

Dear Editor,

Farms such as Russell Orchards and open spaces such as Maple Lake and the upper end of the ravine will soon go the way of all the other farms and open spaces in Wyckoff unless we take steps now to try to preserve some of this land. Both the state of New Jersey and Bergen County have set up funding to save open space, and the best way to tap into this money is with our own open space fund.

When we think about the money we spend to maintain our home, the \$39 a year the open space trust will cost us is a drop in the bucket. And, like a fresh coat of paint or updated kitchen, it's an investment that adds to the value of our house. We look at it this way: if someone said they would quadruple any investment we made on our house, we would take that person up on it. For open space preservation, our fund will mean we can make four, five, even up to 10 times its value in funding from the state, county and private land trusts. We need only show that we are interested by establishing our own fund, which is required. There are landowners and developers who would just as soon get their money another way if we gave them the chance. Having our own open space trust fund gives them this chance.

It's not too late to preserve some of our own space and in doing so add to our property value. We are voting yes on November 7.

Yours truly,

Susan and Ray Steele  
Wyckoff