

Entry 02

Subject: Westwood Hills, Napa

I was not born in Napa, but I have grown up here since the age of one. I was born in Manhattan, New York City and moved to the Napa Valley. At the age of one, I can't remember what it was like to live in New York City, the only memories I have are from Napa. The first home that I lived at was right across the street from Westwood Hills in Browns Valley, Napa. I remember the days when I was very little either hiking up the hill with my family or going past it while walking with my grandmother picking blackberries. This landmark has always filled me with joy. Many core memories were made at Westwood Hills such as school field trips and birthday parties. The elementary school that I went to was Napa Valley Language Academy, and during the early years of me going there I remember a field trip that I had with my grade where we hiked to a hidden spot where this large tree was and it had a rope swing attached to it and I could have stayed there for hours. I don't know who the first person to name the tree was but my friends and I would always call it the spider tree because of the amount of branches it had. Also, at the top of the hill, there is a wide view where you can see a lot of the city of Napa and I always loved trying to figure out what road I was looking at or what building it was. The first place that I always looked for was my elementary school. Another reason why this is my favorite landmark is because of the specific scent it has. Smells can always bring back memories and whenever I smell the scent of eucalyptus leaves it reminds me of walking on the Westwood Hills trails. Now in the present day, I have not been able to hike up the hill for quite some time, I live at a different home and with high school and sports, I have not had as much time. The last time I did go up the hill was with my brother over last summer. My brother is in college which means I don't get to see him very often and also because he goes to Harvard University which is across the country. Westwood Hills connects to my community identity because when I reach the top and look out and see all of Napa, it makes Napa look vast but I know how close knit this community is. The way I will help preserve this landmark is to do a large cleanup of the trails to keep them clean and free of trash.