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RE: Preservation of Historic Willow Glen Trestle

August 10, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

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

Having grown up in the Bay Area, I have witnessed the transformation of Santa Clara from the Valley of Hearts Delight to Silicon Valley. As a child, I remember many open fields, apple orchards, apricot trees, long roads bordered by vast expanses of open fields. As a teenager and young adult, I watched modern buildings, parking lots, and multi-lane expressways begin to replace the open fields.

In my opinion, change is inevitable, but historic structures within a region provide an invaluable context from which a community can better interpret its surroundings. The Willow Glen Trestle harkens back to a time when trains were a major means of transportation, before cars. It likely transported many box cars of fruit from orchards to the many canneries that dotted the landscape a century ago.

It would be wonderful to learn more about the history of this majestic structure, and I am delighted that the Willow Glen Trestle Conservancy under the auspices of the San Jose Parks Foundation has plans to research the topic and enrich the community by providing more context for this historic resource.

The Willow Trestle is a character defining feature for a region that is experiencing fast-paced change. By documenting the origins of this magnificent landmark, the San Jose Parks Foundation will enable the entire community to better appreciate its built environment, and by extension, its own identity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Kaia Eakin