Removing nature at Riverfront Park

Last week, we noted the Pottstown Parks and Recreation Department removed about 70 ash trees at Riverfront Park and plans to remove the rest as a preventative measure.

But ash are not the only trees cut down at Riverfront Park in recent years. The parks department has engaged in a systematic effort to remove the natural woods and understory at a cost of thousands of taxpayer dollars to be replaced with a wide grass buffer which must then be regularly mowed with heavy equipment.

Riverfront Park is the last place in Pottstown where people — especially children — can experience the natural world.

The 2020 Pottstown parks budget tops $1 million. Rather than use these financial resources to protect the natural environment, we’re removing it.

The natural wooded area along the river should serve as a riparian buffer to protect our waterways from pollution and stormwater runoff. It should provide a habitat for wildlife.

It should enhance the health of our town. It should cost almost nothing to maintain.

But we’re removing it.