

**Willow Glen Trestle**  
**Santa Clara County, California**  
**National Register of Historic Places**

Willow Glen Trestle is a 210 foot open-deck pile-supported trestle, approximately 25 feet tall at its highest point, spanning Los Gatos Creek in the neighborhood of Willow Glen, San Jose. Constructed by Western Pacific Railroad in 1922, the trestle was intended to carry Western Pacific trains to a growing industrial district of San Jose without undue disruption of the existing Willow Glen community.

The trestle is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the industrial development of San Jose. Until the arrival of Western Pacific Railroad, San Jose and its surrounding agricultural communities had only one choice for railroad access to their community: Southern Pacific, whose near monopoly on freight traffic allowed them to dictate high rates to shippers. By encouraging Western Pacific to enter the San Jose area, the two railroads were placed in competition, and Western Pacific gained access to a major regional shipper of agricultural produce. There were obstacles to Western Pacific's entry to the area, including concerns of neighbors in communities along the proposed alignment, and resistance by Southern Pacific Railroad, who felt it was in their interest to maintain their transportation monopoly.

Completion of the trestle allowed access to a large industrial district, resulting in creation of a distinct branch of Western Pacific's operations in the San Jose area, the Willow Glen branch. This branch included multiple commercial spurs serving approximately 20-30 shippers, passing tracks, and two interlockings where Western Pacific tracks crossed Southern Pacific right-of-way.

The property is nominated by a third party. The property owner, the City of San Jose, opposes the nomination. The nomination has received 35 letters of support, including a finding by the City of San Jose Preservation Commission that the property was eligible for local listing, and 7 letters opposing listing, including multiple letters and documents received from the City of San Jose, and assessment from a project EIR.

Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends that the State Historical Resources Commission determine that the Willow Glen Trestle is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1922-1965. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

William Burg  
State Historian II  
March 24, 2016