Money for parks, not for streets

The Borough has put out a request for proposals to create a master plan for Pollock Park, a one-acre park between South and Cross streets.

The park, which was once a Mayer Pollock scrap yard, is one of 13 “pocket parks” distributed across Pottstown neighborhoods.

At one time it had playground equipment, a tennis court and a basketball court. It is now mostly a grassy open space area.

The selected firm will perform a site survey including property boundaries, topography, natural features, buildings, roadways, rights of ways, parking areas, and easements.

It will determine the opportunities and constraints to site development.

It will recommend uses and the type of facilities to be developed.

It will recommend design concepts and cost estimates for implementation.

We all appreciate our abundant parks, which cost borough taxpayers $1.1 million annually.

But a lot of residents seldom use our parks, or not at all. However, they all live on one of our streets.

It should be important, therefore, to have well maintained street trees, sidewalks, and streets.

Unfortunately, the borough spends very little on street maintenance.

It spends nothing at all on street trees and sidewalks. That’s the individual property owner’s responsibility.

So we have hundreds of dead trees and stumps and thousands of square feet of deteriorated sidewalks.

This greatly debases the appearance of our town and our quality of life.

Commentary by Tom Hylton

A PANORAMIC VIEW of Pollock Park between South and Cross streets

TWO views of the hundreds of dead trees and deteriorated sidewalks throughout Pottstown.

The borough spends more than $1 million annually on its parks system, but nothing to remove and replace dead trees and stumps and to repair sidewalks.