

Protect Water & Nature



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Why I am Voting Yes on Question 6

Dear Brookline GreenSpace Alliance Members and Friends of Parks,

The Brookline GreenSpace Alliance has endorsed Question 6 on the November 3 state election ballot. Voting “yes” on Question 6 will dedicate existing sales tax revenue from the sale of sporting goods to funding for clean water and nature. You can visit <https://www.NatureforMA.org/> for more details. This letter is my personal explanation of why I am voting “Yes on 6.”

The fundamental reason that I am voting for Question 6 is that I love nature, including forests, wildlife, lakes, and rivers and streams. I developed this passion as a little boy and never lost it. Walking in the woods or paddling a canoe enhances my quality of life. I visit parks and engage in outdoor recreation whenever I can. Many studies show that trees and green spaces make people happier and healthier. Those studies simply confirm my own experience.

Everyone in Massachusetts should be able to enjoy the benefits of clean water, access to nature, and parks and open space.

Despite the many benefits of nature and clean water, Massachusetts ranks last or close to last in funding for parks and open space. The state cannot

take advantage of opportunities to add new parks and open spaces, park maintenance is neglected or deferred, and there is a backlog of projects to clean up polluted rivers and streams. Question 6 would rectify this situation by dedicating as much as \$100 million in existing tax revenues—without raising taxes—to parks and clean water. Just as sales tax revenues are dedicated to the MBTA and gas tax revenues are set aside for roads and transit, Question 6 would dedicate revenue to ensure that water and land conservation receive the priority they deserve in the state budget.

I support Question 6 because it would protect nature and clean water across Massachusetts, but I am particularly glad that municipalities like Brookline would be eligible for expenditures made possible by Question 6. The funds could be used for many purposes, including, for example, creating new pocket parks, cleaning up the Muddy River, or enhancing the town's network of trails within and between parks and nature sanctuaries.

Another reason why I am supporting Question 6 is that it has been endorsed by Mass Audubon, the Charles River Watershed Association, The Trustees of Reservations, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Nature Conservancy, and the Conservation Law Foundation. These are groups that I respect and trust. Many of them have supported parks, nature, and clean water in Massachusetts for decades.

Soon after Question 6 was placed on the ballot for the November election, Governor Maura Healey joined these groups in endorsing it. The Governor's support will facilitate implementation of Question 6 and makes me even more confident that voting "Yes on 6" is the right choice for protecting clean water and nature.

I hope you will join me in voting Yes on Question 6.

Best wishes,

Sean Lynn-Jones
President
Brookline GreenSpace Alliance

For more information on Question 6, visit www.NatureForMA.org