

Dear Editor,

I am writing today to ask Wyckoff citizens to “vote yes” on November 7 on the public question concerning the creation of an open space trust fund in Wyckoff.

I’ve recently moved to Wyckoff from a southern Bergen County town. Part of my reason for choosing Wyckoff for my family’s home was due to its spacious properties and open spaces. Many of the southern Bergen county towns have become too crowded with little greenery. If Wyckoff is not careful, it too shall become over-crowded, and therefore lose one of the primary reasons we chose to live here. If we act now, we can preserve some of this open space.

Having our own open space tax (which will cost the owner of the average home in Wyckoff only \$39 per year) will allow us to tap into county, state and private sources of funding for land preservation. Some of our neighboring towns have attracted up to 10 times the amount of their own open space tax collections in outside grants. A small open space tax yields huge dividends. Oakland, Allendale, Fair Lawn, Ridgewood, and Mahwah all have open space trust funds financed by a small tax and are using it with good results. Franklin Lakes will be voting on a fund this November, too.

Residential development is rarely if ever tax-positive. In addition to increased demand for municipal services, we will have to pay more in school taxes for this new development. Also, if you are tired of the ever-increasing volume of traffic in our town, preservation of open space can slow that trend.

I’d like the town to give property owners an alternative to development, and keep a little bit of the country in Wyckoff while we still can. That’s why I’m asking Wyckoff citizens to “vote yes” on November 7 on the public question concerning the creation of an open space trust fund in Wyckoff.

Sincerely,

Bart Gerber  
Wyckoff