

Attachment 2 - Victoria Avenue Policy History

- 1969 – City designated Victoria Avenue as a City Cultural Heritage landmark (Landmark No. 8). The designation applied to the historic Avenue of 1890, which extended southwest from Myrtle Avenue at the Victoria Avenue Bridge to Boundary Lane/western City limits. The City landmark status gave the Cultural Heritage Board responsibility for ensuring that all decisions affecting the Avenue are consistent with the original concept for the Avenue.
- 1979 & 1987 - Voter approved anti-growth measures to preserve the agricultural character of the Greenbelt including Proposition R in 1979, and Measure C in 1987.
- 1990 – Victoria Avenue Forever (VAF) was founded in 1990 with the purpose of preserving and beautifying Victoria Avenue. VAF raises funds for planting trees and ornamentals along the Avenue, organizes workdays devoted to tree planting, tree care, pocket park creation and maintenance, and educates the public about the history and value of plantings on Victoria Avenue. VAF has planted over 1,400 trees, and thousands of roses in the median and parkways of Victoria Avenue.
- November, 1992 – VAF completed a “Tree Inventory of Victoria Avenue” with assistance by Andrew Sanders, Curator Herbarium, University of California, Riverside (UCR).
- June, 1995 - A report was presented to the City Council Ad Hoc Committee on Victoria Avenue, which analyzed ten objectives to protect and preserve Victoria Avenue, including objectives related to planting of trees, and new tree species recommendations of the 1992 VAF Tree Inventory.
- 1998 – Formation of Victoria Avenue “Without Wires” a group established with the purpose and goal to underground overhead wires along the Avenue.
- 2000
 - “Without Wires” changed to “Victoria Avenue Historic Restoration Project” (VAHRP) to reflect expanded goals. As of 2012, utility wires were undergrounded for several sections, with additional funding provided for undergrounding between Maude & Washington Streets. As of then, two remaining sections remained with overhead utilities.
 - Victoria Avenue was designated as a National Register of Historic Places Landmark.

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- November, 2003 - City Council approval of Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations for Victoria Avenue which:
 - Approved as a matter of policy, design & development standards per Exhibit 1 of the November 2003 Council Report (see Attachment 1). The policy recommendations address trees/tree protection, two-story structures, Cultural Heritage Board approval of building design and landscaping including landscaping on corners and side streets, two-story building setbacks, four-sided architecture, utility facilities, reverse frontage and front-on or side-on treatment restrictions for certain portions of Victoria Avenue. Among numerous items listed in Exhibit 1, the following was specific to citrus trees:

“Any new development shall be required to plant three rows of citrus along Victoria Avenue, either within the right-of-way (or linear park) or within a landscape easement area in favor of the City Parks Department. The City Parks Department shall develop a design with standard spacing and placement of individual trees and rows of trees, and shall be responsible for long term maintenance of the trees and irrigation. When Victoria Avenue is designated as a Park, Park fees shall be used to plant the trees.”
 - Directed Planning Division staff to initiate a zoning case to establish an overlay zone on Victoria Avenue.
 - Directed the PRCSD, Public Works, Public Utilities, and Planning & Building Departments to begin the process to designate Victoria Avenue, excluding the travelled roadway, as a City park. Only parkways and median areas would be established as a park. Travelled roadway and portions of parkway and medians at major intersections to remain as a City street.

Actions & Developments since the 2003 Policy:

- November 2007 - Adoption of the General Plan 2025. The GP2025 Land Use Element includes the following policies specific to citrus in the Greenbelt:
 - **Policy LU-11.2:** Recognize Victoria Avenue, Magnolia Avenue/Market Street, University Avenue, Van Buren Blvd. Riverwalk Parkway, La Sierra Avenue, Arlington Avenue, Canyon Crest Drive, and Overlook Parkway as the fundamental elements of the City's parkway landscape network, and components of Riverside Park.
 - **Policy LU-13.5:** Establish an overlay zone on Victoria Avenue with specific development standards to protect the historic visual character of the corridor.
 - **Policy LU-13.6:** Establish Victoria Avenue as a linear park.

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- 2008 - Huanglongbing (HLB) first detected in California:

In response to the threat of HLB, and to prevent the spread the Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) has taken steps to prevent the spread of the ACP, and HLB. Actions include educating the public on best practices for protection of citrus and methods for eradication of the ACP, and by establishing Bulk Citrus Quarantine Zone 6 which covers a substantial northeastern area of Riverside, and extends beyond the City limits northerly into San Bernardino County, and easterly into Moreno Valley.

- May 22, 2012: The Council named the Victoria Avenue bike trail the “Rosanna Scott Memorial Bicycle Trail” in honor of Rosanna Scott.

- Parks Master Plan Progress. The PRCSD has made progress on the Parks Master Plan update including:

- Nov. 30, 2017: A preliminary meeting was held with Victoria Avenue Forever (VAF), the Public Works Department, and the Planning Division to discuss options, and concerns, related to a park designation for Victoria Avenue. VAF was open to designating Victoria Avenue as a public park, but was opposed to changing the maintenance responsibility from the Public Works Department to the PRCSD, since maintenance by Public Works is working well.
- Jan. – June, 2018: The City’s parks consultant, RJM Design Group evaluated the park system, and recommends only pocket parks with benches, interpretive kiosks and walking paths as the public park. The remainder is memorial trail, and the parkway which isn’t publicly accessible and doesn’t meet the definition of public park land. PRCSD intends to present the Draft Park Master Plan recommendation to the VAF (tentative meeting date: September 12, 2018).

Preliminary Park Master Plan Recommendations:

- Victoria Ave. remain a historic parkway, and Rosanna Scott Memorial Bicycle Trail.
- Fold three of the gardens that have pedestrian pathways, benches & interpretive features into the parkland designation (Helen Hayes Memorial Grove, Dr. Peter Lewis Garden, and Hal Snyder Garden).
- The Public Works Department to continue maintenance, not PRCSD.