



Features

The Riverside County Vision builds heavily on the value of its remarkable environmental setting. That theme applies here as well. The setting is especially situated to capture distant mountain views in almost every direction. The hills, mountains and watercourses that frame this valley also serve to contain urban development in the more developable portions of the landscape. Jurupa's internal system of hills and mountains provides a habitat for many native species, while the more distant mountains provide a scenic backdrop. The Santa Ana River, located along the southern edge of Jurupa, serves to buffer development here from that in neighboring Riverside and provide habitat for numerous species of plants and animals. This section describes the setting, features, and functions that are unique to the Jurupa Area Plan. These defining characteristics are shown on Figure 2, Physical Features.

SETTING

The distinctiveness of the Jurupa area can be found in its wonderful natural setting. From the lush riparian corridor of the Santa Ana River, to the slightly undulating flatlands of Mira Loma, to the dramatic rolling terrain of the Pedley Hills, to the stark, rugged outcroppings of the Jurupa Mountains, the Jurupa area is truly a wondrous and diverse haven for nature and a special location for human habitation.

The western portion of the Jurupa area is primarily flat, with gentle rolling foothills scattered throughout the Glen Avon and Mira Loma areas. North of State Route 60 lies the dramatic sloping terrain of the Jurupa Mountains, which provide a natural backdrop for the communities of Sunnyslope and Belltown. The Pedley Hills provide a picturesque setting for the community of Pedley as well as a pleasing backdrop for communities adjacent to the hills. The Santa Ana River, with its lush riparian habitat, provides a natural contrast along the southern boundary of Jurupa. Though not located within Jurupa, Mount Rubidoux serves as a prominent visual landmark for residents in Jurupa's eastern communities.

What is intriguing about Jurupa is the large number of distinct communities that have strong local identity. They vary in size, character and focus, but they share a universal strength of commitment to their uniqueness and identity.

UNIQUE FEATURES

Santa Ana River

Located along the southern boundary of Jurupa, the Santa Ana River represents a significant recreational, habitat, and visual resource. Throughout the area, interactive trails provide access to a scenic wildlife setting. The Santa Ana River Wildlife Area serves as a nature center that includes hiking and equestrian activities. The river, which drains a watershed of over 2,650 square miles, is also the general alignment of the long awaited Coast-to-Crest trail that will connect the far reaches of the San Bernardino Mountains with the Pacific Ocean.