

Letter to the Editor of the Record:

The October 15 article on open space referendums ["Towns Weighing Taxes to Preserve Open Land"] correctly notes that municipal open space trust funds can be used to lure large grants from state, county and private funding agencies. In northwest Bergen, it's remarkable what a multiplier this small tax has been. In the last six years, Allendale, Mahwah, Ridgewood, and Oakland have used their local open space taxes to lure more than \$15 million dollars for their park and recreation programs from state Green Acres, Bergen County Open Space, and land trusts. Even highly developed towns such as Ridgewood (grants received: \$3.4 million) and Allendale (grants received: \$1.5 million) are very successful at using their local open space funds to get grants.. (During this same six-year period, Wyckoff has received \$305,000 total.) The public question on the Wyckoff ballot calls for a tax of \$39 for the home assessed at \$780,000, the average value. With the revenue this small tax produces, we can be as successful as our neighbors in securing outside grants. That's why I am voting yes on November 7

Brian Scanlan
Wyckoff