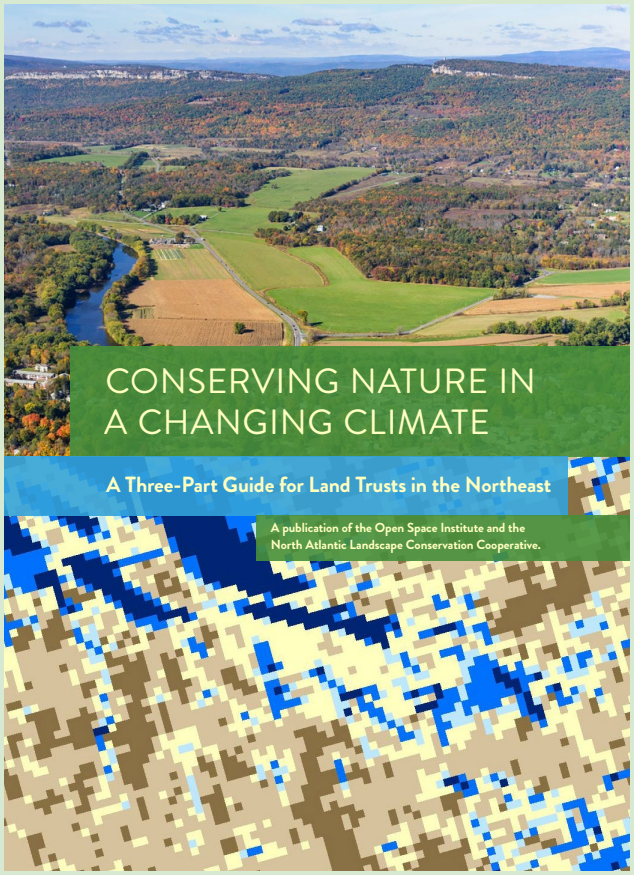
CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE: SAVING RESILIENT LANDSCAPES
A guide for land conservation professionals in the Northeast

Every extreme weather event underscores our world's new reality: climate change is happening now. In recent years, the President, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and scientists from across the country have called on the land conservation community to mobilize around an accepted fact — land protection is a national priority for ensuring that natural systems, and the species and humans that depend on them, will continue to thrive.

Conserving Nature in a Changing Climate offers land conservation practitioners a comprehensive and thoughtful guide to help our nation preserve climate-resilient lands, using insights and real-life examples from OSI's Resilient Landscapes Initiative; from the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative; and from an advisory committee of practitioners and experts.

The guide demonstrates how land protection can strategically increase the chances that natural systems will adapt to climate change by:



Identifying Hallmarks of a Resilient Network.
Harnessing clear, practical instructions, the guide reveals the four key characteristics underlying climate resilience.

Providing a Step-by-Step Guide to Improve Mapping and Special Databases.
Through screen shots and hands-on exercises, the guide walks users through the steps of assessing a property's climate resilience in a regional context.

Offering a Useful Case Study.
Using a real-world example, the guide demonstrates how land trusts have successfully applied these principles.

Use the guide online at **climatechange.lta.org** for other key information useful to 21st-century land conservation planning.

A publication of the Open Space Institute and the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative, distributed in partnership with the Land Trust Alliance

PUTTING SCIENCE TO USE
Successes in the field

"This guide translates sophisticated scientific models to the grassroots level, for real, on-the-ground land conservation. Using this science, we've been able to communicate with the press, our funders and the public how protecting land can make a huge difference in addressing an abstract concept like climate change."

— Leigh Youngblood, executive director of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and fiscal sponsor of the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership. In 2014, the North Quabbin Regional Partnership used resiliency science to coordinate conservation planning across a half-million acres and 26 towns in Massachusetts.

"Adding the resilience data has helped us assure people their investments are sound. We can show scientific evidence that supports our work, and demonstrate compellingly why we're deciding to protect specific lands."

— Dan Kern, director of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, recipient of two OSI Catalyst Grants. Bear-Paw's use of resiliency data inspired the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to integrate the data into the state-wide Wildlife Action Plan.

Funding for this report was provided by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative program. In addition, OSI thanks Jane's Trust, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and the New York State Conservation Partnership Program for their generous support of the guide.

In 2012, the Open Space Institute launched its $12 million Resilient Landscapes Initiative (RLI) both to empower land trusts that protect our nation's most climate-resilient sites, and to translate and promote the use of this critical science across the eastern United States. To date, the RLI has conserved 37,000 acres of resilient lands across the Northeast, and supported over 60 organizations in the development of climate-resilient conservation plans; lessons from this experience are distilled into the *Conserving Nature in a Changing Climate.*

OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE
osiny.org

North Atlantic LCC
North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
northatlanticlcc.org

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
fws.org

Land Trust Alliance
Together, conserving the places you love
climatechange.lta.org