From: LAmes@aol.com
To: elist@wgbackfence.net, SJ-D6NL@yahoogroups.com
Sent: 4/17/2013 10:10:56 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: save the historic WG trestle

Have you ever seen the historic train trestle in Willow Glen?

<http://wgbackfence.net/trestle.htm>

Few have: while it's just a few blocks from downtown Willow Glen and has been there for roughly 90 years, it's been hidden from view:

A great, beautiful old trestle, 25 feet tall and over 200 feet long, crossing over the Los Gatos Creek.

>> Better go see it soon! -- the City has just voted to demolish it! <<

For years, I've been working to have this trestle preserved and restored, to be the crown-jewel of the Los Gatos Creek Trail at the intersection with the new Three Creeks Trail.

The trestle would need some work: remove the rusty cat-walk and the rotten ties and install a concrete-slab deck and railing -- it's all documented in a city-commissioned engineering report.

But, about a fortnight ago, without consulting the Parks or Historic Commissions and without waiting for public comment (and while I was away on vacation), the City rushed thru a couple measures to remove this gem and replace it with a catalog-order steel bridge.

While a new bridge would provide trail continuity and could be pretty, it would lack the historic character the old trestle would provide.

And here's the kicker: by their own estimates, restoring the old trestle, even including 40 years worth of inspection, maintenance and repairs, would still be cheaper than replacing it with a new bridge!

The City suddenly seems to be in a hurry to tear the trestle down, quickly before anyone notices, so immediate action is needed!

It will take a lot of community activism to get the City to change its mind!

Call your Councilmember and express your opinion, write to the SJ Parks Dept, email your friends!

I will be organizing a "Friends of the WG Trestle" -- look for announcements in the near future.

For now, check out the webpage, <http://wgbackfence.net/trestle.htm>

Many thanks!

~Larry Ames, trail advocate.