



the Willow Glen Trestle

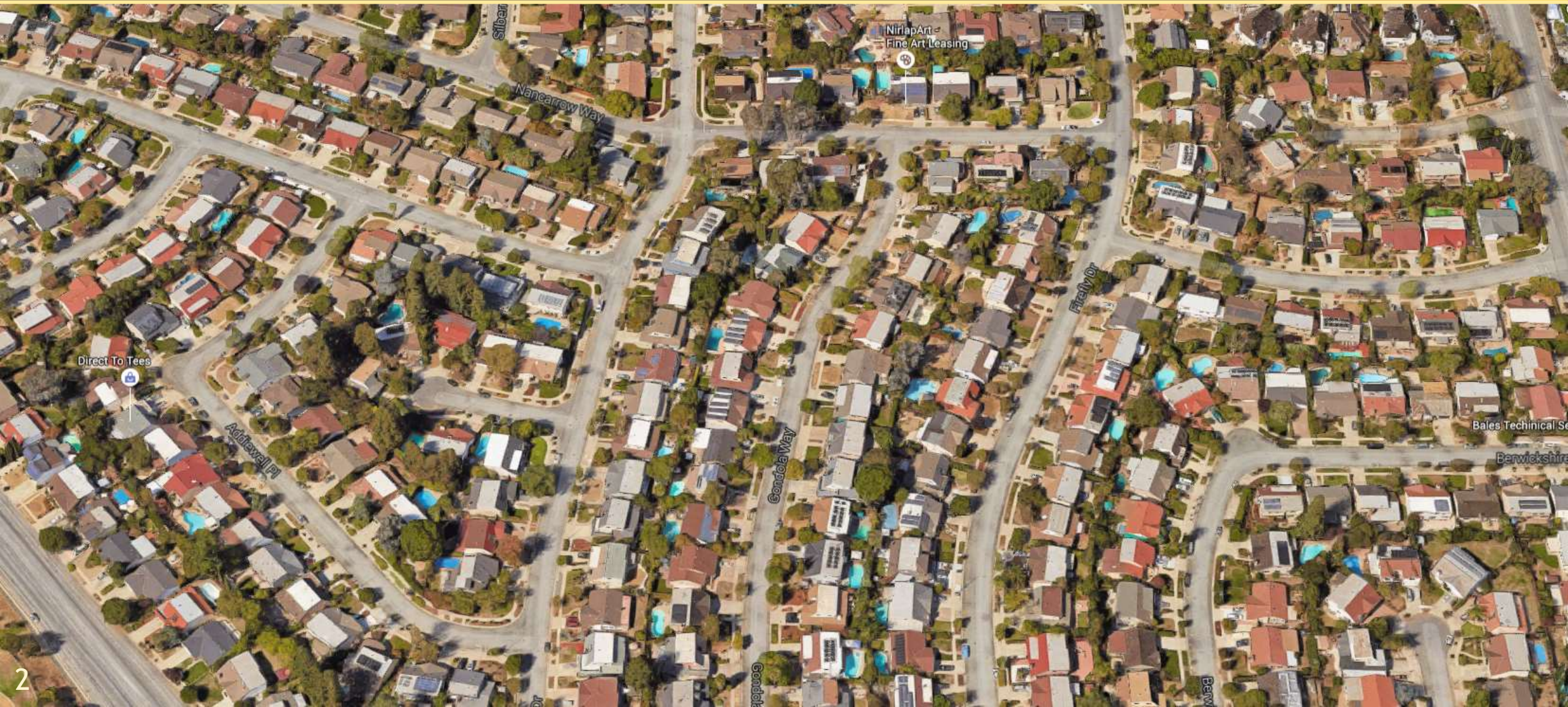
Larry Ames

Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle

April 18, 2016

(updated 4/19/16)

San José is more than just a sea of suburbia ...



... SJ also has older villages such as Willow Glen



Community worked years to help City win funding

The Three-Creeks Trail

an update for
Jim Beall

L. Ames, March 15, 2012

Save Our Trails!



Promoting trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all

Taisia McMahon, President
Bill Rankin, Vice President
Bruce Tichinin, Counsel

from our presentation to
State Senator Jim Beall

a "Historic Trail"

Connects the History Park...



... at Kelley Park ...



... by means of a historic train trestle ...



... to the historic cannery district in WG.

March 26, 2013: City abruptly changed plans



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

MARCH 26, 2013

AMENDED AGENDA

WILL COHEN	DISTRICT 1	WILLIAM FLYNN	DISTRICT 4
ADRIAN CARR	DISTRICT 2	MARKUS HOFFER	DISTRICT 5
ANDREW CHOI	DISTRICT 3	RONI FROELICH	DISTRICT 6
BARBARA CARRON	DISTRICT 4	DOUGLAS BOGGS	DISTRICT 7
	DISTRICT 5	ROBERT KRAME	DISTRICT 8
	DISTRICT 6		DISTRICT 9

4. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

4.6 Report on a Nexus Study for Determining the Feasibility of a Housing Impact Fee, Land Conversion Fee or Other Mechanism. (Cont'd.)

- * **Recommendation:**
 - (c) Direct the Housing Department to return to the City Council upon completion of the Nexus Study to present:
 - (1) Key findings/recommendations of the nexus study;
 - (2) A recommended work plan for implementing an affordable rental housing impact fee, if applicable; and
 - (3) Other potential mechanisms to fund affordable housing.
- * CEQA: Not a Project, File No. PP10-069(a), Staff report. (Housing)
- * **RECOMMEND DEFERRAL TO 4/9/13 PER ADMINISTRATION**

5. NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

5.1 Grant Applications to the State of California for the Three Creeks Trail Pedestrian Bridge Development.

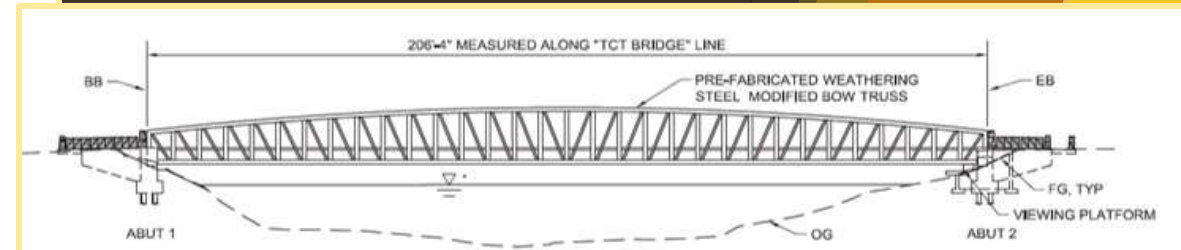
- * **Recommendation:**
 - (a) Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager or designee to:
 - (1) Submit two grant applications to the State of California – Natural Resources Agency for an amount up to \$1,230,000 as part of the Robert-Z'berg-Harris (Prop 40) grant program for the Three Creeks Trail Pedestrian Bridge development project with no local match required;
 - (2) Make the required assurances to comply with the project applications, deadlines to complete the project, grant program requirements, and other assurances required by the State of California as explained in the staff memorandum; and
 - (3) Accept any grants award(s) and negotiate and execute any documents to effectuate the grant(s), including documents that increase the amount of the grant(s) awarded or increase the local match of funds required from the City for the project, subject to the appropriation of funds.
 - (b) Adopt the following Appropriation Ordinance Amendments in the Subdivision Park Trust Fund (Fund 375):
 - (1) Increase the Trail: Three Creeks Interim Improvements & Trestle Bridge appropriation to the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department in the amount of \$1,188,000;
 - (2) Decrease the Reserve: Future PDO/PIO Projects appropriation in the amount of \$503,000; and
 - (3) Decrease the Reserve: Trail: Three Creeks appropriation in the amount of \$685,000.

CEQA: Resolution No. 65459, File No. PP03-05-175. Council District 6. (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services/City Manager's Office)

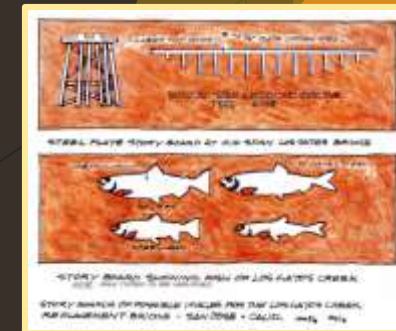
- 11 -

CC 03/26/13

- ▶ To meet a grant deadline, Council approved a Trail Pedestrian Bridge project
 - ▶ Minimal public outreach
 - ▶ Hidden detail: would replace the trestle with a new steel prefab bridge



- ▶ Would have a small plaque in remembrance of the trestle



SJ Merc. News Editorials

Don't let San Jose demolish historic train trestle

By Larry Ames and Helen Chapman
 Have you ever seen the historic train trestle in Willow Glen? Few have. For 90 years, it's been hiding just blocks from downtown San Jose. It's a reminder of the city's past: a 20-foot-tall wooden trestle that crosses Los Gatos Creek. It goes back to the city's early days. The City Council should consider the trestle as a historic landmark. We need to preserve it. It's a piece of our history. It's a reminder of the city's past. It's a reminder of the city's past. It's a reminder of the city's past.

SJMN 5/8/13

Better speak up fast on Three Creeks bridge

When last we took up the cause of the old wooden trestle that crosses Los Gatos Creek on what's now the Three Creeks Trail, it was clear that San Jose's outreach on the demolition plan had been — oh, let's just say it: rigged. City staff members had discussed it in public or semi-public settings without civic activists realizing that ripping out the structurally sound trestle was a done deal. Advocates made a heroic attempt to salvage it in the spring, but it was too late. Mayor Chuck Reed and the City Council rules committee refused to reconsider demolition.

The project continues at record speed, and Wednesday night is your second-to-last chance to have a say in what replaces the historic trestle. At a Willow Glen Neighborhood Association meeting, an architect and city staff will repeat a presentation made to Save our Trails earlier this month. Both those organizations officially support demolition, and at the Trails meeting, the public was told to limit comments to the three (depressingly similar) designs presented. We hope city staff makes sure Wednesday's session is more open, since it's to be a public outreach.

The trestle probably is done for, but history preservationists know while a thing still stands, hope endures. Regard if you care about the Three Creeks Trail, which connects the Los Gatos, Coyote creeks and Guadalupe River trails, you should come to the meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Willow Glen Community Center, 2175 Lincoln Ave. or to the final presentation at a trail planning workshop 6:30 p.m. June 24 at the same location of the proposed replacement designs are truly pedestrian, and we do just mean walkable. If you want something better, you'll have to fight for it.

ONLINE EXTRA
 For a link to the city's press release, go to www.mercurynews.com and click on this editorial.

7/17/13

SJMN 10/19/14 P. A19

Historic value of train trestle deserves City Council respect

By Larry Ames and Brian Grayson

For many years, community advocates have worked with the city of San Jose and its parks department to extend and connect off-street bike paths such as the Los Gatos Creek and the Three Creeks Trails. The plan was always to connect these two trails using the historic railroad trestle in Willow Glen — a sturdy city-owned 80-year-old wood-timber bridge over Los Gatos Creek.

Last year, the city abruptly decided it would instead demolish and replace the classic trestle with a more modern, prefabricated steel structure.

City Council's decision to demolish the trestle is an environmental impact report (EIR) to study the trestle's historic value. The trestle is a historic landmark. It is a piece of our history. It is a reminder of the city's past. It is a reminder of the city's past. It is a reminder of the city's past.



The train trestle on a trail in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood was saved temporarily when a judge ruled that the City Council violated state law when it approved its demolition without doing an environmental impact report on its historic value.

played in the development of Willow Glen and all of San Jose. ■ Analyze the feasibility of rehabilitation, considering among other things the engineering report the city commissioned that shows that restoration and adaptation of the trestle for trail use is safe, environmentally responsible, straightforward and cost-effective.

■ Provide a public process with opportunity to review and comment on design concepts and the EIR's analyses. ■ Hopefully, the city's decision-makers will listen and understand the importance of preserving vital local history.

Importantly, if the EIR finds the trestle to be historic and that its reuse is feasible, the city cannot approve demolition. The Friends already are working to seek grants to fund trestle rehabilitation and maintenance.

And, while the focus of the lawsuit was the trestle, the ruling affects far more than just this one bridge. The Superior Court ruled that the city cannot unilaterally declare a trestle

not historic. When presented with credible evidence of historic qualities, an EIR is mandated to analyze a structure's historic authenticity and to evaluate alternatives to its demolition. Haber's ruling gives us all a chance to preserve history. Let's work together in an open public process benefited by the expertise of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Historic Landmarks Commission. We can incorporate the Willow Glen Trestle into the trail network to connect the Los Gatos and the Three Creeks Trails. As an important piece of local history, the evocative trestle will be a unique and educational attraction and community asset on a popular trail. The trestle will provide an iconic gateway to Willow Glen.

Larry Ames is the founder of Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle, an organization in conjunction with the Preservation Action Council of San Jose.

SJMN 5/19/15 P. A11

S.J. should restore Willow Glen Trestle

San Jose city staff and elected council members made a mistake two years ago when they rushed through a plan to tear down the Willow Glen Trestle over the Los Gatos Creek instead of restoring it as part of the creek trail, as city plans for years had assumed. The city contracted for a generic metal bridge, trading one more element of character in San Jose for boring blandness, of which it has plenty already.

A community group sued to force the council to consider evidence of the wooden railroad trestle's historic value. New studies showed it could be restored at less expense than installing the generic bridge, and the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission declared it eligible for historic status.

Tuesday is the final vote on the trestle. Even if advocates could prove the trestle is as significant as Stonehenge, no law would require the council to listen. We don't expect it to, but we can hope. Restoring the trestle would make the stretch of the creek trail into downtown a memorable place. It is not too late.

5/19/15

SJMN 5/10/13

Opinion

Editorial board

DAVID J. BUTLER, City and county columnist
 BARBARA J. WATSHAM, former page editor

Rail trestle deserves a closer look

San Jose should take a timeout on its plan to tear down the 80-year-old wooden railroad trestle on the Three Creeks Trail in Willow Glen. The decision made in haste by the City Council in March with no real public debate full of sheet-of-standards for a city that prides itself on community involvement.

On this page Wednesday (and linked to this editorial at www.mercurynews.com/opinion), along with photos, community activities Larry Ames and Helen Chapman made a stirring argument for preserving the trestle. That had been the

main charge on the Three Creeks Trail in San Jose.

lilybrook, obscuring the fact that whacking the trestle was

at West, of whose old make every and San y short of secure, again, tant, be relative ion com- a new sular re- in that the voice in by right- ily pur- y parks the staff th the Our voted to on after ff presen- members recently stan, the as sity to l. Several, ed, how to see

For this reason if no other, the council should re-consider the proposal, including the financial details. Even if the decision stands, people will know the facts were aired.

The Three Creeks Trail is supposed to connect the Los Gatos Creek Trail, near the trestle, with the Coyote Creek Trail in Kelley Park. Some question San Jose's commitment to completing the link from Highway 87 to the park — and no wonder, with trust it such a low bid — but the vision is grand.

The third connection is the Guadalupe River Park. Fortunately, Councilman Sam Liccardo is at least asking for more information, and Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese has stepped up to get the money involved. The park fund is making a significant investment in the regional trail network, and the Three Creeks Trail is a linchpin. Let's try to make it an architecturally interesting one.

The trestle, built in 1925, is leading a public tour at 10 a.m. Saturday. Check

5/10/13

the Public was interested, so we gave trestle tours



SC Co. Sup. SJ MN Editor
Dave Cortese Barbara Marshman



“hidden in plain sight”

... and we gave public presentations



presentation by Larry Ames and the Friends of the WG Trestle, March 2, 2015

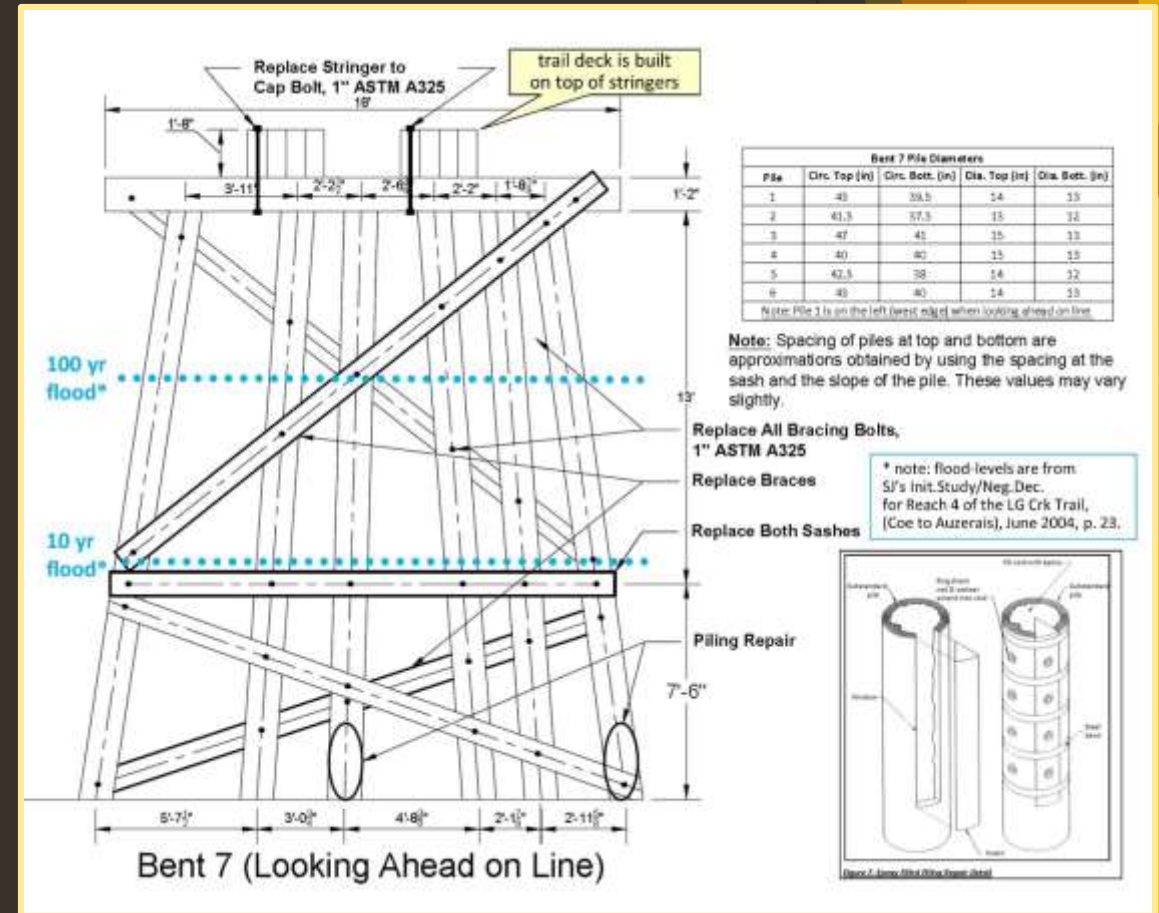
Willow Glen Resident Year in Review

... Lots of public support,
but we still had to sue
to get the City to follow
CEQA & do the required EIR



From the EIR

- ▶ Trestle is sturdy and can readily be restored and adapted for trail use
- ▶ Doesn't impede creek flow or create flooding hazard
- ▶ Contamination: best if pilings left undisturbed and in place



San José Historic Landmarks Commission, 5/6/15



SJ's HLC unanimously recommended historic recognition ...

Daytime Council mtg. on Trail Bridge EIR, 5/19/15



... but the Council overruled the HLC, said trestle is not historic, and then voted 7-2-2 to approve the EIR to replace the trestle. (The EIR is still pending.)

the Mayor then honors my work “to save the historic Willow Glen Trestle”

SJ Parks Foundation Soiree awards event, 6/25/15



SJ Mayor Sam Liccardo



WG Trestle ruled eligible for Nat'l Historic Listing



at the Golden Gate Club in the Presidio in San Francisco

at the statewide quarterly commission meeting, April 18, 2016



Seth Bergstein, historian for Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle

The State Historical Resources Commission

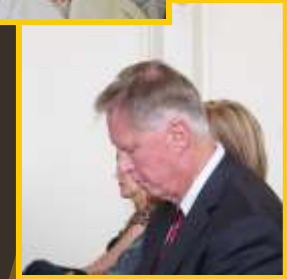


Cmsnr Moss Council Lynch SHPO Polanco Chair Brandes

Cmsnr McKay Cmsnr Harris Cmsnr Praetzellis Cmsnr Bertoli



Susan Brandt-Hawley lawyer for the Friends



supporting speaker: Wayne Donaldson, chair of the Nat'l Adv'sry Council on Hist. Pres.



principal speaker in opposition: Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio, San Jose Dist. 6

Preserve the Connection between “Silicon Valley” and “The Valley of Heart’s Delight”



The Willow Glen Trestle
is still standing — it can still be saved!
Thank you!

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Clara_Valley#/media/File:Prune_Orchard_near_Santa_Clara,_California_\(3655751146\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Clara_Valley#/media/File:Prune_Orchard_near_Santa_Clara,_California_(3655751146).jpg)