniferous forested wetlands.

11 The Conservation Fund

Walpack Riverside, 109 acres
Walpack Township, NJ
Project Cost: \$912,000
Grant: \$150,000
Acquisition of lands located on the shore of the Delaware River will become an addition to the adjacent Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS FUND

12 New England Forestry Foundation

Hawley Wildlands and Woodlands
748 acres, Hawley, MA
Project Cost: \$649,478
Grant: \$100,000
Franklin Land Trust, NEFF, five landowners and the state teamed up to conserve this landscape containing bogs, mountain streams and dense forests. The properties are adjacent to state forest and conserved lands and help link thousands of acres of forests.

BAYSHORE HIGHLANDS FUND

13 Heritage Conservancy

Hoffman Property
45 acres, Durham Township
Bucks County, PA
Project Cost: \$388,696 Grant: \$7,200
The Hoffman property lies within the Cooks Creek Watershed in the Northampton Hills. The conservation easement protects woodlands, headwaters and habitat adjacent to over 1,100 acres of preserved land.

14 Natural Lands Trust, Inc.

Andybur Lands
23 acres, North Coventry
Township, PA
Project Cost: \$395,070
Grant: \$77,500
This forested parcel was added to the adjacent 674-acre Coventry Woods Park.

15 Brandywine Conservancy

Jacob Fisher Farm
67 acres, Honey Brook Township, PA
Project Cost: \$309,876
Grant: \$49,959
This dairy farm contains headwater springs and streams that flow to the West Branch of Brandywine Creek. The conservation plan protects the streams from runoff.

16 Brandywine Conservancy

Honey Brook Township Farmland
426 acres, Honey Brook
Township, PA
Project Cost: \$1,940,698
Grant: \$311,182
Brandywine Conservancy purchased agricultural easements on six farms. All the farms contain at least 50% prime agricultural soils and front on streams flowing to the West Branch the Brandywine Creek. Four farms are adjacent to protected lands and have conservation plans protecting water quality.

17 Lancaster Farmland Trust

Stoltzfoos Farm
80 acres, Salisbury Township, PA
Project Cost: \$312,300
Grant: \$52,418
This Farm adds to an assemblage in the Lancaster Agricultural region. The LFT will help with financial and technical assistance to improve conservation practices, accelerating land protection and protecting key biological and water resources.

18 Lancaster Farmland Trust

Eden Township, PA
Esh Farm 1: 282 acres,
Project Cost: \$575,349
Grant \$98,950
Esh Farm 2: 204 acres,
Project Cost: \$540,452
Grant: \$78,125
With the Esh Farms 1 & 2, LFT preserves a strategic block of farmland. They will help farmers to improve farm conservation practices to strategy will accelerate farmland protection of and protect key biological and water resources.

19 D&R Greenway Land Trust

John & Andrew Carpenter Farms
Mannington Township
156 acres, NJ
Project Cost: \$861,180
Grant: \$97,902
Preservation of the shoreline lands on the Mannington Meadow is critical for retaining the agricultural heritage, natural resources and wildlife habitat.

SOUTHERN CUMBERLANDS FUND

20 Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Pigeon Mountain Addition
343 acres, Walker County, GA
Project Cost: \$530,000
Grant: \$53,000
This project conserved a key tract at the northern end of Pigeon Mountain, enhancing habitat connectivity and conservation of high priority species.

CONSERVATION LOAN FUND

21 The Nature Conservancy

Bluff Mountain, 715 acres
Ashe County, NC
Project: \$3,394,820 Loan: \$2,557,991
OSI's loan supported TNC's acquisition of the 715-acre Bluff Mountain tract, which will become part of the nationally significant Bluff Mountain Preserve contains some of the largest concentrations of rare plant species.

22 Nature Conservancy - Alabama Chapter

Hancock Tracts, 1,419 acres
Chilton County, AL
Project: \$2,475,000
Loan: \$2,185,700
OSI's loan enabled TNC to acquire inholdings in the Talladega National Forest-Oakmulgee District containing a large population of endangered red cockaded woodpeckers.

ELEMENTS OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Protecting Biodiversity



Geology

Diverse geology, soils and bedrock are the foundation for biodiversity



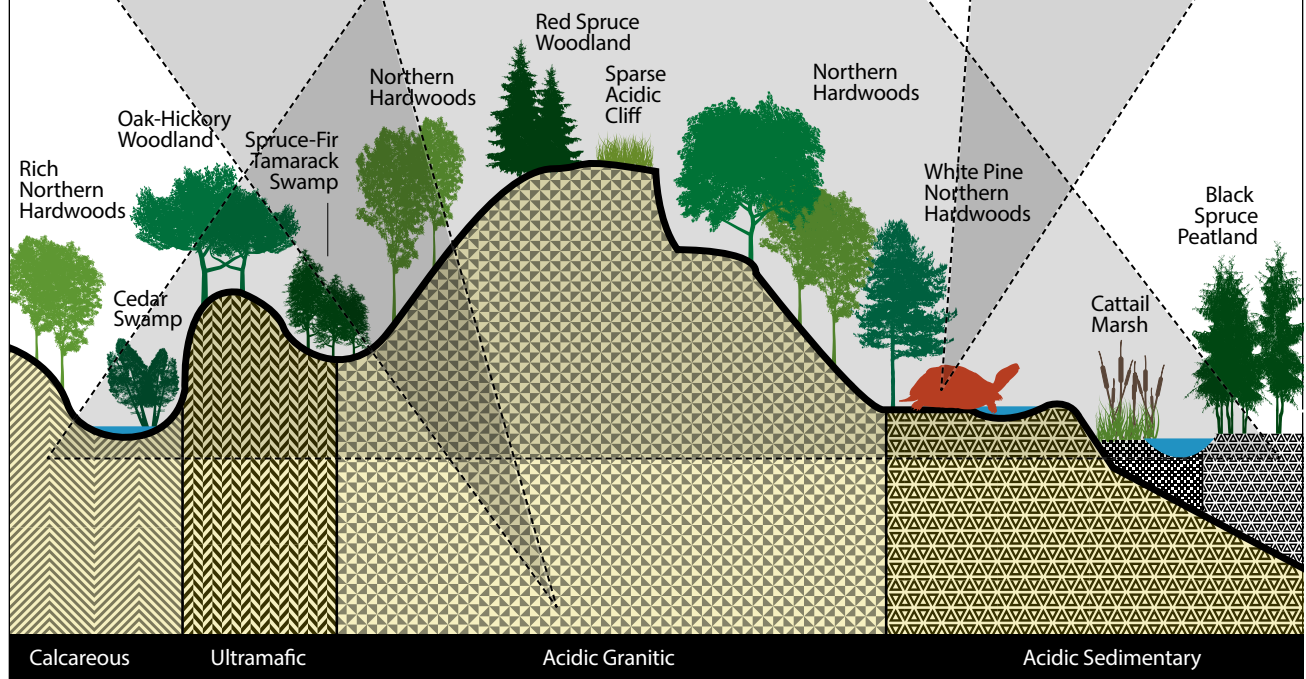
Complex Land Forms

Variations in topography create a variety of microclimates for diverse species



Connectivity

Physical factors allow species the best chance to rearrange themselves as the climate changes.



photos: TOP: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conte Wildlife Refuge; L-R: Jerry Monkman; Jerry Monkman; J. Malik

PLANNING TOOLS

for Climate Change

Four states and six regional conservation initiatives have incorporated climate science into planning for wildlife and habitat management in the face of climate change. These plans will inform mitigation funding, regulations and land protection in New York, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

As land conservationists determine how best to conserve biodiversity, the unpredictability of our changing climate has left many wondering whether the lands they protect today will harbor wildlife tomorrow.

“Climate change has been the gorilla in the closet,” said Emily Bateson, conservation director at Highstead, a Connecticut-based nonprofit dedicated to New England forest conservation and ecological research. In her work with 38 regional conservation partnerships—groups of land trusts, local communities, and government agencies that work together to achieve conservation on a large scale—Bateson has her ear to the ground with the conservation community in New England as it contends with a changing climate.

“Everyone has been thinking about it, but people hadn’t been addressing climate because they weren’t sure how to approach it,” she said.

Enter OSI. In 2013, OSI launched the Resilient Landscapes Initiative with support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Under the initiative, also funded by Jane’s Trust, New York State Conservation Partnership Program and the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, OSI offers Catalyst Grants to conservation groups working with communities, other nonprofit organizations and public agencies to incorporate climate resilience science into local, regional, and state conservation plans. In this way scarce conservation dollars go to protecting the places that will support biodiversity into the future.

Highstead used its OSI grant to provide technical training, starting with North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership. The North Quabbin’s reach spans 26 towns and half a million acres in Massachusetts, and the partnership involves 12 land trusts and seven agencies. At each training session, 15 to 20 conservation leaders wrestled with how to combine climate resilience science with existing state wildlife conservation plans. The process led the

partnership to identify two new priority areas for land protection based on climate considerations. Partners recently completed a land acquisition project in one of their newly identified resilient landscapes with a grant from OSI’s Resilient Landscapes Protection Fund.

“It was like a dam breaking,” Bateson said, recalling the positive reception to the new climate science. Resilience planning tools identify important places to protect for wildlife that also benefit humans. The North Quabbin conservation area, for example, includes the reservoir that is the source of drinking water for 2 million Bostonians.

Providing tools for land trusts to respond to climate change: this is the goal of Catalyst Grants.

Take the evolution of conservation mapping efforts in another part of New England. Ten years ago, Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, a land trust in southeastern New Hampshire, created a map identifying important ecological areas within its 177,000-acre region. Assisted by a grant from OSI, Bear-Paw has updated this map to identify the natural areas best able to support the region’s wildlife in a changing climate.

In some cases, the climate science changed land protection priorities; in others, it confirmed existing priorities but enabled Bear-Paw and the towns to make a more persuasive case for spending public dollars on land conservation based on the benefits of the projects for the long term. As a result, the 12 towns in the service area are poised to use the data to change their zoning, enact new land-use regulations, and direct funding for land protection in an area that now encompasses 214,000 acres.

In 2014, OSI approved seven Catalyst projects in the Northeast. “These new grants will integrate data for biodiversity with data about other climate-related issues, such as sea level rise, species vulnerability and flooding,” said OSI’s director of research, Abby Weinberg. “These demonstration projects will help inform the approach to climate change going forward.”

2014 HUDSON VALLEY GRANTS

The Hudson River Valley, where OSI was founded more than forty years ago, is a place we have relished giving back to through the years. We continue look for ways to contribute to the region's people and its land. To this end, OSI administers two funds for organizations who share in this vision.

The **Malcolm Gordon Charitable Fund** focuses on programs that increase awareness of environmental issues and help to conserve the landscapes of the mid-Hudson River Valley.

The **Barnabas McHenry Hudson River Valley Awards** honor the extensive contributions of conservationist Barnabas McHenry and seek to shape the next generation in the Hudson Valley. The grants are awarded each year to four exceptional young leaders in the fields of environmental conservation, historic preservation, the arts and tourism.

Please read on for a list of promising organizations and young people who will benefit from this round of 2014 Hudson Valley Grants.



Barnabus McHenry Hudson River Valley Fellows

Arts

Samantha Singleton
and Thomas Cole National Historic Site
Inventory and organize a recently donated collection of Thomas Cole documents and drawings

Environmental Conservation

Katherine Sopko
and Rondout Valley Growers' Association
A profile of farming in the Rondout Valley and its contributions to the environmental, social, economic and historical fabric of the Hudson Valley

Historic Preservation

Sawyer Cresap
and Preservation League of New York State
A guide to public participation in the Public Service Commission review process, with an emphasis on the role that historic and cultural resources

Tourism

Ben Himmelfarb
and Shaker Heritage Society
A Heritage Tourism Plan for Partners for Albany Stories (PAST)

Malcolm Gordon Charitable Fund Awards

Cary Institute

The Hudson River Data Jam

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary

Curriculum and Habitat at the Meadow Hill School, Newburgh, New York

Friends of Fahnestock

Taconic Outdoor Education Center Maple Syrup Evaporator

Hudson Highlands Land Trust

Hudson Highlands Regional River of Words Environmental Education Program

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum

Reimagined Maple Sugar Tours

Mohonk Preserve

Providing Outdoor Education for Disadvantaged Youth

Stony Kill Foundation

Stony Kill Farm Offerings

ABOVE, L-R: Barney McHenry and 2014 Fellows; photo: Odette Veneziano; Hudson Highlands from Boscobel, Garrison, NY; photo: Greg Miller; OPPOSITE, L-R: Christopher Park Alliance; BioCities conference; Christopher Park Alliance; Rego Park Green Alliance; SNAP Gardens oversees construction of a hoop house at High School for Public Service Youth Farm.

2014 CITIZEN ACTION PROGRAM



Through its Citizen Action Program, the Open Space Institute provides administrative support to community groups whose programs and activities are aligned with OSI's central mission. We assist over 40 groups in New York and New Jersey who: protect natural habitats, make cities more livable, enhance local communities, promote environmental sustainability, provide environmental education and connect people with the land.

Group Highlights

Essex Farm Institute trains farmers on a farm in Essex County to build resilient, diversified farms that are economically viable, socially responsible and environmentally beneficial.

Christopher Park Alliance is dedicated to the revitalization and maintenance of historic Christopher Park in the heart of Greenwich Village and works together with the community and New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to maintain and enhance Christopher Park as a scenic, historic, peaceful landmark.

Honoring the Future harnesses the power of art to educate, empower, and engage the public on climate change by planning art exhibits and education programs on climate change in partnership with schools and museums across the US.

Growing Chefs connects people to food, from the soil to the kitchen, and provides schools with food and farming education workshops, through a wide range of programming.

2014-2015 Groups

BiomimicryNYC	Growing Chefs
Black Urban Growers	Honoring the Future
Butterfly Project NYC	Infrastructure USA
Christopher Park Alliance	LICAN
Citizens Emergency Committee to Preserve Preservation	Millbrook Matters
Compost for Brooklyn	No Time to Lose
Concerned Citizens for Open Space, Inc.	PlayHarvest
Deuel Hollow Conservation Assoc.	Prospect Heights Community Farm
dlandstudio	Protect the Village Historic District
Essex Farm Institute	Rego Park Green Alliance
Farming Concrete	Rondout Valley Growers Association
Forbus Butternut Association	Sensible Wireless for Gardiner
Forever Rural	Sprout
Friends of Bleecker Playground	Stand for Land
Friends of Dover Parks	Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition (SPARC)
Friends of Gulick Park	Stuyvesant Pathways
Friends of the Housatonic	Sustainability Practice Network (SPN)
Germantown Neighborhood Association	Sustainable Flatbush
Green Apple Kids	TARGET Tuxedo Inc.
Green Edge NYC	The Fox Collection
GreenWorks Team	TreeKIT
Grow Smart Dover	

Open Space Institute

2014 FINANCIAL REPORT

Open Space Institute, Inc. and Consolidating Entities

Supplementary Information

Sources and Uses of Funds and Other Key Financial Information

As of and for the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

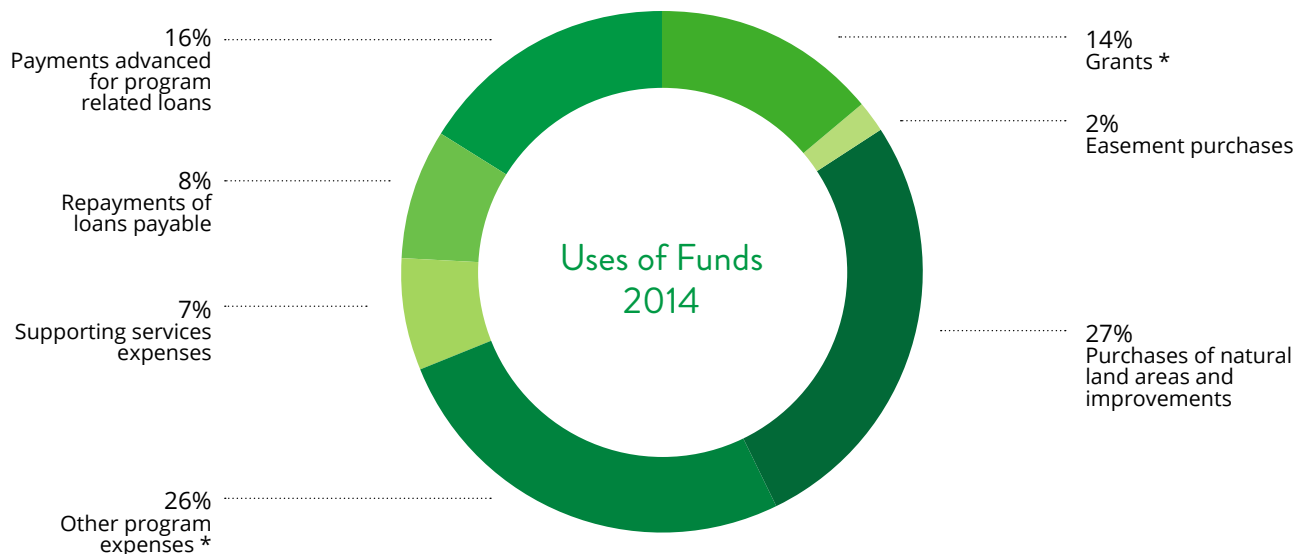
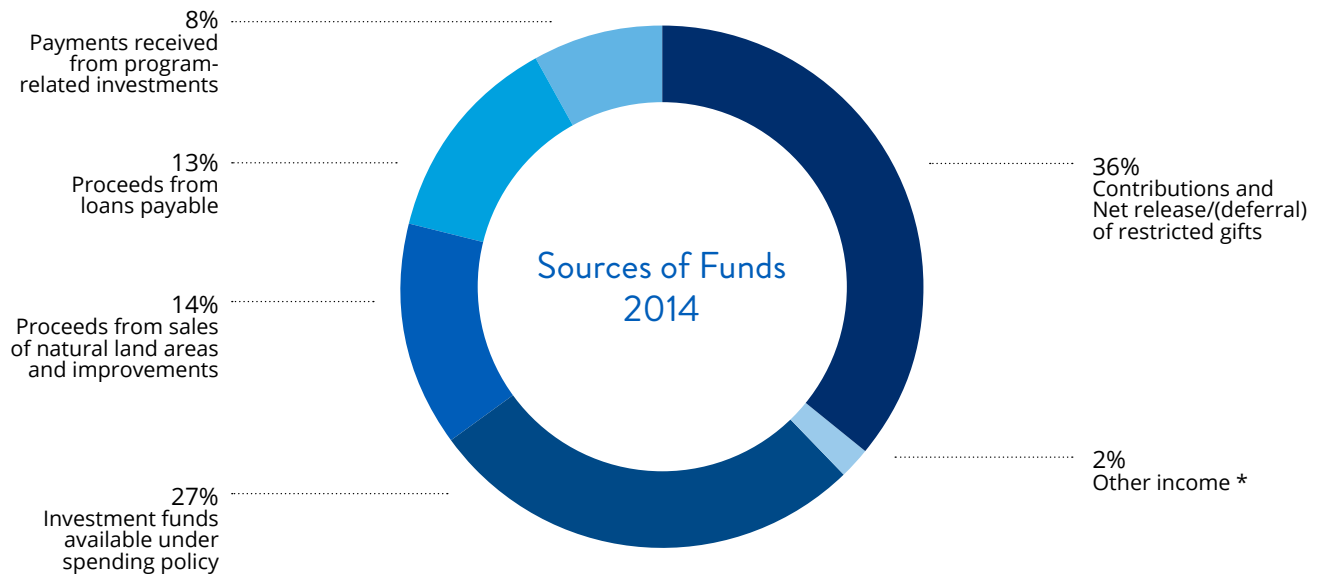
	2014	2013
Sources of Funds		
Contributions	\$18,662,178	\$10,882,108
Net release/(deferral) of restricted gifts	(4,557,241)	863,452
Other income *	855,846	520,463
Investment funds available under spending policy	10,526,087	10,164,582
Proceeds from sales of natural land areas and improvements	5,335,831	9,999,831
Proceeds from loans payable	4,893,691	2,046,740
Payments received from program-related investments	3,256,700	1,431,113
Total sources	\$38,973,092	\$35,908,289
Uses of Funds		
Grants *	(\$5,112,210)	(\$6,311,940)
Easement purchases	(613,042)	(1,666,635)
Purchases of natural land areas and improvements	(9,792,232)	(5,428,509)
Other program expenses *	(9,165,336)	(8,071,080)
Supporting services expenses	(2,415,699)	(2,267,130)
Repayments of loans payable	(3,019,150)	(5,009,493)
Payments advanced for program related loans	(5,566,191)	(2,342,500)
Total uses	(\$35,683,860)	(\$31,097,287)
Net Sources & Uses of Funds	\$3,289,232	\$4,811,002
Financial Statement of Activities		
Unrestricted contributions	\$4,804,481	\$2,134,067
Restricted contributions	13,857,697	8,748,041
Other income	1,070,874	538,376
Grants	(7,332,927)	(6,311,940)
Easement purchases	(613,042)	(1,666,635)
Other program expenses	(9,583,948)	(8,818,951)
Supporting service expenses	(2,415,699)	(2,267,130)
Realized and unrealized loss on real estate	(4,578,488)	(4,059,911)
Investment activity (including unrealized gain/(loss) on investments)	5,703,618	26,176,533
Change in net assets	\$912,566	\$14,472,450
Other Key Financial Information		
Total assets	\$288,360,085	\$281,555,968
Net assets - unrestricted	75,777,392	75,939,293
Net assets - temporarily restricted	186,107,223	185,032,756
Total net assets	\$261,884,615	\$260,972,049

*Excludes non cash transactions

SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

In 2014, OSI acquired for conservation over \$10 million in land and easements. Of this, \$5.4 million in New York State was largely made possible by the Lila Acheson and Dewitt Wallace Endowment. OSI also negotiated to acquire parcels in New Jersey (Giralda at \$14.2 million) and South Carolina (Fairlawn at \$2.8 million). OSI awarded over \$1.9 million in re-grants to land trusts in the Mid-Atlantic, New England, the Southern Appalachians and the Quebec/New Brunswick transborder region.

The financial information includes activities of both the Open Space Institute, Inc. and the Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. The 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 2013 Audited Financial Statements and the draft 2014 Financial Statements.



*Excludes non cash transactions

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 annual report may be obtained by writing to OSI or the New York Department of State, Office of Charities Registration, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12231.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The Open Space Institute thanks all who have made the vital work of land conservation possible. Our shared vision for the future means that the stories on these pages are just as much yours as ours.

Foundations, Corporate and Organizations

A & J Saks Foundation, Inc.
Adirondack Foundation - Evergreen Fund
Adirondack Foundation - Paine Family Fund
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.
American Conservation Association, Inc.
AMS Risk Management & Consulting
Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation
Anonymous (4)
Arthur Webb Group
Astoria Generating Co.
Bank of America Foundation
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Benwood Foundation
Boquet Foundation
Brooks & Brooks Land Surveyors
Brown & Weinraub
Cary Institute
Charina Foundation, Inc.
Chazen Companies
Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton
Cloudsplitter Foundation
The Corita Charitable Trust
The Debs Foundation
DJ McManus Foundation Inc.
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
The Durst Organization
Dyson Foundation
Earth Share

EASTER Foundation
Elliot Badgley Foundation
EmblemHealth
Empire State Development Corporation
Eugene and Emily Grant Family Foundation
F.M. Kirby Foundation
Field Day Foundation
The Foundation for Long Island State Parks
The Fox Collection
The G. Unger Vetlesen Foundation
Gap Giving Program
Garden Club of Irvington
GE Foundation
The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Inc.
Glynwood Center, Inc.
Golden Family Foundation
Goldman Sachs & Co. Matching Gift Program
Historic Hudson Valley
Homespun Occasions
Hudson Woods
IBM Corporation
Irwin Siegel Agency
J. M. Kaplan Fund
Jan Hird Pokorny Associates
Keybank Foundation
Kinderhook Partners, Ltd.
KTR Capital Partners
Land Trust Alliance
Linden Trust for Conservation
LoCicero & Tan, Inc.
Lostand Foundation, Inc.
Love's Labors LLC
Lucretius Foundation
Luke Family Charitable Fund
Lyme Timber Company

The Malkin Fund, Inc.
Marist College
Merck Family Fund
MetLife
MetroEye Care
Mohonk Preserve, Inc.
Morgan Stanley
Moritt Hock & Hamroff
Natural Resources Defense Council
Network For Good
The New World Foundation
North Pond Foundation
Overhills Foundation
The Page & Otto Marx, Jr. Foundation
Partridge Foundation
Perkins Eastman
The Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation
The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation
Preservation League of New York State
Pricewaterhouse Coopers
The Prospect Hill Foundation
Quiet Moon Alpacas LLC
R.U.S.A.
Ralph Ogden Foundation
Red Crane Foundation
Resources Legacy Fund
RGR Landscape
Rhodeside & Harwell
Richard & Rebecca Evans Foundation
The Rona & Randolph M. Nelson Foundation
Rondout Valley Growers Assoc.
The Ruder Family Foundation
The Schiff Foundation
Schwartzerg & Kenyon, PLLC

Shawangunk Conservancy
The Sidney J. Weinberg, Jr. Foundation
Stainman Family Foundation
State of New Jersey, Dept. of Environmental Protection
Stifler Family Foundation
Strong Foundation of New York
The Sulzberger Foundation, Inc.
Thacher Associates
Thomas Cole National Historic Site
Time Warner
Tortuga Foundation
The Vervane Foundation
The Walbridge Fund, Ltd.
William C. and Joyce C. O'Neil Charitable Trust
William Penn Foundation
Winslow Foundation
Wyss Foundation

Leaders

\$50,000 or Greater

Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Butler
Rob Dyson
Eugene & Emily Grant
Nathaniel & Courtney Klipper
Valerie A. Mars & Philip M. White
Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky

Champions

\$10,000 to 49,000

Anonymous (3)
Kim Elliman
Paul J. Elston & Frances G. Beinecke
Alix Goelet

(\$10,000 to 49,000 cont.)

Sibyl R. Golden
 Peter & Sally Humphrey
 Samuel & Casey Lambert
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Rockefeller
 Donald Ross
 Betsy Smith
 Arthur & Lois Stainman
 Thomas M. Woodbury &
 Barbara Jaffe

Benefactors**\$5,000 to 9,999**

Kate Adams & Forwood
 Wiser, III
 Jim Allred & William Collins
 Anonymous
 Robert & Wendy C. Bickford
 Peter & Helena Bienstock
 T. Jefferson Cunningham, III
 J. Matthew Davidson
 Peter W. Davidson
 Douglas Durst
 John & Margot Ernst
 Norman & Arline Feinberg
 Libbie F. Gerry
 Jeremy Guth
 Kenneth & Barbara
 Kaufman
 Ernest & Nancy Keet
 Keith Labudde & Pril Smiley
 Leonard A. Lauder
 Larry & Dana Linden
 Mr. & Mrs. Clarence F.
 Michalis
 John Milligan
 Anne & Fred Osborn, III
 Lisa W. Ott
 Elizabeth & Aidan Quinn
 Harriet Savage
 Jennifer P. Speers
 Beatrice Stern
 Lisa Stern
 Hume R. Steyer
 John Summerlin, Jr.

Patrons**\$1,000 to 4,999**

John & Patricia Adams
 James & Patricia Allen
 Wick Allison
 Edward A. Ames & Jane
 Sokolow
 James & Marjorie Andrews
 Nelly & Michael Arougheti
 Carol Ash & Joshua
 Friedman
 Susan Babcock & Ralph
 Schmidt
 Richard & Kerri Bartlett
 Douglas Bateson

Matthew Bender, IV
 Thomas & Nancy Berner
 Elizabeth Borden
 Richard & Patricia Brooks
 Gilman S. Burke
 David Callard
 Richard Chazen
 Stephen J. Clearman
 Bertram J. & Barbara Cohn
 Ben Crane
 Robert & Mary Beth Cresci
 David S. Croyder
 Jennifer Cunningham
 Barbara & Richard Debs
 Stephen & Dana DiPrima
 Nancy P. Durr
 Edith A. Ehrlich
 Ann R. Elliman
 John & Deborah
 Evangelakos
 Lucia & Jon Evans
 George & Janet Felleman
 Irvine & Elizabeth Flinn
 Mark Foggin
 Monica & Joel Forman
 Joshua Ginsberg
 Joseph H. Gleberman
 Jean & Walt Hayes
 Holly Hegener
 Marian S. Heiskell
 Joseph & Deborah Holland
 Steven G. Horowitz
 Allan W. Karp & Lisa Keith
 Anna Maria Kellen
 Steve Lakomy & Cheryl
 Lyles
 Douglas & Lynn Land
 Floyd Lattin & Ward Mintz
 Andrew Love
 Laurence Lytton
 William & Susan Mahoney
 Brad Malt
 Theresa & Stu Manzione
 Jean & Claudio Marzollo
 Mary McFadden &
 Lawrence Stifler
 Barnabas McHenry
 Richard & Ronay Menschel
 Edward Miller
 Jim & Peg Miller
 Randolph & Rona Nelson
 Caroline P. Niemczyk
 John & Marcy Noble
 Paul & Nancy Novograd
 Robert & Stephanie
 Olmsted
 Jim & Mary Ottaway
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter S. Paine, Jr.
 Rodman D. Patton
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Katherine O. Roberts
 Allison & Peter Rockefeller
 David & Susan Rockefeller,
 Jr.
 Christopher du P. Roosevelt
 Simon Roosevelt & Lolita
 Echavarria
 Jonathan & Diana Rose
 Brian & Ginny Ruder
 Jeffrey A. Sachs
 Arnold Saks
 Amelia Salzman
 Michael Sasse
 David & Lisa Schiff
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Supporter Profile

ANNE CABOT

For Anne Perkins Cabot, the drive to protect the spectacular landscapes along the Hudson River is in her bloodline. Her grandfather, George W. Perkins, helped protect the Palisades from devastating quarry blasting. Recognizing the need to forever preserve the magnificent dramatic

cliffs, Perkins helped create The Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) in 1900.

The protection of lands along the banks of the Hudson has been a longstanding family avocation. Anne's father, mother, brother and Anne have all been Commissioners of the PIPC. Bryce O'Brien, her sister's grandson, currently holds the title. "The Perkins family has forever been involved in PIPC," emphasizes Anne, who is proud of her time spent on the Commission.

While the western banks of the Hudson River may have marked the family's original efforts to support and protect the natural beauty of the valley, the Perkins family has long been associated with the protection of the Hudson Highlands on the east side, as well.

Indeed, it was on the family's Glynwood Farm where Anne came to fully appreciate the rugged, yet beautiful, landscape.

"I spent my childhood on Glynwood Farm, riding the trails through the woods and even going as far as Garrison on horseback," recalls Anne fondly. She remembers swimming and picnicking, skating and skiing on Glynwood Lake and Jordan Pond, where ice was once made.

Years later, OSI acquired the farm, protecting it forever. Today, Glynwood is a vibrant agricultural nonprofit center, promoting farming in the Hudson valley.

Anne's family's lasting imprint on Fahnestock State Park and its supporting neighbors is unmistakable. Along with Glynwood, Anne and Frank created the nonprofit Stonecrop Gardens on a corner of the farm, and most recently, Anne created the Therapeutic Equestrian Center which introduces horse interaction as a way to help disabled children and adults.

"The Equestrian Center is a remarkable, heartwarming institution that serves a wonderful purpose," Anne said. "The legacy of Stonecrop, Glynwood and The Equestrian Center is a delight to all that visit them and I hope that all three will always work together to help people appreciate open space of gardens, fields and forests, to say nothing of seeing wild animals as well as farm animals."

Always interested in making the land more accessible and user-friendly, Anne is hoping to help the park create a new trail loop and a park access road to accommodate horse trailers and hikers, with improved signage and trailheads throughout the park. "I am glad that the trails in the woods are now a part of Fahnestock and are becoming more and more used by the public. In a sense, it follows the example of the PIPC, bringing people from all over to enjoy the countryside."

Beyond New York, Anne and her family have saved land from development in New Mexico, New Zealand and Canada. In addition to supporting OSI, Anne herself also has served on the boards of Scenic Hudson, the lower Hudson chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Glynwood Center, and Wave Hill. The latter, the former property of the Perkins family located opposite the Palisades, is where her grandfather's long-ago crusade began.

Looking back, being involved in land protection has meant a great deal to Anne. "The effort to save nature for everyone to enjoy is so valuable," she said, "especially since there is so little undeveloped land left around big cities such as New York."



Supporter Profile

KENNETH POSNER

On the eve of his 40th birthday, Kenneth Posner decided to celebrate in a more meaningful way than the clichéd red sports car. He called his birthday present “40 miles at 40.”

That first run has spurred Posner, now 52, to achieve a series of feats in

the competitive pack of ultramarathon runners and take a leadership role in protecting some of his favorite running paths—many of which are properties conserved by OSI.

On a recent day in the dark-glass Manhattan office tower where he works as a member of a bank management team, Posner sat down to talk races, conservation and the Shawangunk Ridge.

A former Army Ranger now wearing neon-orange running shoes, Posner has the air of someone who struggles to sit still for long. Perhaps it is this restlessness that helped him set records for the 74-mile Shawangunk Ridge Trail Run, the 350-mile Long Path, and the 292-mile Double Badwater Ultramarathon—two loops from Death Valley to Mount Whitney. The shorter Badwater is ranked first by National Geographic in a list of “world’s toughest races”; Posner described training in a sauna to simulate the 127° F. desert environment.

Using experience gleaned from running race after race, Posner since 2013 has also organized Rock the Ridge, a 50-mile ultramarathon that through the years has raised approximately \$200,000 to benefit land and trail stewardship in the ‘Gunks. The event, and its accompanying press, has introduced more people to the beauty of these places.

“Ken is at the forefront of helping to popularize OSI-conserved trails as the amazing recreational assets they are meant to be,” said Bob Anderberg, OSI’s vice president and general counsel.

Part of the exhilaration of his chosen sport, Posner said, is being able to “move through nature.” On his runs atop the Catskills he navigates fir-spruce tangles, groves of birch trees, and rock scrambles. Occasionally he stumbles across porcupines and several times has startled bears, stopping to watch them slide down trees like a fireman’s pole.

Running the 350-mile Long Path gave Posner an appreciation of “how important it is to have a long-term conservation vision,” he said. “The ability to have a resource like the Long Path requires a lot of people who value the wilderness to take action. Otherwise the sprawl just spreads uncontrollably.”

Next up for the man who never stops moving: designing a race along some of the most rugged and remote trails in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. OSI has played an instrumental role in growing this park over the past 30 years, including a recent project increasing access to Witch’s Hole Conservation Area.

“Now that would be an amazing race,” Posner said.

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Supporter Profile

JON STRYKER

A native of Michigan who has advanced environmental and social justice causes throughout the world, Jon Stryker's generosity and love of conservation has made him a model landlord. Instead of fencing the public off from his property at Manitou Point Preserve, he invites them in to enjoy the space as parkland.

OSI came to know Stryker in 2013 when he partnered in the protection of Mystery Point in Garrison, NY, purchasing the historic home there and its surrounding land. Working together, OSI and Stryker have addressed a variety of ecological and management issues related to the adjacent 129-acre Preserve. Thanks to Stryker's commitment to conservation, the public will be able to enjoy recreational access to his lands in perpetuity.

Recently, Stryker, an architect and founder and President of Arcus Foundation, an international philanthropy supporting Great Ape conservation, LGBT civil rights and social justice initiatives, discussed what brought this native Midwesterner and his partner Slobodan Randjelović to the Hudson Valley.

"We were drawn to Mystery Point because of the incredible natural surroundings and historic views of West Point and Bear Mountain," Stryker said. "We love to be outdoors, hike the trails and experience the incredible ecological diversity. Fall in the Hudson Valley has to be one of the most beautiful sights I've experienced anywhere in the world."

In addition to Mystery Point, Stryker and OSI both share a love of linear parks. Stryker sits on the board of New York City's High Line, a once-forgotten and discarded railroad trestle that has been transformed into one of the city's favorite parks and destinations. An added bonus is that his office overlooks the trestle, and he gets to see thousands of people strolling along it every day.

"I think that shared experience of wonder on The Highline can be just as good for the soul as a solitary and peaceful walk on a beautiful trail," he said.

In New York and beyond, Stryker and the Arcus Foundation are devoted to ensuring people can live in harmony with one another and the natural world.

In Central Kenya, Arcus established the Ol Pejeta Conservancy preserving more than 80,000 acres for elephant migration trails and 100 endangered rhinos. The threatened monkey colobine *Rhinopithecus strykeri* is named in his honor. In addition to great ape conservation, a major focus of the Arcus Foundation's work is LGBT civil rights. "While it has been amazing to witness the transformation of public attitudes toward marriage for same-sex couples built on years of hard work by so many people and organizations, there is still much more work to be done to achieve full equality," Stryker said.

Back at Mystery Point, Stryker has enjoyed exploring Manitou Point Preserve, one of the Hudson River's great estates of the early 20th century. "It makes me happy that all kinds of people will enjoy it and be able to return again and again and know that it will always be there for them," he said.

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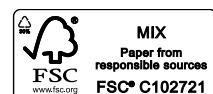
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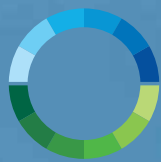
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