

Dear Editor of the Record ,

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. There are now more than 100 acres of undeveloped land in Wyckoff but most of it will be gone within the next decade. If we act now, we can preserve some of this open space. Once this land is developed, it will be lost forever **like so much of those parcels we've seen disappear in the last 15+ years since we've lived here!**

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 the trend.

Give property owners in our town an alternative to development, and keep a little bit of the country in Wyckoff while we still can.

Sincerely,

The Glover Family