

Site Preservers

Citrus acreage in Southern California began to be replaced with housing tracts and industry after World War II. Beginning in 1955, many Riverside residents and grove owners began advocating for the preservation of the citrus landscape, as a way to stem sprawl, save jobs in agriculture, and maintain the aesthetic appearance key to the region's identity. In 1979, thanks to the combined efforts of Riversiders for Reasonable Growth and lawyer (later, Judge) Dallas Holmes, Proposition R rezoned land along Victoria Avenue and portions of Arlington Heights (from Washington Street to the city limits) as a "Greenbelt." The preservation of the land for Citrus State Historic Park came about, in part, due to these efforts.

Central Ave.

Looking towards the CA-91 freeway from the top of the

knolls at the Park you can see a part of the greenbelt

Individuals who helped pass Prop R formed Victoria Avenue Forever in 1980 to preserve the parkway

The Greenbelt:

Proposition R rezoned the area between Washington Street and the southern limit of the city to limit growth and housing density and foster agricultural use.

Victoria Ave.

Aerial View of Riverside, 1938

Relevancy & History PROJECT

UCR



Opening the Park:
Entangled in the debate over the value of the citrus landscape and the benefits of land development was Riversiders' desire for a park in Mockingbird Canyon. In 1969 the Riverside General Plan designated this land for park uses and in 1981 a State Parks task force was created. After many debates, surveys, community meetings, and workshops the general plan for the Park was completed in 1988 and the Park opened its gates in 1993.



Groundbreaking for the Citrus State Historic Park



CA 91 Freeway

Arlington Ave.

Victoria Avenue Forever:

Matthew Gage, who helped bring water to the groves of the area, envisioned the tree-lined scenic parkway of Victoria Avenue (named for the British Queen) to promote land sales in the newly formed Arlington Heights. Created in 1892, it runs nearly 9 miles and is a local and national landmark.



Victoria Ave.

Aerial View of Riverside, 1959