On Tuesday, we noted that grants are vital to the sustainability of Pottstown, providing vital infrastructure improvements.

But some grants do more harm than good, paying for superfluous projects that are costly to maintain.

Pottstown has 16 parks and tot lots in addition to play areas at its four elementary schools and its high school-middle school complex.

The borough is spending $1 million this year to maintain these parks. Parks are wonderful. But with a declining tax base, we can’t afford them all. Some of them should become low-maintenance natural areas.

The borough recently discovered that Pollock Park, a little-used 2-acre park on a former scrap yard, between South and Cross streets, has contaminated soil going back decades. It has been closed and will need expensive remediation.

Yet Pottstown keeps seeking grants for more park infrastructure, creating more stuff to maintain.

Most recent is a $200,000 grant for a nature-based play space, benches, tables and barbecue grills near Memorial Park’s splash park.

Contrast this to the parks department in Wyomissing, Berks County, which maintains three times as much park area as Pottstown — plus a swimming pool and 7,500 street trees — for less money than Pottstown spends.

That’s largely because Wyomissing parks are mostly maintained as natural areas, which are great for walking while they also provide wildlife habitat and stormwater absorption. Instead of an artificial “nature-based” play space, we should try for some real ones.