

Victoria Avenue Forever

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



Founded in 1990, Victoria Avenue Forever is a public benefit nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the preservation and beautification of Victoria Avenue. The group raises funds for trees and other plants, organizes tree-planting and tree-care activities, and informs the public about the history and value of the plantings on the Avenue. To provide for the on-going care of Victoria Avenue, the group has established an endowment fund with the Community Foundation.

To contribute to the Victoria Avenue Forever Endowment Fund, or to become a member of Victoria Avenue Forever and receive our quarterly newsletters, or to learn more about this unique Riverside landmark, contact:

VICTORIA AVENUE FOREVER
P.O. Box 4152 • Riverside, CA 92514
(951) 286-1036

info@victoriaavenueforever.org

Visit us at: www.victoriaavenueforever.org

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UNIQUE VICTORIA AVENUE

Historic Landmark

*Listed in the National Park Service's
National Register of Historic Places*

A drive-through linear park/arboretum

Over 4,000 specimen trees, 95 species

Seasonal blooms - all year long

Eight miles of bike lanes

Separate paved walking/jogging paths



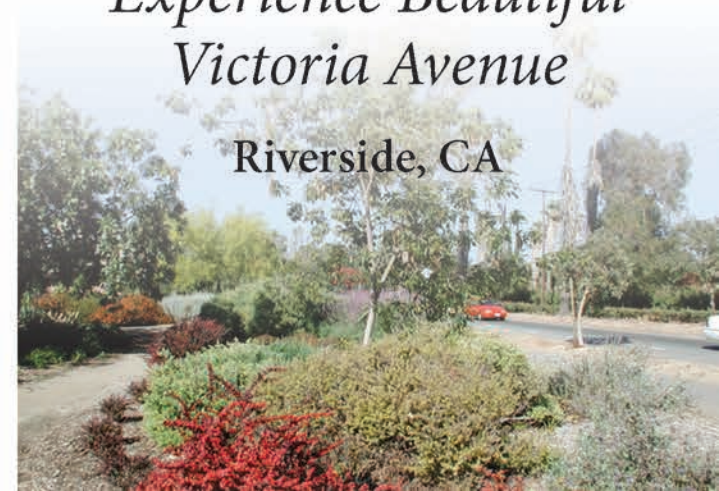
On the National
Register of Historic Places

Victoria Avenue

Walk It! Jog It! Bike It! Drive It!

*Experience Beautiful
Victoria Avenue*

Riverside, CA



VICTORIA AVENUE owes its existence to the vision of Mathew Gage, a jeweler from Ireland who moved to Riverside in 1881. He developed the Gage Canal which brought precious water to the citrus groves in Arlington Heights. His vision introduced the many varieties of trees and plants along Victoria Avenue.

During the spring of 1892, the grading of Victoria Avenue began and the first trees were planted. Riverside's pioneer landscape designer, Franz Hosp, was responsible for the master plan – a masterpiece of roadway design which proved to be almost as appropriate for automobiles as it was for the horse and buggy crowd.

Pepper trees from Peru and eucalypts from Australia were planted to give Victoria Avenue a year-round elegance. Shortly after, palm and silk oak trees were added. Today, palm trees are the signature skyline silhouette for southern California.



Hosp also discovered the 'Cecille Brunner' rose near Victoria Avenue and in 1894 introduced it to the nursery trade.

The first Victoria Avenue Bridge, named for Queen Victoria by Mathew Gage, opened on Thanksgiving Day in 1891. It linked the downtown merchants, the Mission Inn, and Mt. Rubidoux to Arlington Heights and the citrus growers.

In June, 1902, Victoria Avenue was deeded to the City of Riverside with the stipulation that the trees were to be maintained and protected. The plantings remain under the care of the City of Riverside today.

As land usage in Arlington Heights became more residential and groves began to disappear, citizens became concerned about preserving this unique avenue as a city amenity. On June 11, 1969, Victoria Avenue was declared Cultural Heritage Landmark #8 by the Riverside Cultural Heritage Board. In October 2000, Victoria Avenue was added to the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places.



Victoria Avenue Trees and Gardens

Giant Eucalypts

Eucalypts are among the largest and oldest trees on Victoria Avenue. Some are nearly 10 feet in diameter, and 200 feet tall. Some species have huge, off-white trunks, often picturesquely contorted, attesting to their century-old age. The more than 300 eucalypts on the Avenue represent 14 different species.



Helen Hays Yeager Memorial Grove

In 2011, the City of Riverside accepted this Memorial Grove as an addition to the heritage of historic Victoria Avenue. It is a 0.76 acre orange grove with a plaque and sitting area at its entrance.

Lorraine Small Rose Garden

Modern roses of many colors were planted by Victoria Avenue Forever at Myrtle Street in 1993 to honor Lorraine Small, a local garden writer and long-time advocate for preservation of Victoria Avenue.



Dr. Peter M. Lewis Garden

This garden at Jane Street was the first water-wise garden established by Victoria Avenue Forever in 1993. It was founded to honor Dr. Lewis' contributions to the beautification of Riverside.

Dammers Butterfly Garden

This garden at Mary Street is filled with plants that attract butterflies. It was established in 2014 by the City of Riverside Parks Department to honor a historic citrus grower and citizen scientist who previously inhabited the site.

Hal Snyder Garden

Victoria Avenue Forever established this garden in 2009 as a second water-wise garden. It honors Harold Snyder, one of our founding members and long-time spokesman.

Palms

Victoria Avenue has more than 1600 palms. The most numerous are the Mexican Fan Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) lining both sides of the median. California Fan Palms (*Washingtonia filifera*), Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), Guadalupe Palms (*Brahea edulis*) and Queen Palms (*Arecastrum romanzoffianum*) occur on the parkways.

The Roosevelt Palm

Dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903, this Mexican Fan Palm at Victoria Avenue and Myrtle Street is City Cultural Landmark #64.



Ragged Robin Roses

Thousands of 'Ragged Robin' roses line both sides of the median. This heritage rose variety was introduced in 1825 under the name 'Gloire des Rosomanes' but became a rootstock rose after more modern varieties of roses were introduced. All replacements must be grown from cuttings.



Information Kiosks

Three information kiosks, each with ten panels, present historical information about Riverside, important to the history of Victoria Avenue. These kiosks were installed by Victoria Avenue Forever with donations from the public.

Median Trees

The center of the Victoria Avenue median is planted with deciduous, flowering trees. In most cases, each block is planted with only one or two species. In addition to their flowers, many species provide colored foliage or berries for year-round color.

1. Saucer Magnolia	<i>Magnolia X soulangeana</i>	Pink and White
2. Eastern/Western Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis/occidentalis</i>	Purplish Red, White
3. Crape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Pink, Red, White
4. Chaste Tree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Blue
5. Pyracantha	<i>Pyracantha sp.</i>	White/Orange Berries
6. Horsechestnut	<i>Aesculus carnea 'Briotti'</i>	Pink
7. Ornamental Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	White
8. Sweet Shade	<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Yellow
9. Chitalpa	<i>X Chitalpa tashkentensis</i>	Pink
10. Flowering Peach	<i>Prunus persica</i>	Pink, Red, White
11. Flowering Nectarine 'Alma Stutz'	<i>Prunus persica/nucipersica 'Alma Stutz'</i>	Pink
12. (No common name)	<i>Caesalpinia spinosa</i>	Yellow
13. Chinese Fringe Tree	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	White
14. Floss Silk Tree	<i>Ceiba speciosa</i>	Pink
15. Bridal Wreath Spirea	<i>Spirea nipponica</i>	White
16. White Angel's Trumpet	<i>Brugmansia candida</i>	White
17. Flowering Crabapple	<i>Malus floribunda</i>	Pink
18. Pink Trumpet Tree	<i>Handroanthus impetiginosus</i>	Pink
19. Catalpa	<i>Catalpa spp.</i>	White
20. Australian Flame Tree	<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Red
21. Goldenrain Tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Yellow
22. Floss Silk Tree	<i>Ceiba 'elegance'</i>	Pink
23. Texas Mountain Laurel	<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	Lavender-blue

