

From: Barbara Marshman <bmarshman5@gmail.com>
To: lames <lames@aol.com>
Sent: Thu, Aug 8, 2019 6:50 pm
Subject: Re: WG Trestle: a little help, please

Please include this in the Willow Glen Trestle Conservancy's grant application.

To Whom It May Concern:

Like many other San Jose residents, I was under the assumption for many years that the historic Willow Glen Trestle would be restored and become a pedestrian bridge as part of the Los Gatos Creek Trail. I was shocked when the city rammed through a new plan to demolish it, and I am grateful that the Willow Glen Trestle Conservancy has prevented this so far--and shows promise of prevailing.

I heartily support the grant application by the San Jose Parks Foundation for Willow Glen Trestle to research and document the history of the trestle.

When I first saw a picture of the trestle some 20 years ago, soon after I moved to Willow Glen, I couldn't believe the lovely relic of rail service to San Jose's historic canning industry was located just a 15 minute walk from my house. San Jose has been quick to tear down its history and build generic new structures of no distinction. I fought this pattern for years as an editorial writer and eventually editorial page editor of the San Jose Mercury News, from which I retired in 2018. Editorials did not move the city council in the case of the trestle. But the research, advocacy and fierce legal battle by the conservancy may just have saved it.

San Jose and Santa Clara County need to keep what few precious relics remain of the farming and canning industry that once was the region's life's blood. They need preserve the knowledge of that past for Silicon Valley, whose campuses have replaced it. This grant can and should fund that important work. Nobody is better qualified than the conservancy members to do it.

Yours truly,
Barbara Marshman
1143 Blewett Ave.
San Jose, CA 95125
408-838-8672