

we all need



APPENDIX B

RURAL STUDY

AREA PROFILES

This project was previously called the Regional and Rural Edition (RRE) to emphasize its focus on regional and rural recreation needs and priorities. This project name was used during the data collection, and community engagement and outreach phases which occurred primarily in 2021. As this report was being completed in 2022, DPR decided to rename the project the Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) to clarify and better communicate that this project complements and offers new information not previously included in the 2016 Parks Needs Assessment (PNA), such as mapping and analyses related to population vulnerability, environmental benefits, environmental burdens, and priority areas for environmental conservation, environmental restoration, regional recreation, and rural recreation. (Please note that there remains some text and graphic references to the RRE in this document because that was the project name when some components of this study were completed.)

ACTON/SOUTH ANTELOPE VALLEY RURAL STUDY AREA PROFILE

RURAL STUDY AREA ID #7 / PNA STUDY AREA ID #9

- » Study Area Description
- » Study Area Demographics
- » Population Vulnerability
- » Rural Recreation and Conservation Sites
- » Rural Recreation Site Access
- » Recreation Opportunity Types
- » Community Engagement Themes
- » Rural Recreation Priority Analysis
- » Rural Recreation Priority Areas
- » Priority Project Types

Note

This profile is not intended to stand alone. For definitions of key terms and a full description of the analysis summarized within please refer to Chapter 5 of the main report as well as Appendix C: Technical Resources.



STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION

PHYSICAL CONTEXT

The Acton/South Antelope Valley Study Area is bordered by the City of Palmdale and southern Antelope Valley to the north, the San Gabriel Mountains and Antelope Valley to the east, the San Gabriel Mountains to the south, and the Sierra Pelona Mountains to the west. The Study Area encompasses approximately 180 square miles.

STUDY AREA CONSIDERATIONS

The Study Area has major constraints, including natural hazards, such as earthquakes and wildfire, and limited infrastructure, including public transit service. The desirability of rural living and the availability of affordable housing have led to significant growth in the many unincorporated communities, though Acton has seen a small decline in population since 2010. The Study Area supports many opportunities for outdoor recreation in the Angeles National Forest; however, outdoor recreation in rugged natural areas is not always accessible to the general public, which may be intimidated by rugged areas or lack knowledge of how to navigate and enjoy these areas. In comparison, the Study Area has less general recreation facilities, including local parks, aquatic facilities, and sports facilities. Many Study Area residents commute long distances to Santa Clarita, Palmdale, Lancaster, and the Los Angeles Basin to access employment and specialized recreation opportunities.

KEY ANALYSIS TAKEAWAYS

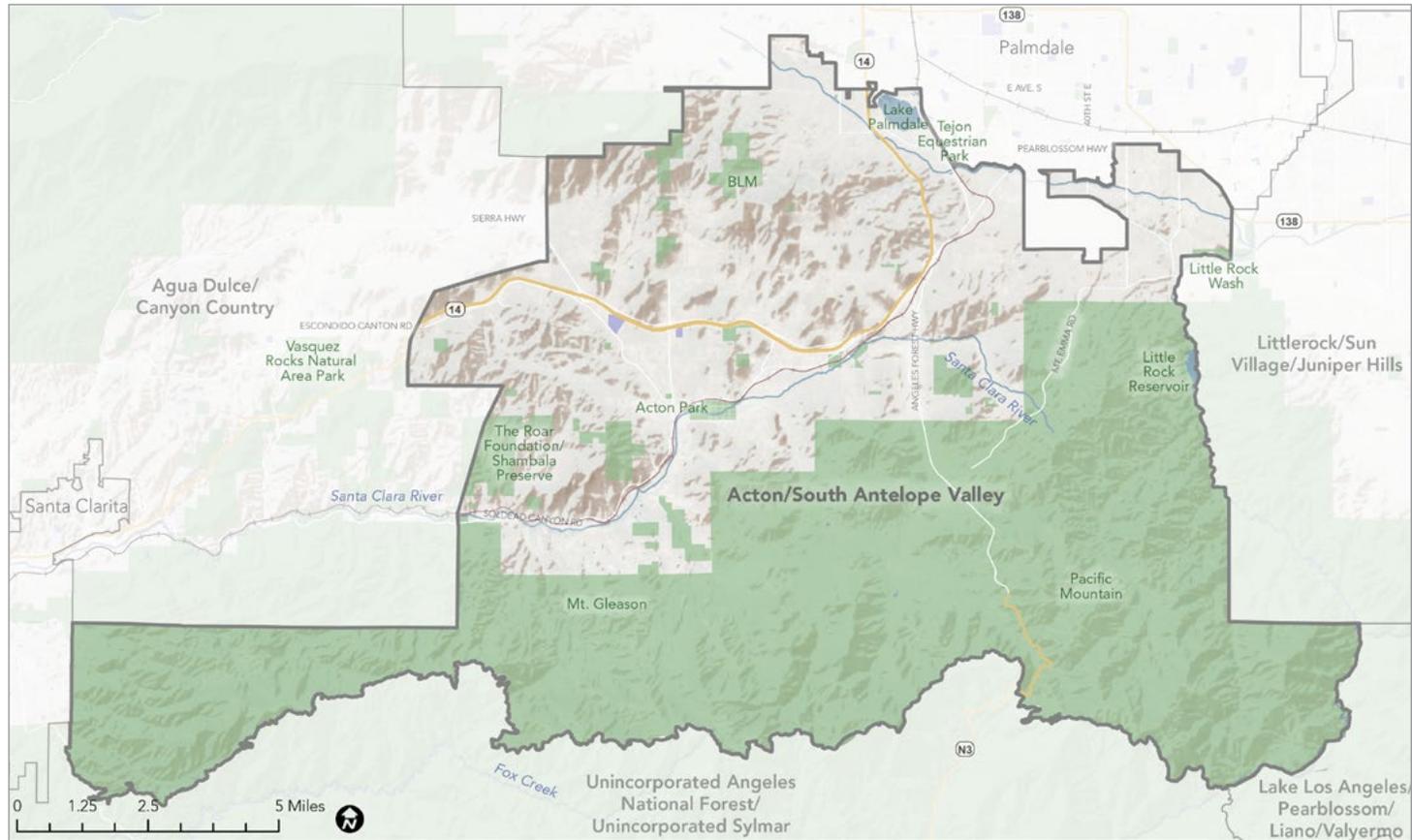
- » Transportation barriers are the most prevalent dimension of population vulnerability in the Study Area.
 - » Only 7% of residents live within walking distance of a rural recreation site.
 - » No rural recreation sites in the Study Area are served by public transit.
- » The majority of rural recreation site area in the Study Area falls under Nature-Based Recreation Area. The Study Area contains very few acres of Local Parks and Regional Recreational Parks relative to overall rural recreation site area.
- » Only a small proportion of Study Area residents (13.5%) live within a 5-mile drive of water-based recreation opportunities such as swimming pools and splash pads.
- » Residents of this Study Area have access to a limited range of rural recreation opportunity types.

KEY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TAKEAWAYS

- » Heat, distance, and safety are identified barriers to park use for residents who live in the Study Area.
- » Residents say they need more recreation facilities and green spaces, and that these facilities need to be affordable.
- » Greatest needs are for places to picnic or gather with friends and family; swim; be surrounded by nature; play; heated/cooled place to gather; drop in and play sports; hold cultural activities; and to enjoy lawn and trees.
- » Almost half of respondents are recreating outside more and almost 90% are looking to do that closer to home because of COVID.

In Fall 2021, the Friends of Acton Park conducted a survey to update community priorities for recreation from those identified in the 2016 PNA. Feedback was provided by paper survey, email, text, and through the Friends' Facebook page; respondents were asked to rank their top five elements. From the amenities listed, the most votes were cast for a swimming pool, which was the clear priority. Other amenities receiving strong support include tennis court, skateboard park, splash pad, shade trees and general shade, dog park, and extended walking paths. A variety of other amenities received support but to a lesser degree along with a few write in options.

ACTON/SOUTH ANTELOPE VALLEY RURAL STUDY AREA



Map source: PNA, 2016; US Census, 2019; Esri, 2021; MIG, 2021; LAC GIS, 2021; USGS NHD, 2021

Note: All Rural Study Area Profile maps in this chapter include and refer to the sources listed here as basemap layers.

STUDY AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

Population, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Income, Age, and Education Level

Population	
Total	11,937

Race	Percentage
White	77.12%
Black or African American	2.23%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.03%
Asian	4.82%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.33%
Some Other Race	12.22%
Two or More Races	3.23%
Total	100%

Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	22.92%
Not Hispanic or Latino	77.08%
Total	100%

Income	Percentage
Less than \$25,000	15.07%
\$25,000-\$49,999	12.78%
\$50,000-\$74,999	15.32%
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.75%
\$100,000-\$150,000	27.68%
\$150,000	16.4%
Total	100%

Gender	Percentage
Female	45.61%
Male	54.39%
Total	100%

Age	Percentage
Under 5 years	4.15%
5 to 9 years	3.52%
10 to 14 years	5.47%
15 to 19 years	5.57%
20 to 29 years	13.33%
30 to 39 years	7%
40 to 49 years	17.23%
50 to 59 years	22.3%
60 to 69 years	12.75%
70 to 79 years	3.5%
80+ years	3.08%
Total	100%

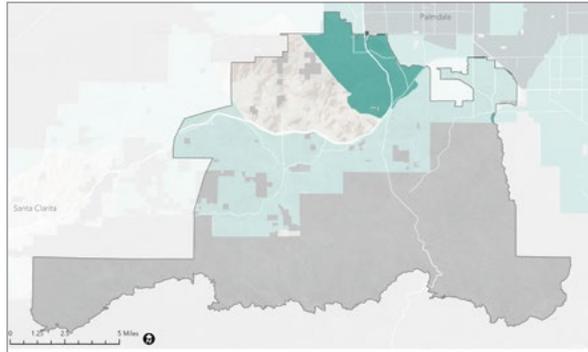
Education Level	Percentage
High School Diploma	23.7%
Some College, No Degree	30.2%
Associates Degree	11.03%
Bachelor's Degree	15.93%
Master's Degree	6.65%
Other	12.42%
Total	100%

Source: 2016 PNA, U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 ACS 5-year Estimate Subject Tables, See Technical Appendix for Census Tracts included in each Study Area.

Note: At the time that this report was prepared, 2020 Census results were not available.

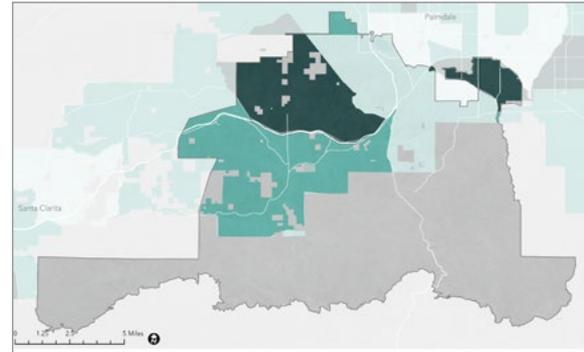
POPULATION VULNERABILITY DIMENSIONS

Social Barriers Dimension



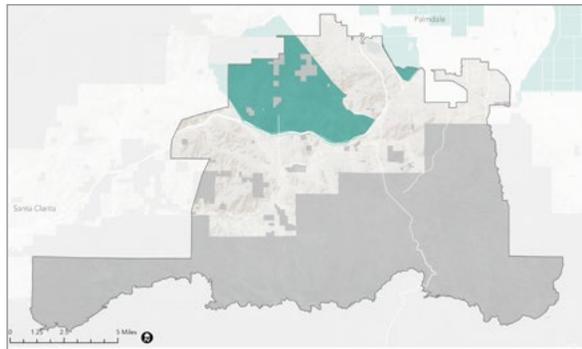
- Indicators:
- » High Poverty Rate
 - » High Unemployment Rate
 - » Majority-Minority Population
 - » High % of Young Children
 - » High % of Elderly Residents
 - » High % of Non-English-Speaking Residents
 - » Low % of Two-Parent Households

Transportation Barriers Dimension



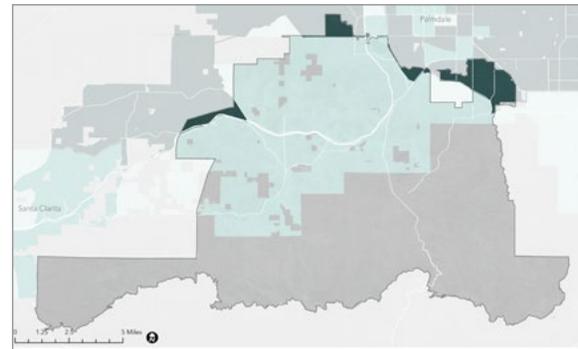
- Indicators:
- » Low Automobile Access
 - » Low Public Transit Access
 - » Low Active Commuting Rate
 - » High Traffic Density
 - » High Pedestrian Injuries

Health Vulnerability Dimension



- Indicators:
- » Low Park Access
 - » Low Tree Canopy
 - » High % Impervious Surface
 - » High Number of Excessive Heat Days
 - » High Urban Heat Island Index Score

Environmental Vulnerability Dimension



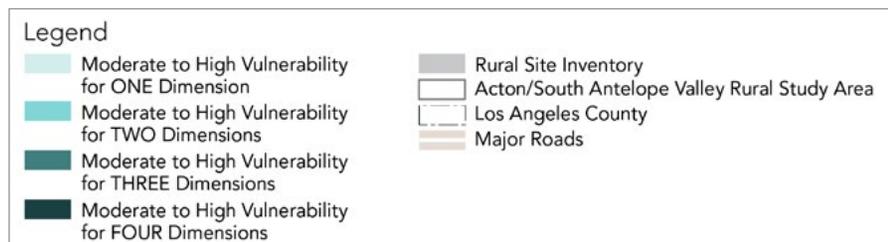
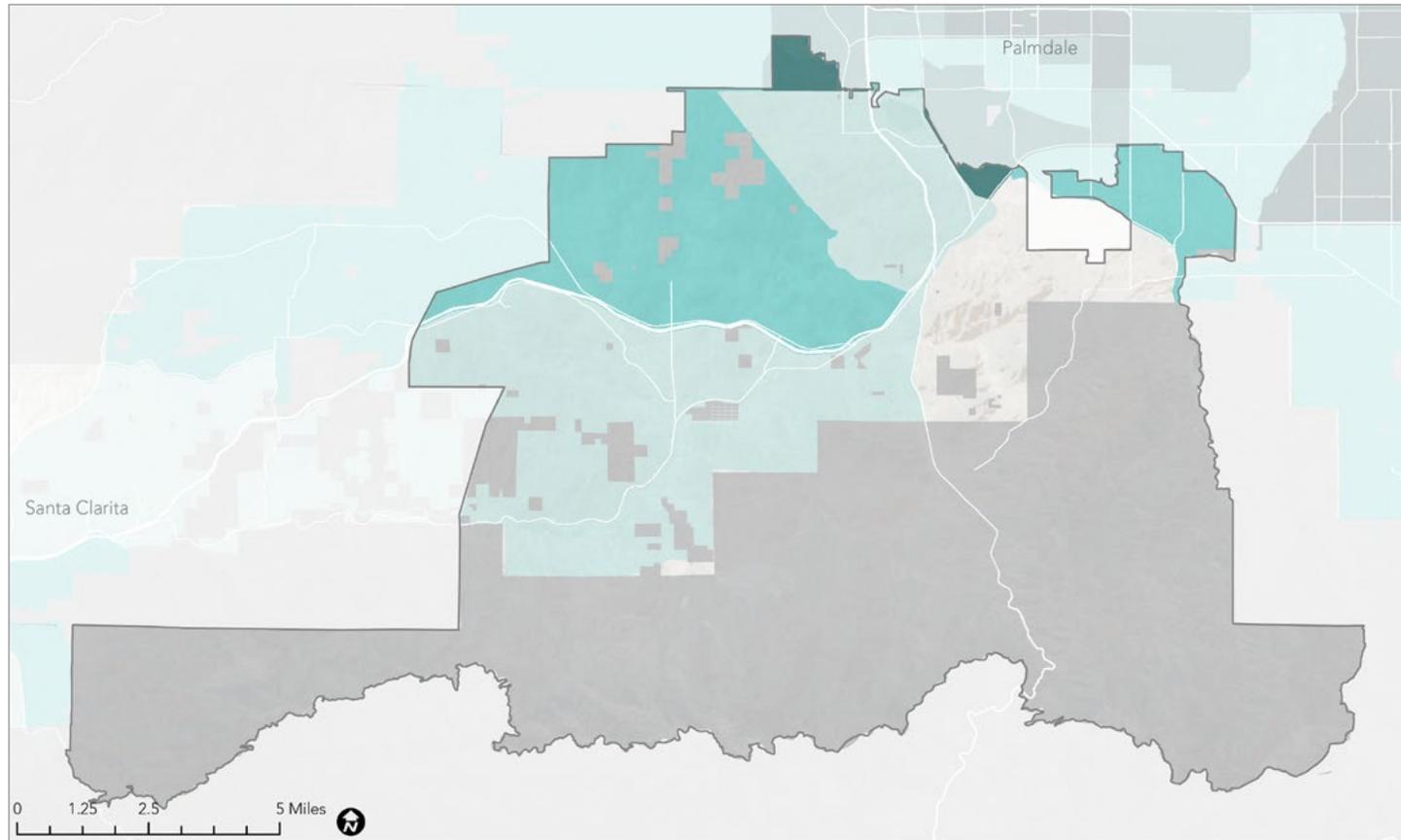
- Indicators:
- » Reduced Life Expectancy at Birth
 - » High Pollution Levels

Legend

- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Rural Site Inventory
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

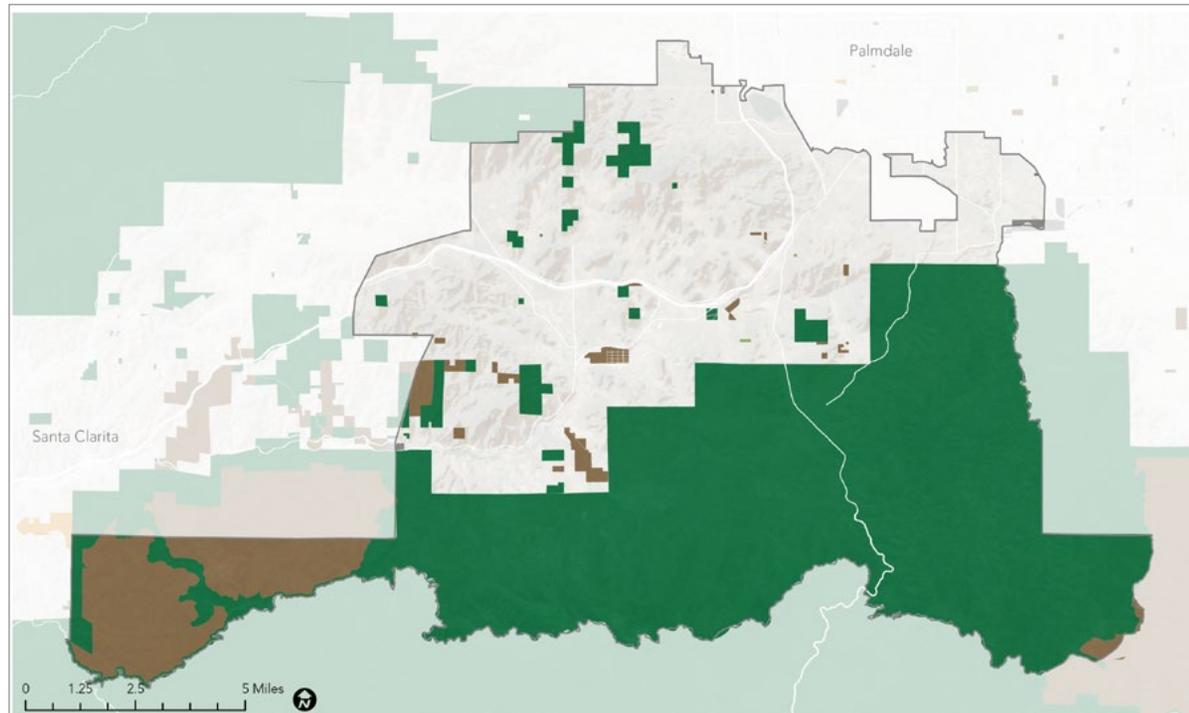
Maps source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

COMPOSITE POPULATION VULNERABILITY

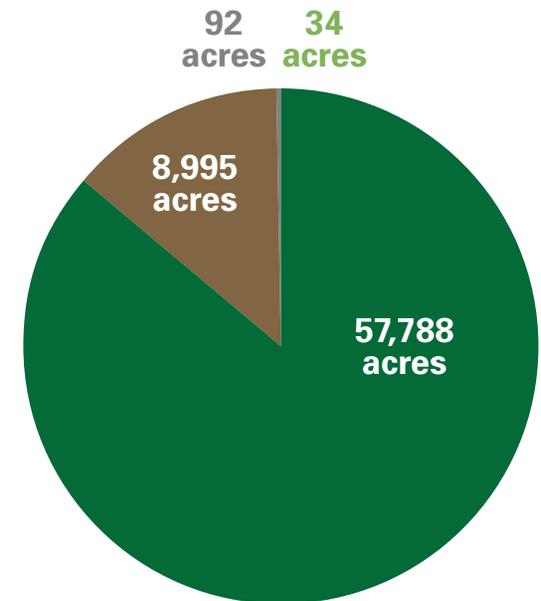


Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

RURAL SITE INVENTORY



Map source: 2021 RRE Inventory





66,910

TOTAL ACRES OF RURAL RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AREA LAND LOCATED WITHIN THE STUDY AREA



58.1%

OF THE TOTAL LAND AREA WITHIN THE STUDY AREA IS RURAL RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AREA LAND



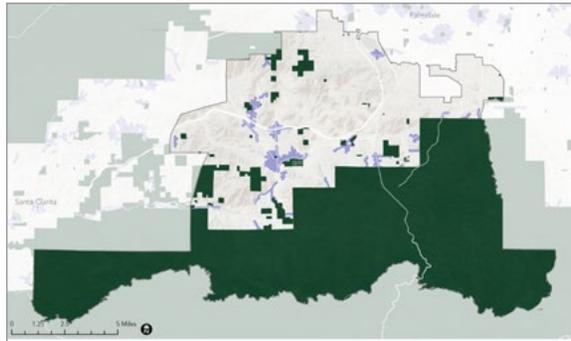
5,605

ACRES OF RURAL RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AREA LAND PER 1000 STUDY AREA RESIDENTS

- REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS
- NATURE-BASED RECREATION AREAS
- REGIONAL SPECIALIZED RECREATION AREAS
- CONSERVATION AREAS
- OTHER PUBLIC AND SEMI-PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
- LOCAL PARKS

RURAL RECREATION SITE ACCESS

Walking Distance (0.5 miles from entry)

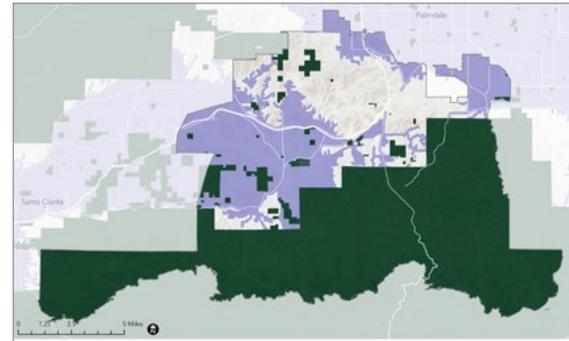


7% 
OF STUDY AREA
RESIDENTS LIVE
WITHIN WALKING
DISTANCE
OF A RURAL
RECREATION SITE

Legend

- Areas within a 0.5-mile walk of a Rural Recreation Site
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Rural Recreation Site
- Major Roads

Cycling Distance (2.5 miles from entry)

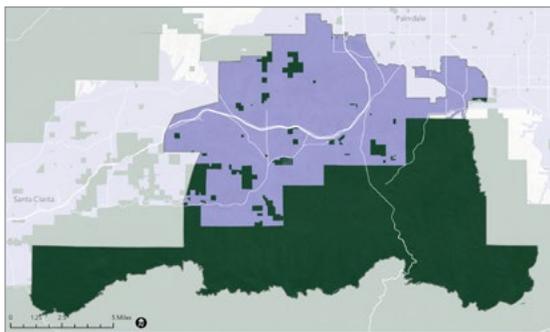


65% 
OF STUDY AREA
RESIDENTS LIVE
WITHIN CYCLING
DISTANCE
OF A RURAL
RECREATION SITE

Legend

- Areas within a 2.5-mile bicycle ride of a Rural Recreation Site
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Rural Recreation Site
- Major Roads

Driving Distance (5 miles from entry)

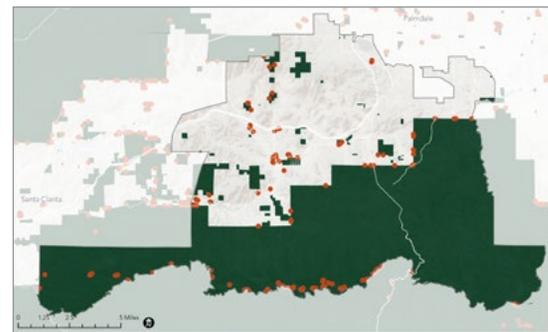


100% 
OF STUDY AREA
RESIDENTS LIVE
WITHIN DRIVING
DISTANCE
OF A RURAL
RECREATION SITE

Legend

- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Rural Recreation Site
- Major Roads

Transit Service (entry is within 0.5 miles of transit stop)



0% 
OF RURAL
RECREATION
SITES ARE
SERVED BY
PUBLIC TRANSIT

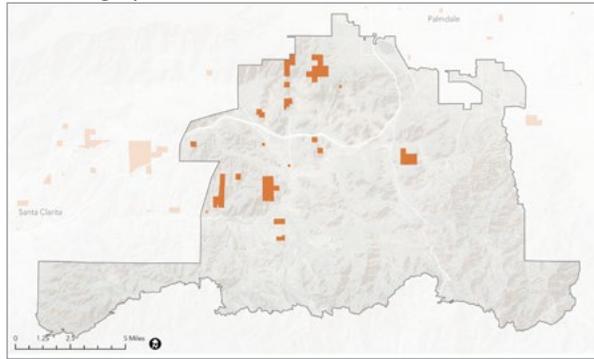
Legend

- Entry Point Served by Public Transit (located within a half mile of a Transit Stop)
- Entry Point Not Served by Public Transit (not located within a half mile of a Transit Stop)
- Rural Recreation Site
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Maps source: ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

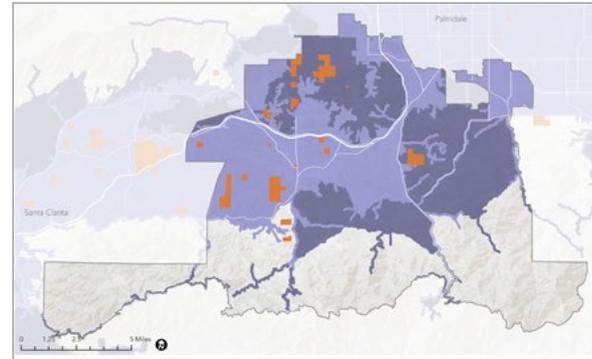
Gathering Spaces



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Gathering Spaces
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Gathering Spaces

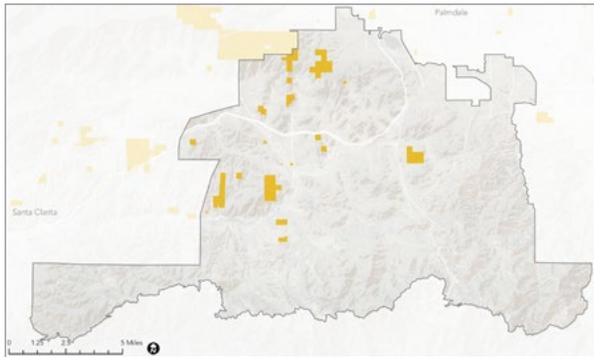


75.3%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

Legend

- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Gathering Spaces
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Gathering Spaces
- Rural Recreation Sites with Gathering Spaces
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

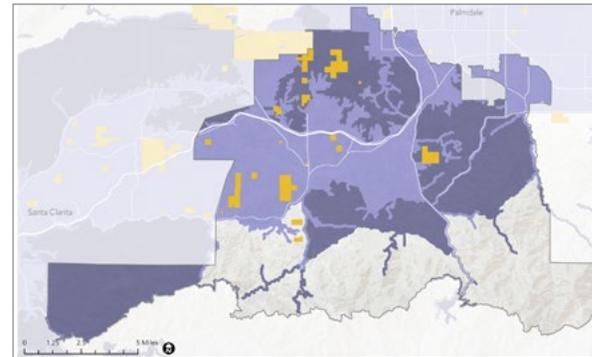
Sports Facilities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Sports Facilities
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Sports Facilities



75.8%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

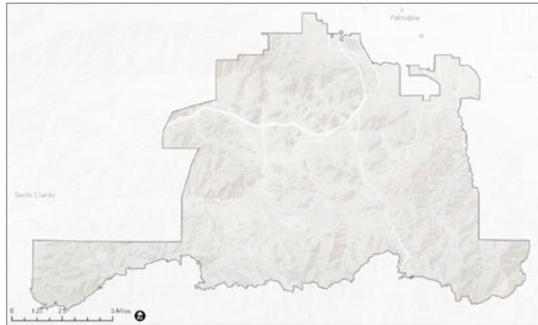
Legend

- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Sports Facilities
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Sports Facilities
- Rural Recreation Sites with Sports Facilities
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Maps source: PNA, 2016; ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

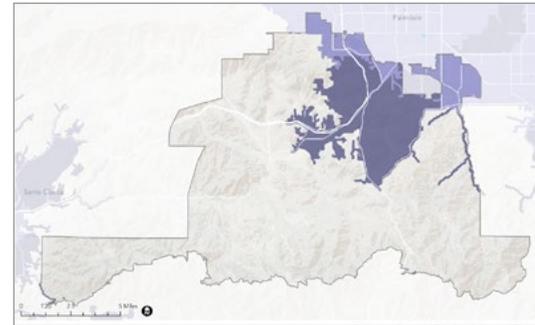
Water-Based Recreation



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Water-Based Recreation
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Water-Based Recreation

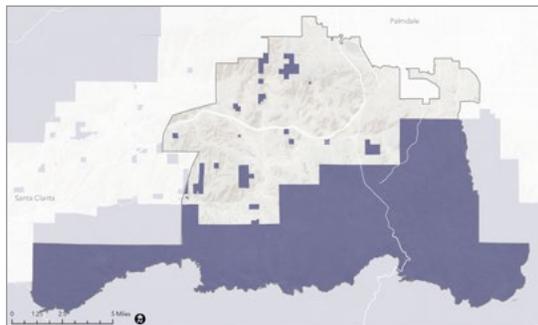


13.5%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

Legend

- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Water-Based Recreation
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Water-Based Recreation
- Rural Recreation Sites with Water-Based Recreation
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

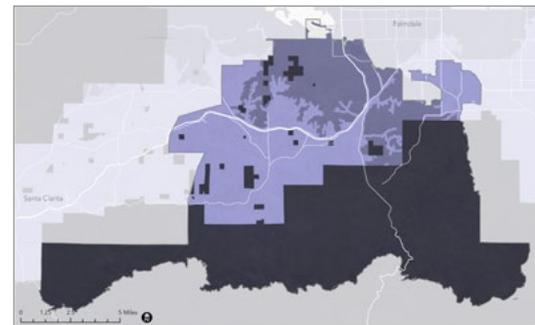
Overnight Accommodations



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Overnight Accommodations
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Overnight Accommodations



64.9%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

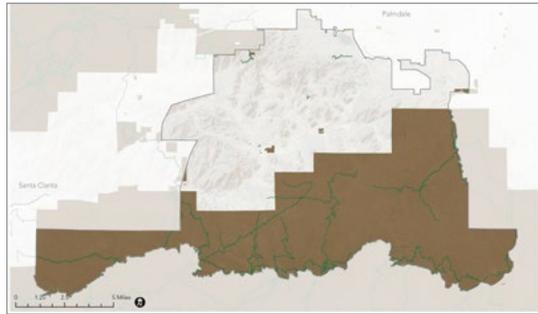
Legend

- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Overnight Accommodations
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Overnight Accommodations
- Rural Recreation Sites with Overnight Accommodations
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Maps source: PNA, 2016; ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

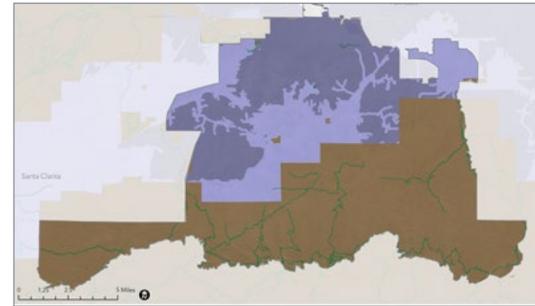
Trails and Pathways



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Trails and Pathways
- Regional Trails
- Regional Bikeways
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Trails and Pathways

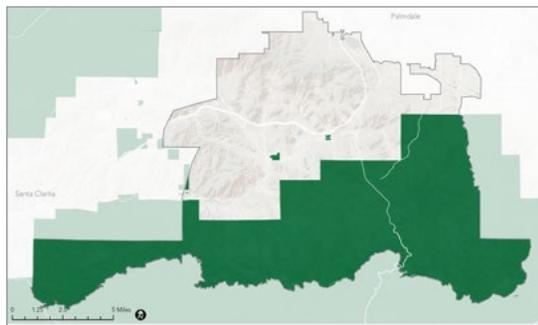


50.9%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

Legend

- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Trails and Pathways
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Trails and Pathways
- Rural Recreation Sites with Trails and Pathways
- Regional Trails
- Regional Bikeways
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

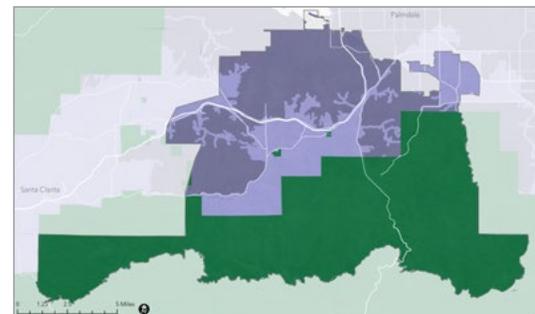
Experiential Learning Opportunities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Experiential Learning Opportunities



49.1%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

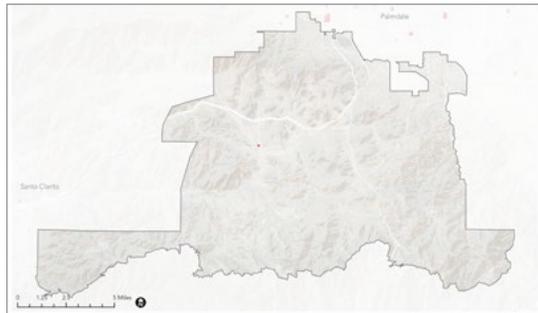
Legend

- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Rural Recreation Sites with Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Maps source: PNA, 2016; ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

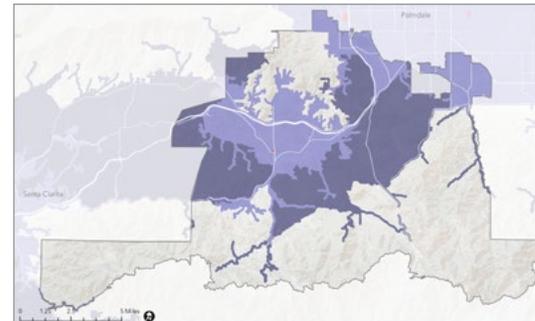
General Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with General Recreation Facilities
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With General Recreation Facilities

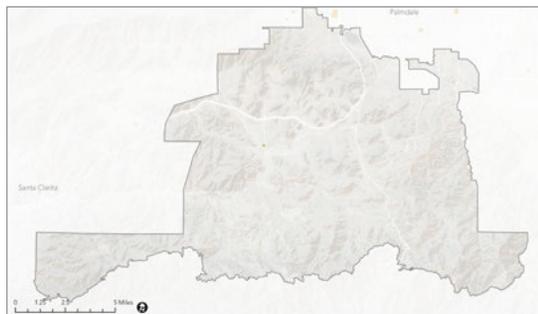


61.1%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

Legend

- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with General Recreation Facilities
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with General Recreation Facilities
- Rural Recreation Sites with General Recreation Facilities
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

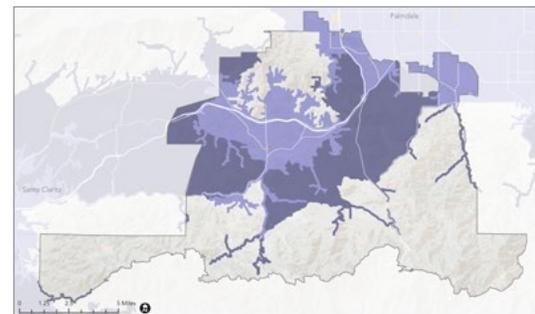
Health and Fitness Facilities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Health and Fitness Facilities
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Health and Fitness Facilities



61.1%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

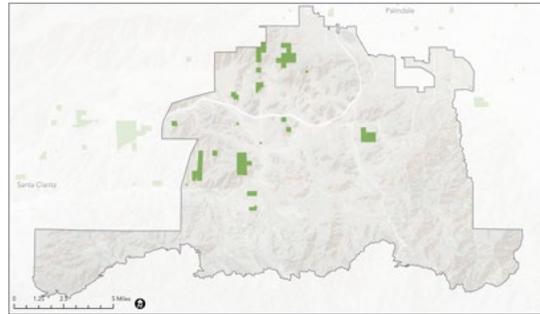
Legend

- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Health and Fitness Facilities
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Health and Fitness Facilities
- Rural Recreation Sites with Health and Fitness Facilities
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Maps source: PNA, 2016; ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

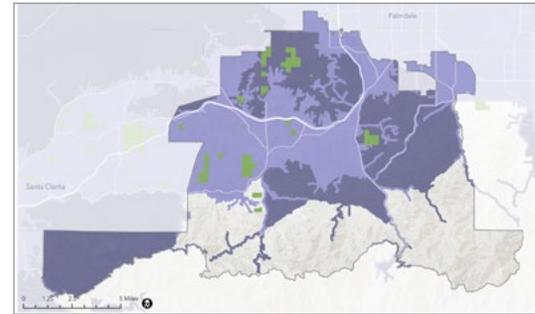
Support Facilities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Support Facilities
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Support Facilities



75.8%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Support Facilities
- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Support Facilities
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Support Facilities
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Maps source: PNA, 2016; ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THEMES

BARRIERS RESIDENTS EXPERIENCE TO USING PARKS AND FACILITIES



SAFETY CONCERNS

Residents don't feel safe at parks. Better trail connectivity and safer riding opportunities along busy streets are needed.



HEAT

Heat, especially in summer, limits what people can do outside.



LIMITED ACCESS TO WATER

There is a lack of water facilities and features like water fountains, swimming pools and splash pads to keep residents cool and hydrated in hot months. Desert trails are dry and lack greenery.



LACK OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING

Nearby parks lack tennis courts and swimming pools, and provide few activities for residents to participate in.



DISTANCE

Many residents and families have to travel long distances to parks and facilities.



LIMITED HOURS

Facilities are not open when people can use them.

“The hours at parks with water are limited and closes when I am coming home from work.”

“Trails are not connected. It's too hard and dangerous to ride by busy streets.”

“Gym membership is too expensive and indoor gyms seem unsafe at the moment.”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THEMES

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE VISITS TO RURAL PARKS AND FACILITIES



ACCESS TO WATER

Additional water facilities and features like swimming pools and splash pads to keep residents cool in hot months.



EXPANDED RECREATION FACILITIES

More tennis and pickleball courts, swimming facilities, skate parks, public gym equipment, and indoor playgrounds.



MORE CULTURAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

More community events and cultural activities.



MORE TRAILS FOR EQUESTRIAN AND PEDESTRIAN USE

Additional trails for horseback riding and walking.



MORE SHADE

Shaded seating, play areas and walking trails, and more trees between and around parks.



IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE

More places to sit, gather with friends and family, and walk dogs.

“Places with comfortable seating to read and draw and to do homework.”

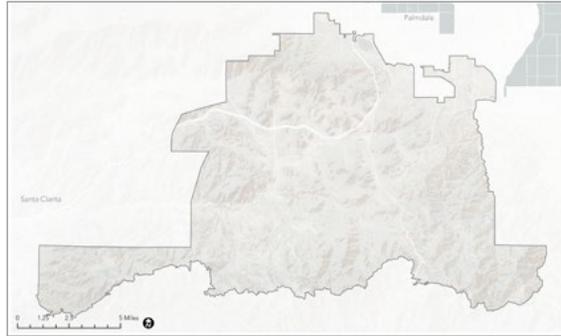
“I would like to see some of the open spaces in the desert surrounded by big green pines, grand firs, spruce trees with a walking trail, lake and a play area for kids.”

“Available public gym equipment for exercising, with sun protection to prevent the equipment from heating up.”

“A tennis court- Acton Park has no tennis court. The community wants to play and also start a pickleball club.”

RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY ANALYSIS

Areas Experiencing the Highest Levels of Overall Population Vulnerability



**High Levels
of Social and
Transportation
Barriers**



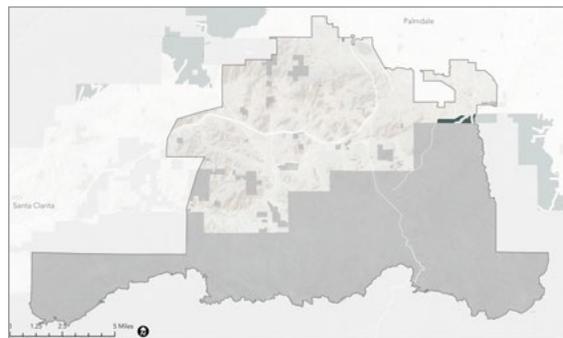
**High Levels
of Health and
Environmental
Vulnerability**

Legend

- Areas of Moderate to High Vulnerability Across All Four Dimensions
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

Areas Located in Low Proximity to Rural Recreation Sites



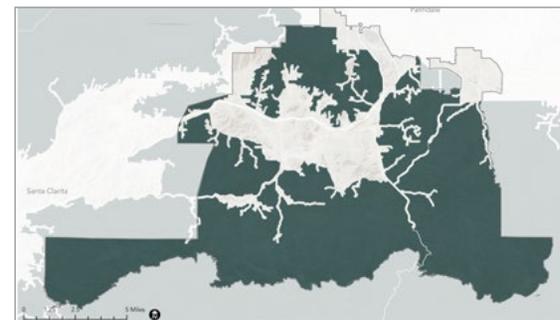
**Low
Proximity
to Rural
Recreation
Sites**

Legend

- Areas in Low Proximity to Rural Recreation Sites (beyond a 5-mile drive to any Regional Recreation Park Entry Points, Nature-Based Recreation Area Entry Points or Local Park Entry Points)
- Rural Site Inventory
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Map source: ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

Areas With Access to the Fewest Recreation Opportunity Types



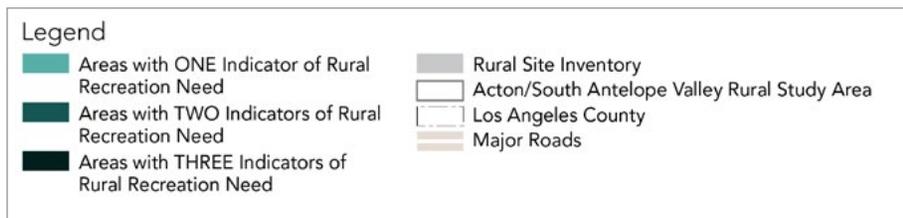
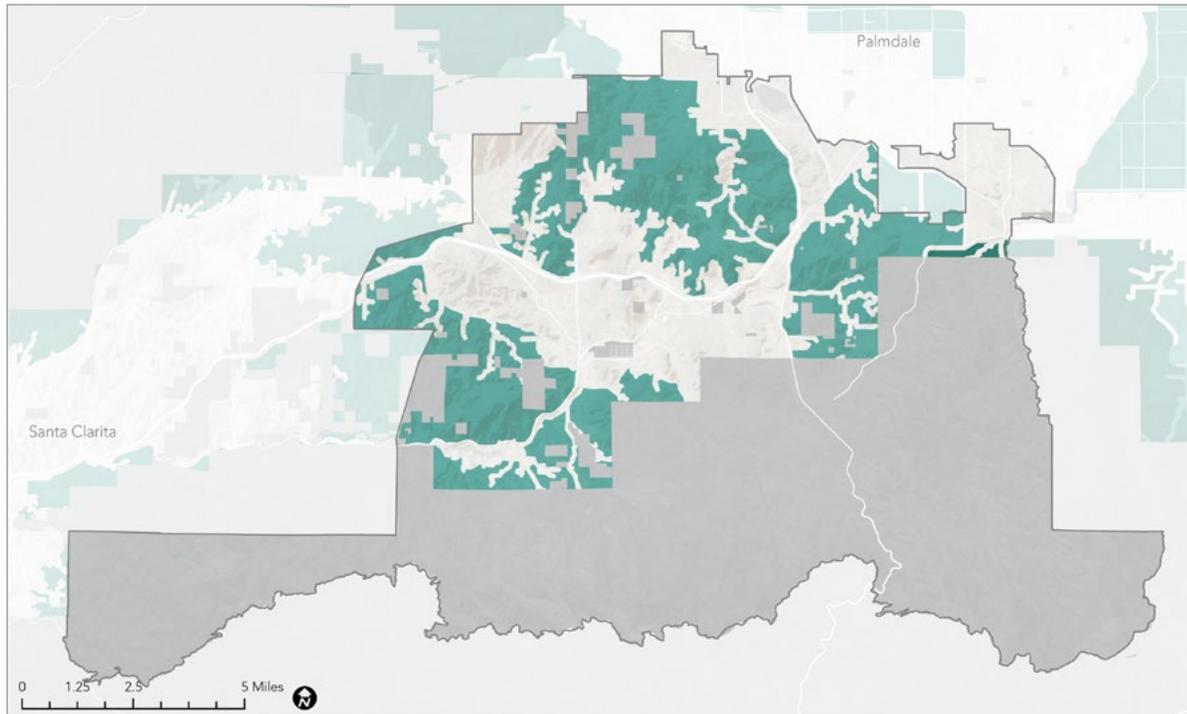
**Proximity
to Fewest
Recreation
Opportunity
Types**

Legend

- Areas in proximity (5-mile driving distance) to THREE OR FEWER Rural Recreation Opportunity Types
- Acton/South Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Map source: ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY AREAS

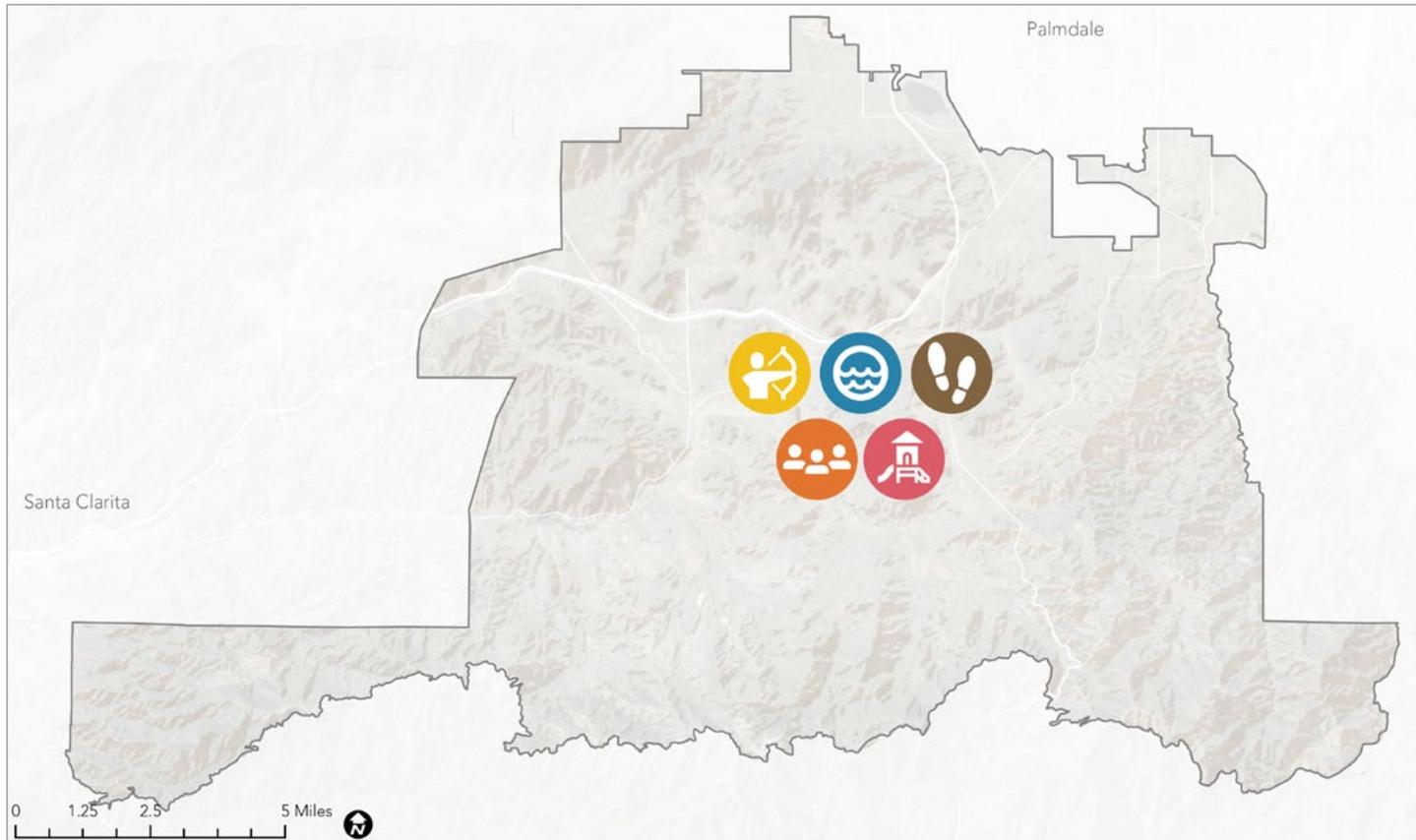


Areas with:



Map source: HPI, 2021; ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES



PRIORITY PROJECTS

- » Swimming Pool
- » Skatepark
- » Splash Pad
- » Tennis Court
- » Walking Path
- » Shade Trees and Structures
- » Dog Park
- » Trails

Legend

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gathering Spaces | Overnight Accommodations |
| Sports Facilities | General Recreation |
| Experiential Learning Opportunities | Health and Fitness |
| Water-Based Recreation | Support Facilities |
| Trails and Pathways | |

Map source: PNA, 2016

Note: Priority projects are based on lists of priority projects from the 2016 PNA and updated public input gathered as part of 2022 RRE.