PROPOSED 5-YEAR PLAN TO ENHANCE AND BEAUTIFY VICTORIA AVENUE
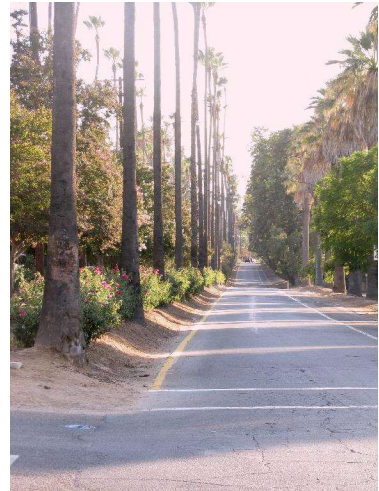
Public Works Department

CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 18, 2024

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1

HISTORY OF VICTORIA AVENUE

- Victoria Avenue exists thanks to Matthew Gage, a jeweler who moved to Riverside in 1881
- Gage engineered and developed the Gage Canal to bring irrigation water from artesian wells in San Bernardino County to the citrus groves in Arlington Heights
- He imagined a main boulevard in Arlington Heights with different types of trees and named it Victoria Avenue after the Queen of England
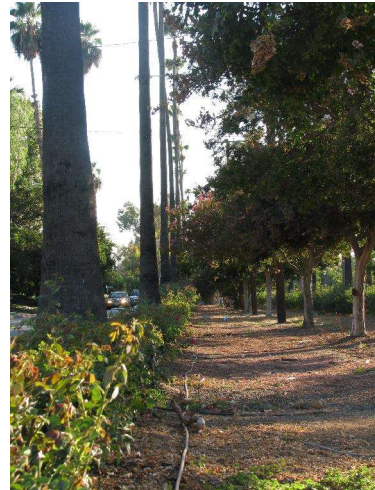- Gage's vision introduced the many varieties of trees and plants along Victoria Avenue

2

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2

HISTORY OF VICTORIA AVENUE

- 1969 - Riverside Cultural Heritage Landmark #8
- October 2000 – Added to the National Park Service's Register of Historic Places
- Most of Victoria Avenue is a linear drive from Myrtle Avenue to La Sierra Avenue
- Features over 6,000 trees, including more than 1,000 orange trees, tens of thousands of 'Ragged Robin' roses, 9 miles of walking trails, the Rosanna Scott Memorial Bicycle Trail, and various shrubs and groundcovers along its length
- Popular, year-round attraction for bicyclists, joggers and a Sunday afternoon stroll
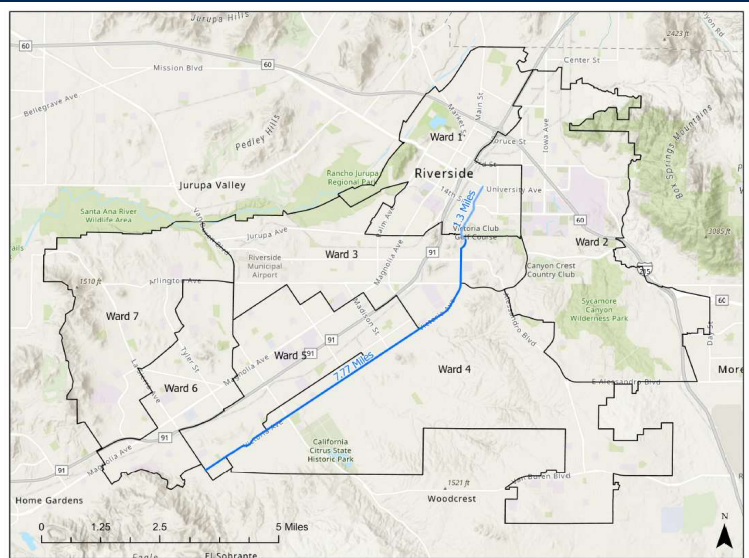

3

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3

VICTORIA AVENUE

Crosses Wards 1, 3, 4, 5

➤ **Proposed project area is 7.77-mile section in Wards 3, 4, 5**

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4

VICTORIA AVENUE FOREVER

Mission Statement
"To Preserve, Restore, and Beautify Historic Victoria Avenue through Community Volunteer Efforts, Education, and Advocacy"

- In 1990, several large Eucalyptus trees were slated for removal along Victoria Avenue
- Concerned residents, including Hal Snyder, Rosanna Scott, Mary Humbolt, Pati Weir, and Earl Shade, were fearful that the trees would not be replanted and founded Victoria Avenue Forever, a public benefit, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation
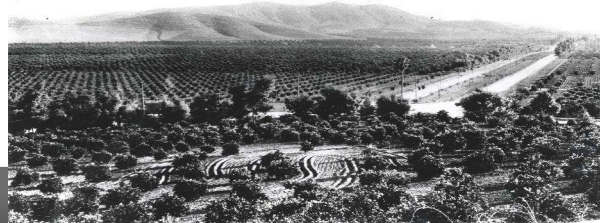
5

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5

VICTORIA AVENUE FOREVER

- Raises funds for planting trees and other ornamentals, organizes workdays devoted to tree planting, tree care, roses plantings, garden creation and maintenance
- Educates the public about the history and value of the plantings on Victoria Avenue through newsletters, brochures, educational panels in kiosks, and special events
- VAF volunteers care for Victoria Avenue through maintenance of existing plantings, weed and pest control, irrigation, signage, policy for development and traffic, and garden development and upkeep

6

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6

CARE OF VICTORIA AVENUE

Nov. 19, 2019 - City Council approved revised Victoria Avenue Policy for Preservation, Design, and Development

➢ Amendment to the Victoria Avenue Ad Hoc Committee Policy related to tree species selection, landscaping, irrigation, trails, roadway maintenance, development standards, right-of-way dedications, and other improvements in conjunction with new development

7

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7

CARE OF VICTORIA AVENUE

- City and VAF aim to preserve the cultural heritage of Victoria Avenue
- January 25, 2022 – City Council approved a Public Service Agreement with VAF for volunteer services along Victoria Avenue (La Sierra to Myrtle Avenues)
  – Planting trees, roses, ornamental plants, community cleanup, special events, and garden care

8

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8

CARE OF VICTORIA AVENUE

- Public Works budget includes $650,000 for monthly landscape maintenance, citrus tree maintenance, "Ragged Robin" rose propagation, and water
- Measure Z – Citywide tree trimming
  - $1 million for trimming citywide canopy trees
    - Reduced trim cycle from 8-10 years to 4-5 years
  - $2 million to increase citywide palm tree trimming to biennial cycle

9

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9

RESTORING THE GLORY OF VICTORIA AVENUE

- Irrigation system repairs and upgrades
- 3-inch layer of mulch in all medians
  - Will require on-going replenishment
- Increase propagation of Ragged Robin roses
- Repair chainlink fence at City orange grove
- Artwork on utility cabinets
- Possible additional drinking fountains
- Benches
- Educational kiosks
- Repair of asphalt walking path

10

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10

5-YEAR PROJECT

Year	Task	Cost
1	Irrigation repairs and bark mulch installation	$775,000
2	Ragged Robin roses, appoint artist, repair chain link fence, plant trees, add kiosk, bench and drinking fountain near proposed new trailhead location	$280,000
3	Fountains placed on walkway, benches & kiosks	$76,000
4	Phase One walking trail renovations	$812,000
5	Phase Two walking trail renovations	$840,000

11

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11

MOBILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

The Mobility & Infrastructure Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the City Council approve the 5-year plan and provided the following feedback:

- Paving plans
- Recycled water for irrigation
- Alternatives to asphalt on walking trail

12

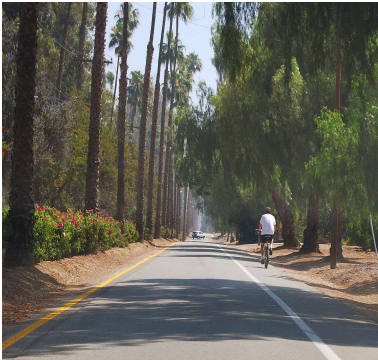**RiversideCA.gov**

12

Paving Along Victoria Avenue

VICTORIA AVENUE RESURFACING					
Segment		Distance (ft)	Typ. Width	Potential Cost	Status
Central	Horace	5705	-	-	Completed
Horace	Washington	5450	-	-	Scheduled for 2024
Washington	Jefferson	5450	40	$1,809,400	Currently Unplanned
Jefferson	Monroe	5450	40	$1,809,400	Currently Unplanned
Monroe	Van Buren	5450	40	$1,809,400	Currently Unplanned
Van Buren	Tyler	6175	50	$2,562,625	Potential 26/27
Tyler	La Sierra	4735	50	$1,965,025	Potential 25/26
			Total Cost	$9,955,850	

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13

Recycled Water to Irrigate Victoria Avenue

- Riverside Public Utilities is assessing the feasibility of recycled water use near Central Avenue along Victoria Avenue
  - ➤ Analysis is expected to be complete this summer
- Recycled water has a higher salt content than potable water and would likely be harmful to the Ragged Robin roses and citrus trees if implemented as an irrigation water source for Victoria Avenue

14

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14

Paving Solutions for the Bicycle Path

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PATH TREATMENT OPTIONS					
Range of $ / Mile					
Treatment	Low	High	Pros	Cons	Sample Image
Traditional (Impervious) Asphalt Existing Condition	$422,400	$528,000	1. Simple Repairs (In-House) 2. Low Cost of Installation	1. Considered impervious to Stormwater	
Open Graded Friction Course With Asphalt Treated Permeable Base	$580,800	$2,006,400	1. Lowest Cost Impervious Option 2. Permeable to stormwater	1. Maintenance challenging 2. Aesthetically similar to traditional asphalt	
Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavement	$1,900,800	$2,798,400	1. High rate of permeability to stormwater 2. Aesthetics	1. Slightly uneven surface 2. Difficult to stock consistent replacement units 3. High cost of installation & maintenance	
Pervious Concrete	$792,000	$2,112,000	1. Mid-range cost permeable option 2. Lower surface temperatures	1. Maintenance Challenging	

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15

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Priority 4 – Environmental Stewardship

Goal 4.5: Maintain and conserve 30% of Riverside's natural lands in green space including, but not limited to, agricultural lands and urban forests in order to protect and restore Riverside's rich biodiversity and accelerate the natural removal of carbon, furthering our community's climate resilience.

Cross-Cutting Threads

Community Trust   Fiscal Responsibility   Sustainability & Resiliency

Equity   Innovation

16

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16

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Receive a report on the history of Victoria Avenue, Riverside Cultural Heritage Landmark #8 and National Park Service's Register of Historic Places, and the role of Victoria Avenue Forever as a partner in the protection and preservation of Victoria Avenue;

2. Approve the proposed 5-year plan to enhance and beautify Victoria Avenue; and

3. With at least five affirmative votes, authorize the Chief Financial Officer, or designee, to record a supplemental appropriation and an interfund transfer in the amount of $775,000 from General Fund Infrastructure Reserves to the Capital Outlay Fund, Victoria Avenue Beautification Project revenue and expenditure accounts for Year 1 implementation of the 5-year beautification plan.

17

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17