The Santa Ana River Task Force workshops identified 10 opportunity areas to begin the implementation of the vision for the Santa Ana River. Opportunity areas are locations along the River where the potential exists to achieve the goals established in the Santa Ana River Vision Plan. The factors considered in the selection of these opportunity areas include ownership, size, location, accessibility, and proximity to the other open space resources. Each opportunity area has its own unique characteristics, constraints and benefits.

Collectively, the opportunity areas are a comprehensive blueprint to guide the future condition of the Santa Ana River. The Santa Ana River Task Force acknowledges that additional opportunity sites may become available in the future and that the search for additional sites should be continual as a means of implementing the goals contained within this Vision Plan.
Ten Opportunity Sites
<< Areas of opportunity along the river that emerged during brainstorming discussion
Recreational Trail & Reaches

Opportunity lies in enhancement of the existing bike trail and its reaches in ways that include but are not limited to the addition of educational signage, native landscaping and habitat restoration. The Santa Ana River National Recreational Trail runs through Santa Ana in two major reaches. These reaches are described below.

SR-22 to Edana Park
Within Santa Ana, the Santa Ana River Trail follows the River on the west levy beginning at SR-22 at the north and continuing southwest to Edana Park (Edna Drive and Lewis Street). This reach of the trail is also the section which abuts the River View Golf Course and includes the confluence of Santiago Creek and the river. This section of the trail includes both an unpaved multi-use trail and a paved Class I bicycle trail, side by side. Landscaping along this reach is primarily composed of mixed exotic vegetation with scarce patches of native plants. Significant willow habitat does occur within the channel on the River View Golf Course property.

Edna Park to MacArthur Boulevard
At Edna Park, the paved Class I bicycle trail crosses the Santa Ana River to the east levy. The unpaved, multi-use trail continues along the River downstream on the west levy to the Santa Ana border at MacArthur Boulevard. At Edinger Avenue, the Santa Ana River crosses into the City of Fountain Valley.

As the paved Class I bike trail reaches the west side of the River, the vegetation transitions to a mix of native plants with an occasional exotic species along the fence line.

Young trees have been planted along the route and a few mature cottonwoods remain, providing a minimum amount of shade. Boulders have been placed periodically along the route to improve the view shed and to serve as rest points and seating for trail users.

The unpaved multi-use trail has undergone major disruption over the past two years due to the installation of the Santa Ana River Groundwater Replenishment System Pipeline. At the time of this report, the project is ninety percent complete. However, the area has yet to be re-landscaped. The planting plan calls for similar vegetation as occurs on the east levy. Additional trees have also been requested as none are currently in place in this reach of the River.

River Parks
Through Vision Plan workshops and tours, ten “opportunity areas” actual sites were identified along the River where the potential exists to achieve goals established by the Santa Ana River Vision Plan, in the form of “River Parks”. The factors considered in the selection of these areas include; ownership, size, location, accessibility, and proximity to the other open space resources. Each location has its own unique characteristics, constraints and benefits. Collectively, these areas are a comprehensive blueprint to guide the future condition of the Santa Ana River. The Santa Ana River Vision Plan acknowledges that additional sites may become available in the future and that a proactive effort should be continued as a means of implementing the goals contained within this Vision Plan.