

we all need



PNA+

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.)

AGUA DULCE/CANYON COUNTRY RURAL STUDY AREA PROFILE

RURAL STUDY AREA ID #6 / PNA STUDY AREA ID #10

- » 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 Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Study Area is located in the Santa Clarita Valley Regional Study Area. The Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Study Area is bordered by the northern Sierra Pelona Mountains to the north, the City of Palmdale and southern Antelope Valley to the east, the City of Santa Clarita and the San Gabriel Mountains to the south, and the Sierra Pelona and Topatopa Mountains to the west. The Study Area encompasses approximately 242 square miles. The unincorporated communities of Agua Dulce, Green Valley, Sleepy Valley, Canyon Country, and Forest Park are located in the Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Study Area.

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 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 to Santa Clarita, Palmdale, Lancaster, and the Los Angeles Basin to access employment and specialized recreation opportunities.

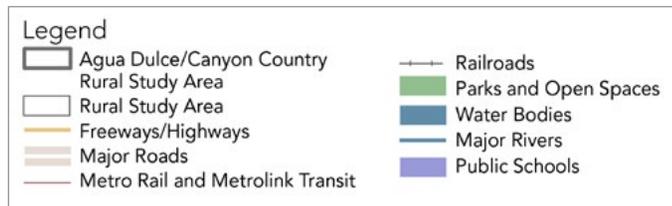
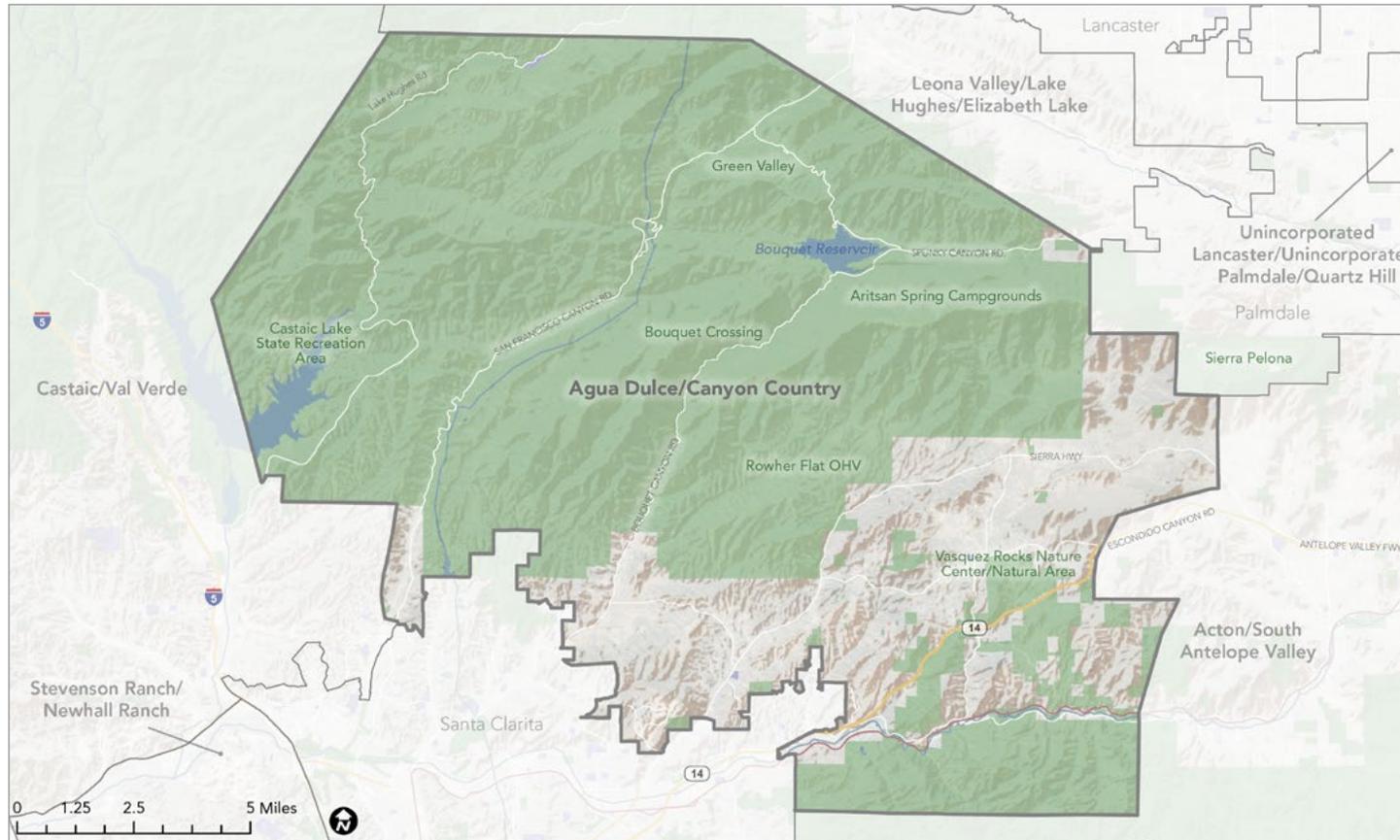
KEY ANALYSIS TAKEAWAYS

- » Environmental vulnerability is the most prevalent dimension of population vulnerability in the Study Area.
- » Only 10% of residents live within walking distance of a rural recreation site.
- » Only 3% rural recreation sites in the Study Area are served by public transit.
- » A small proportion of Study Area residents live within a 5-mile drive of water-based recreation (16.5%), general recreation facilities (26.3%), and health and fitness facilities (26.3%).
- » The Study Area has access to few recreation opportunity types.

KEY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TAKEAWAYS

- » Distance, time, and lack of nearby facilities and amenities are identified barriers to park use for residents who live in the Study Area.
- » Residents say they need more recreation facilities and green spaces nearby, and trails that are horse-friendly.
- » Greatest needs are for places to play and bring animals to exercise; gather with friends and family; and to be surrounded by nature.

AGUA DULCE/CANYON COUNTRY 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	9,866

Race	Percentage
White	74.85%
Black or African American	3.04%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.99%
Asian	7.24%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Some Other Race	6.04%
Two or More Races	7.77%
Total	100%

Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	23.75%
Not Hispanic or Latino	76.25%
Total	100%

Income	Percentage
Less than \$25,000	12.9%
\$25,000-\$49,999	16.36%
\$50,000-\$74,999	16.65%
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.54%
\$100,000-\$150,000	20.88%
\$150,000	21.72%
Total	100%

Gender	Percentage
Female	44.1%
Male	55.9%
Total	100%

Age	Percentage
Under 5 years	4.59%
5 to 9 years	3.65%
10 to 14 years	6.88%
15 to 19 years	8.35%
20 to 29 years	12.1%
30 to 39 years	12.36%
40 to 49 years	18.67%
50 to 59 years	16.07%
60 to 69 years	10.62%
70 to 79 years	3.5%
80+ years	1.64%
Total	100%

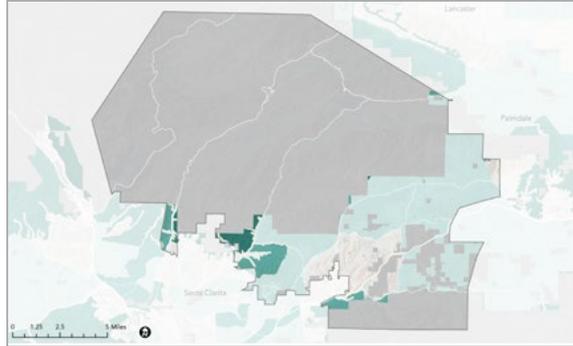
Education Level	Percentage
High School Diploma	22.83%
Some College, No Degree	29.28%
Associates Degree	8.92%
Bachelor's Degree	18.15%
Master's Degree	7.58%
Other	13.27%
Total	100%

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

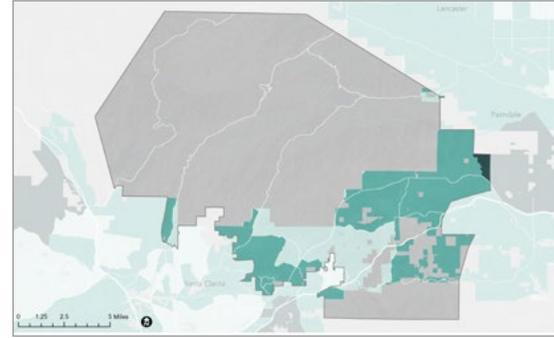
Social Barriers Dimension



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

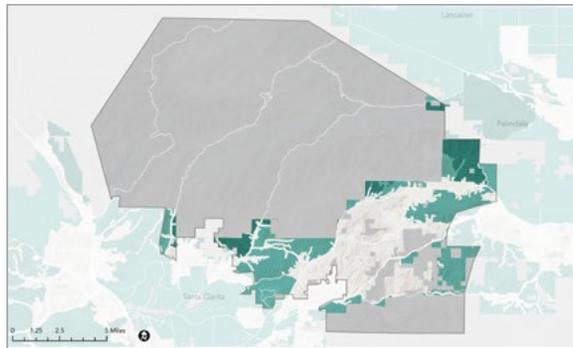
Transportation Barriers Dimension



Indicators:

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

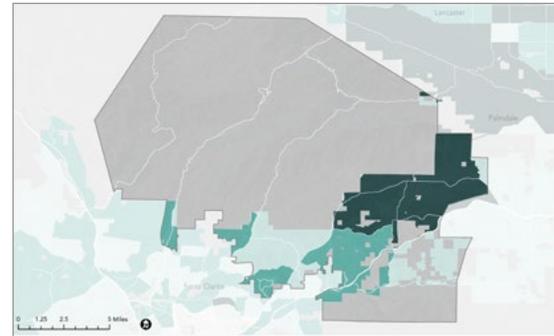
Health Vulnerability Dimension



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



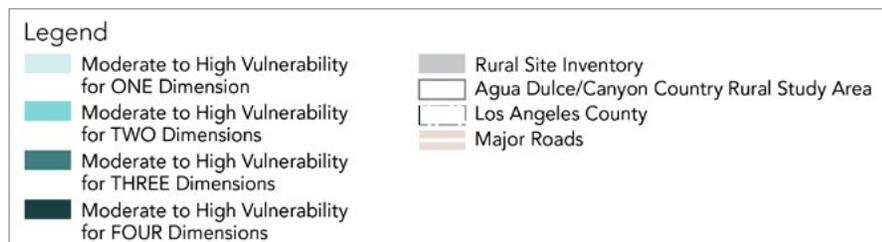
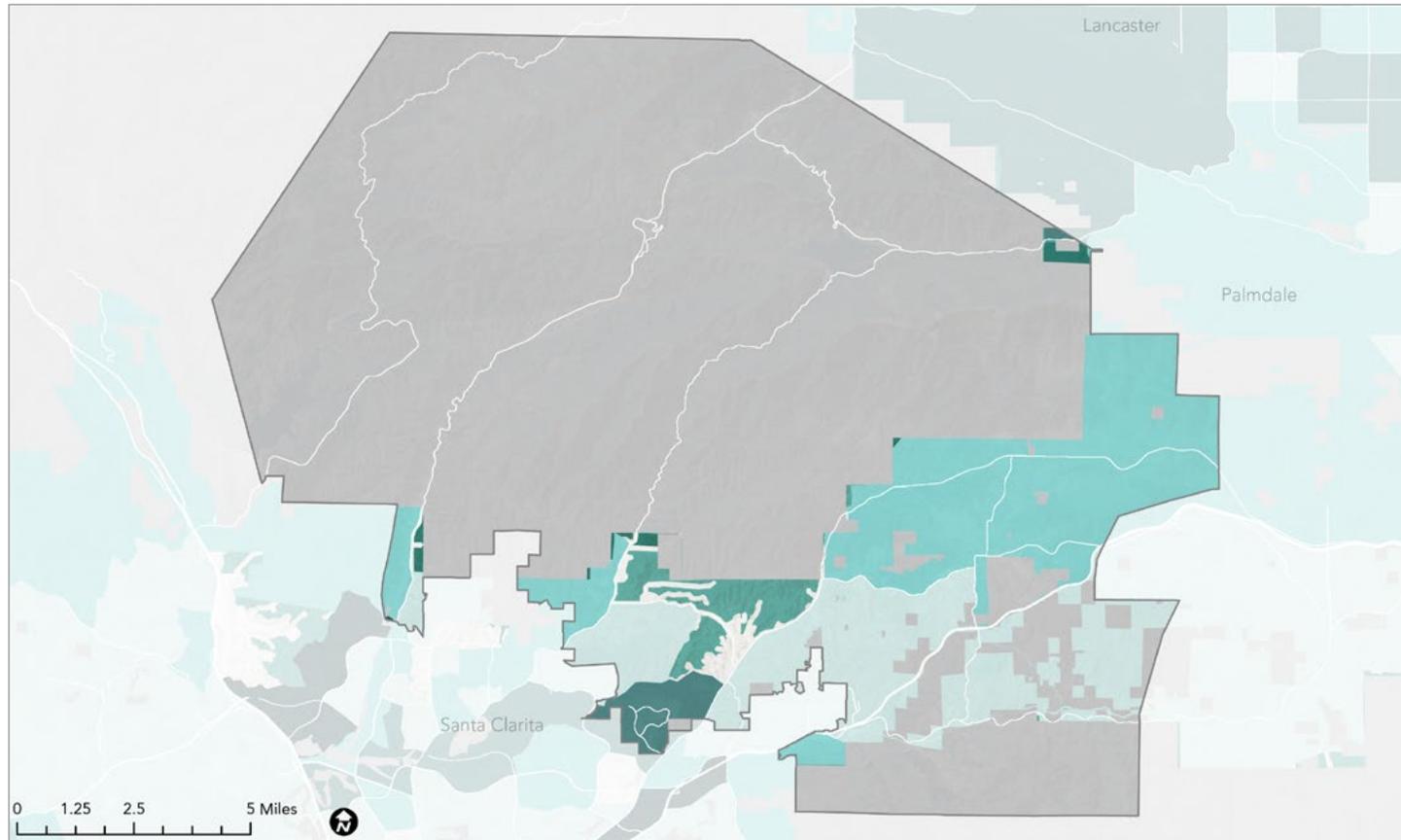
Indicators:

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

Maps source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

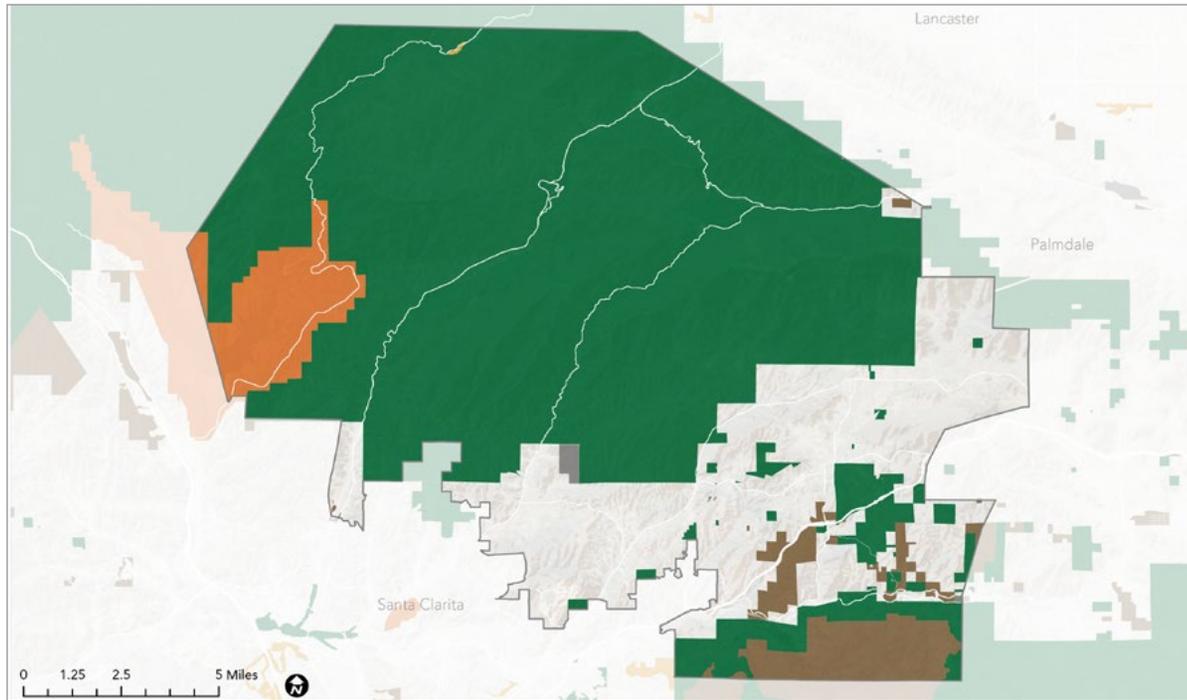


COMPOSITE POPULATION VULNERABILITY

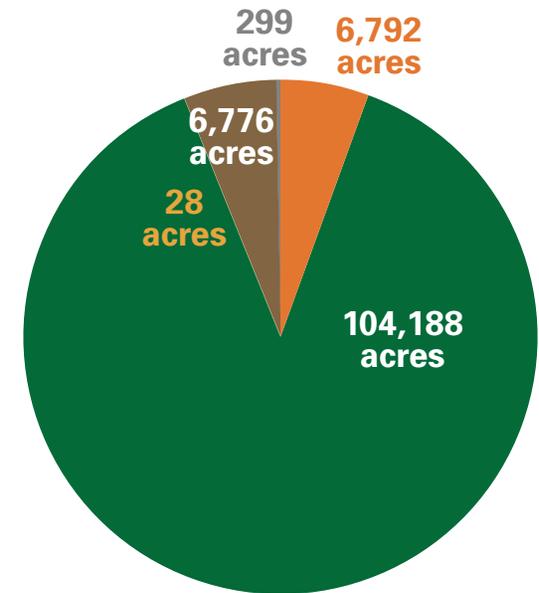


Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

RURAL SITE INVENTORY



Map source: 2021 RRE Inventory





118,082

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



76.2%

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



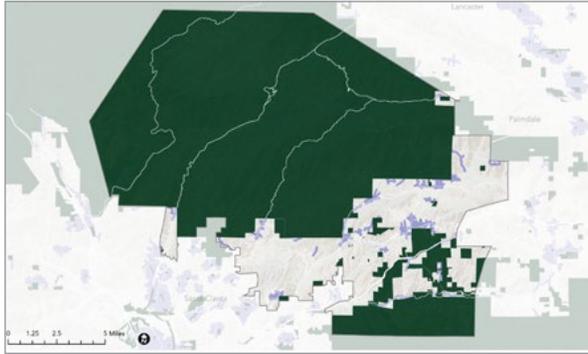
11,969

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)

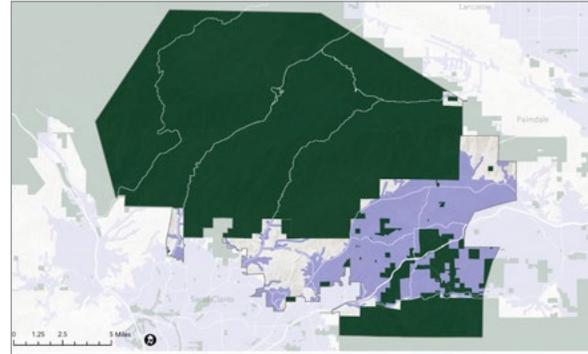


10% 
OF STUDY AREA
RESIDENTS LIVE
WITHIN WALKING
DISTANCE
OF A RURAL
RECREATION SITE

Legend

-  Areas within a 0.5-mile walk of a Rural Recreation Site
-  Rural Recreation Site
-  Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
-  Los Angeles County
-  Major Roads

Cycling Distance (2.5 miles from entry)

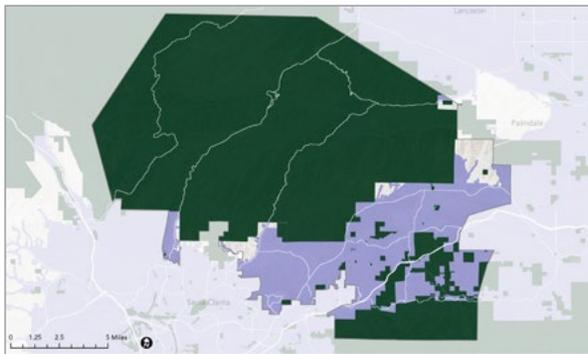


60% 
OF STUDY AREA
RESIDENTS LIVE
WITHIN CYCLING
DISTANCE
OF A RURAL
RECREATION SITE

Legend

-  Areas within a 2.5-mile bicycle ride of a Rural Recreation Site
-  Rural Recreation Site
-  Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
-  Los Angeles County
-  Major Roads

Driving Distance (5 miles from entry)

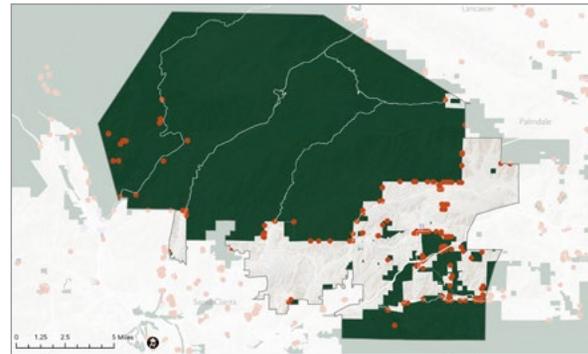


82% 
OF STUDY AREA
RESIDENTS LIVE
WITHIN DRIVING
DISTANCE
OF A RURAL
RECREATION SITE

Legend

-  Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site
-  Rural Recreation Site
-  Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
-  Los Angeles County
-  Major Roads

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



3% 
OF RURAL
RECREATION
SITES ARE
SERVED BY
PUBLIC TRANSIT

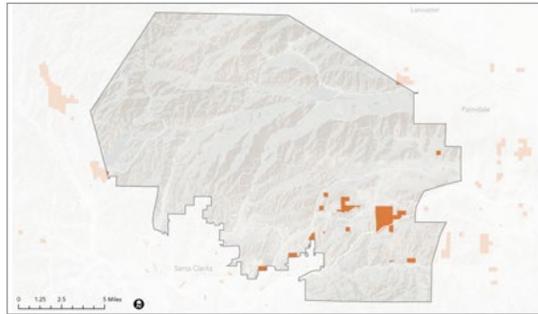
Legend

-  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
-  Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
-  Los Angeles County
-  Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

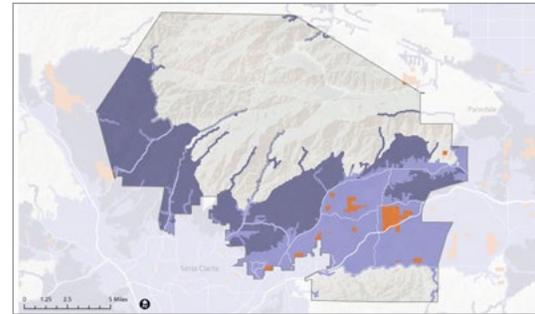
Gathering Spaces



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Gathering Spaces
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Gathering Spaces

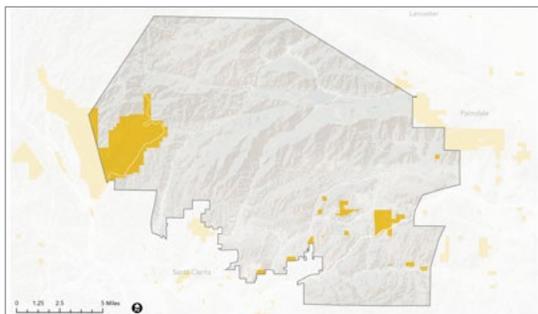


59.3%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

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
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

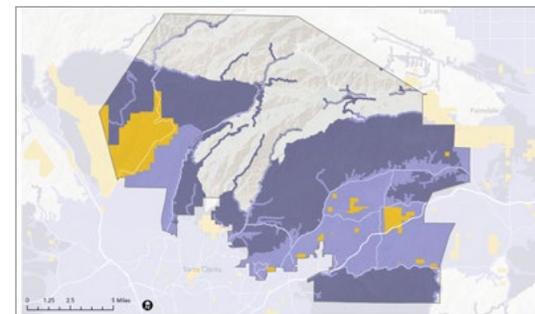
Sports Facilities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Sports Facilities
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Sports Facilities



63.2%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

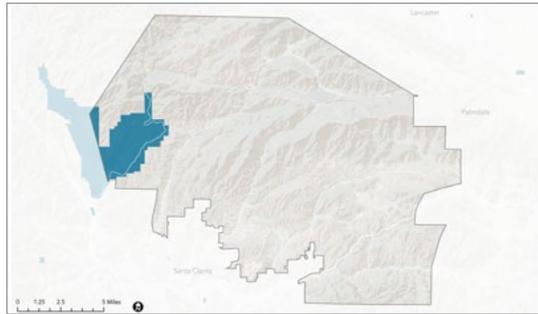
Legend

- 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
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country 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

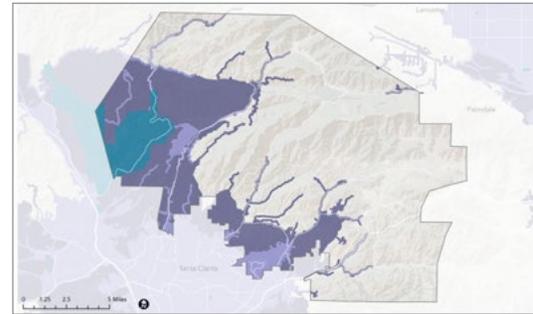


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Water-Based Recreation
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

There are no sites with water-based recreation in this Study Area.

Proximity to Sites With Water-Based Recreation

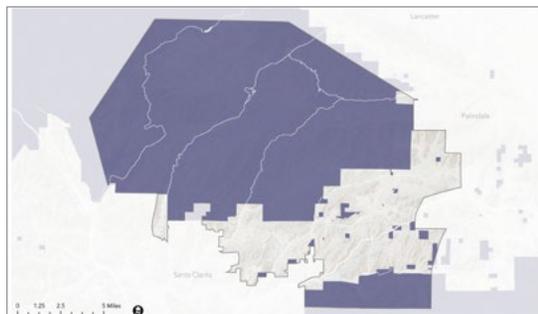


16.5%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

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
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

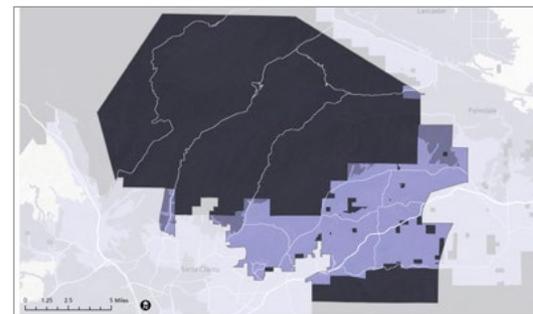
Overnight Accommodations



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Overnight Accommodations
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Overnight Accommodations



80.2%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

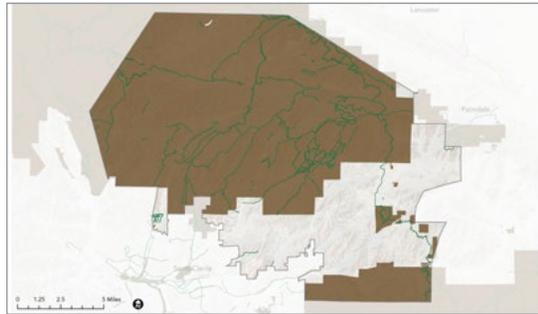
Legend

- 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
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

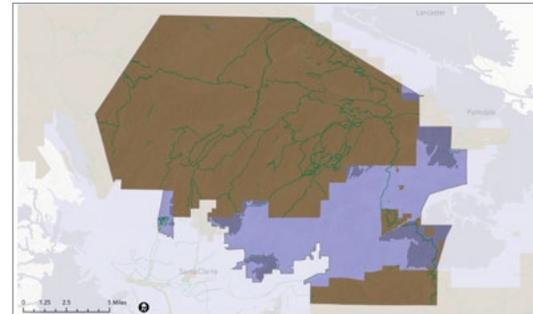
Trails and Pathways



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Trails and Pathways
- Regional Trails
- Regional Bikeways
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Trails and Pathways



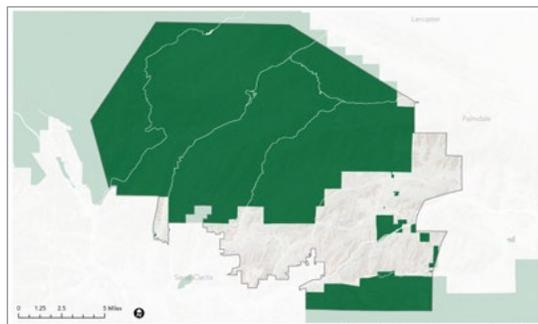
78.0%

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
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

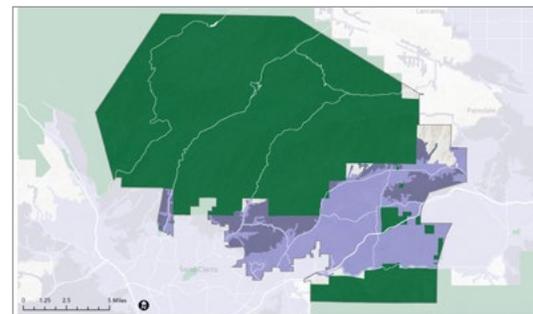
Experiential Learning Opportunities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Experiential Learning Opportunities



76.1%

OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

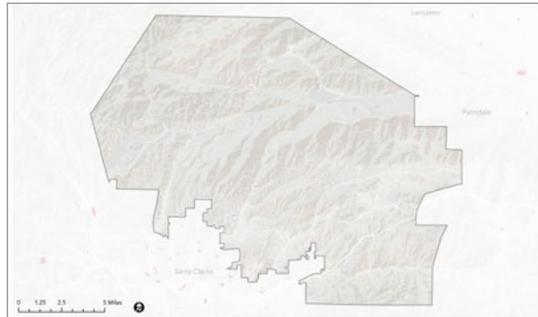
Legend

- 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
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country 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

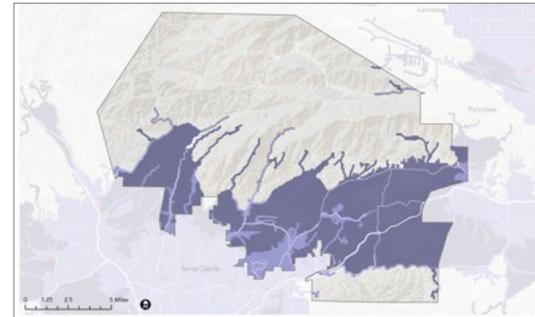


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with General Recreation Facilities
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

There are no sites with General Recreation Facilities in this Study Area.

Proximity to Sites With General Recreation Facilities

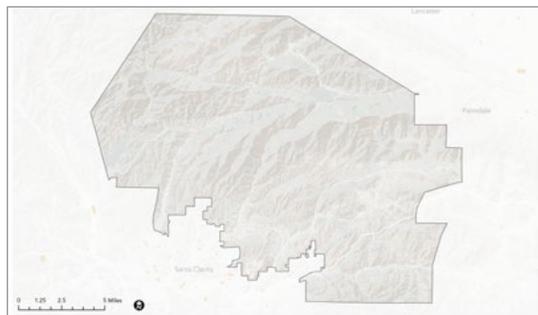


26.3%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

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
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Health and Fitness Facilities

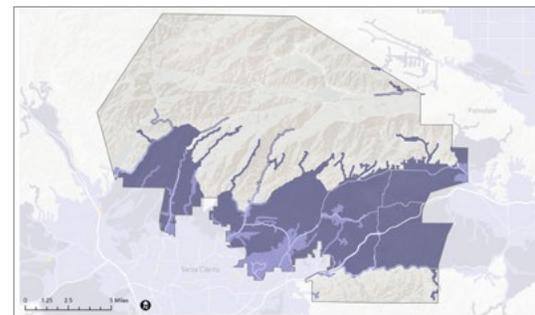


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Health and Fitness Facilities
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

There are no sites with Health and Fitness Facilities in this Study Area.

Proximity to Sites With Health and Fitness Facilities



26.3%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

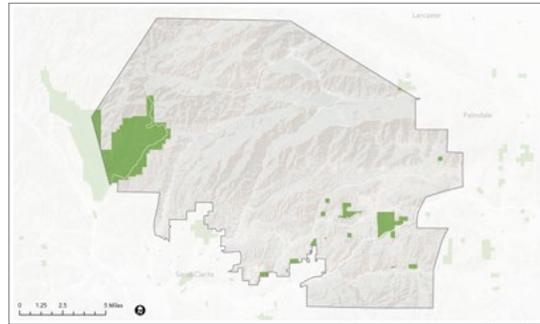
Legend

- 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
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

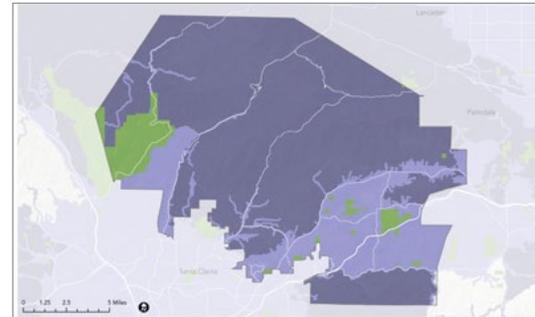
Support Facilities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Support Facilities
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Support Facilities



63.0%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

Legend

- 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
- Rural Recreation Sites with Support Facilities
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country 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



DISTANCE

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



TIME

Residents don't have time to travel to and/or use parks and facilities.



NOT ENOUGH MAINTENANCE AT PARKS AND FACILITIES

Park facilities and trails need repairs, maintenance and restoration.



LACK OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING

Nearby parks lack tennis courts, sports fields, gathering spaces, and safe trails for horses, and provide few activities for residents to participate in.



LACK OF CONNECTIVITY

Not enough trail networks or safe biking and pedestrian options to get to parks.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THEMES

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



EXPAND ACCESS TO GREEN SPACE

More trees and pocket parks, native habitat gardens and natural open space open to the public.



MORE RECREATION FACILITIES

Extend facilities hours, provide more bike paths, and build additional tennis and pickleball courts, sports fields, playgrounds, gathering spaces, and places to exercise dogs.



IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE

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



MORE TRAILS FOR EQUESTRIAN AND PEDESTRIAN USE

Additional trails for horse riding, and walking trails.



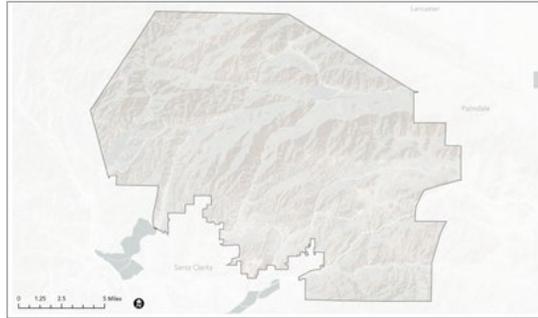
ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

Provide greenways and trail networks that connect parks and provide safe transportation corridors for bicyclists, equestrians and pedestrians.

“There is no community park in Agua Dulce to take my children to. We have to travel to Acton or Canyon Country to use a playground. ... Agua Dulce needs a park that its community can enjoy.”

RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY ANALYSIS

Areas Experiencing the Highest Levels of Overall Population Vulnerability

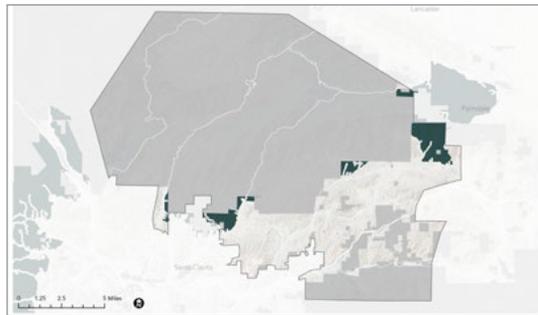


Legend

- Areas of Moderate to High Vulnerability Across All Four Dimensions
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

Areas Located in Low Proximity to Rural Recreation Sites

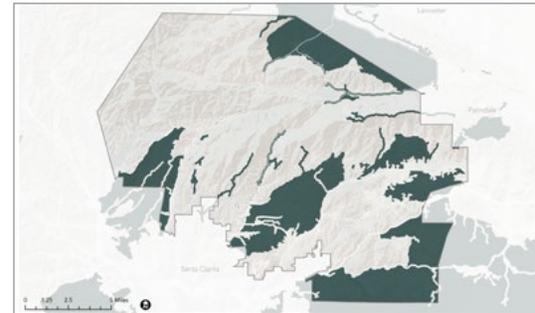


Legend

- 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
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country 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

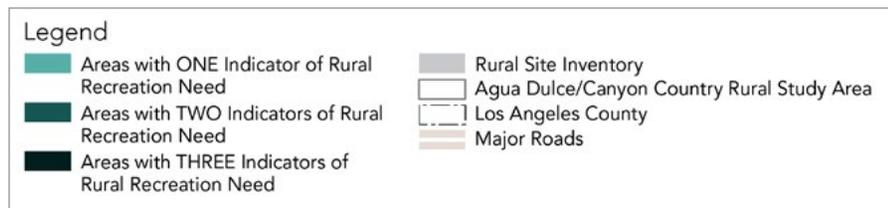
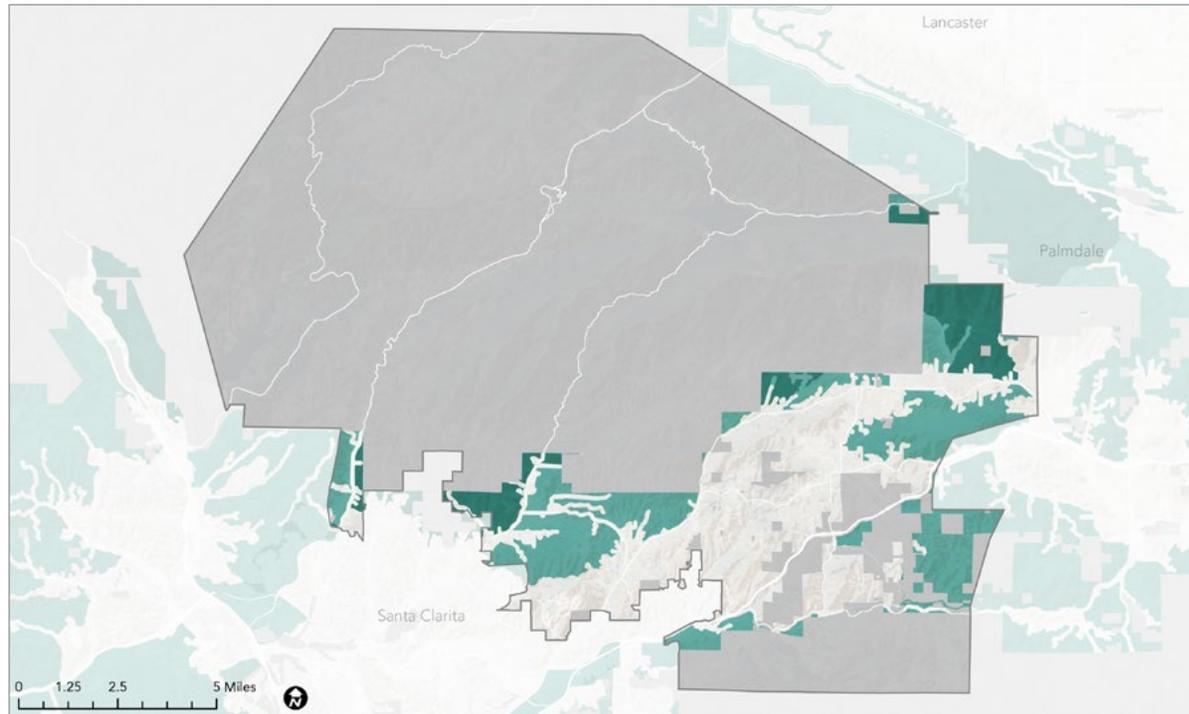


Legend

- Areas in proximity (5-mile driving distance) to THREE OR FEWER Rural Recreation Opportunity Types
- Agua Dulce/Canyon Country Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY AREAS

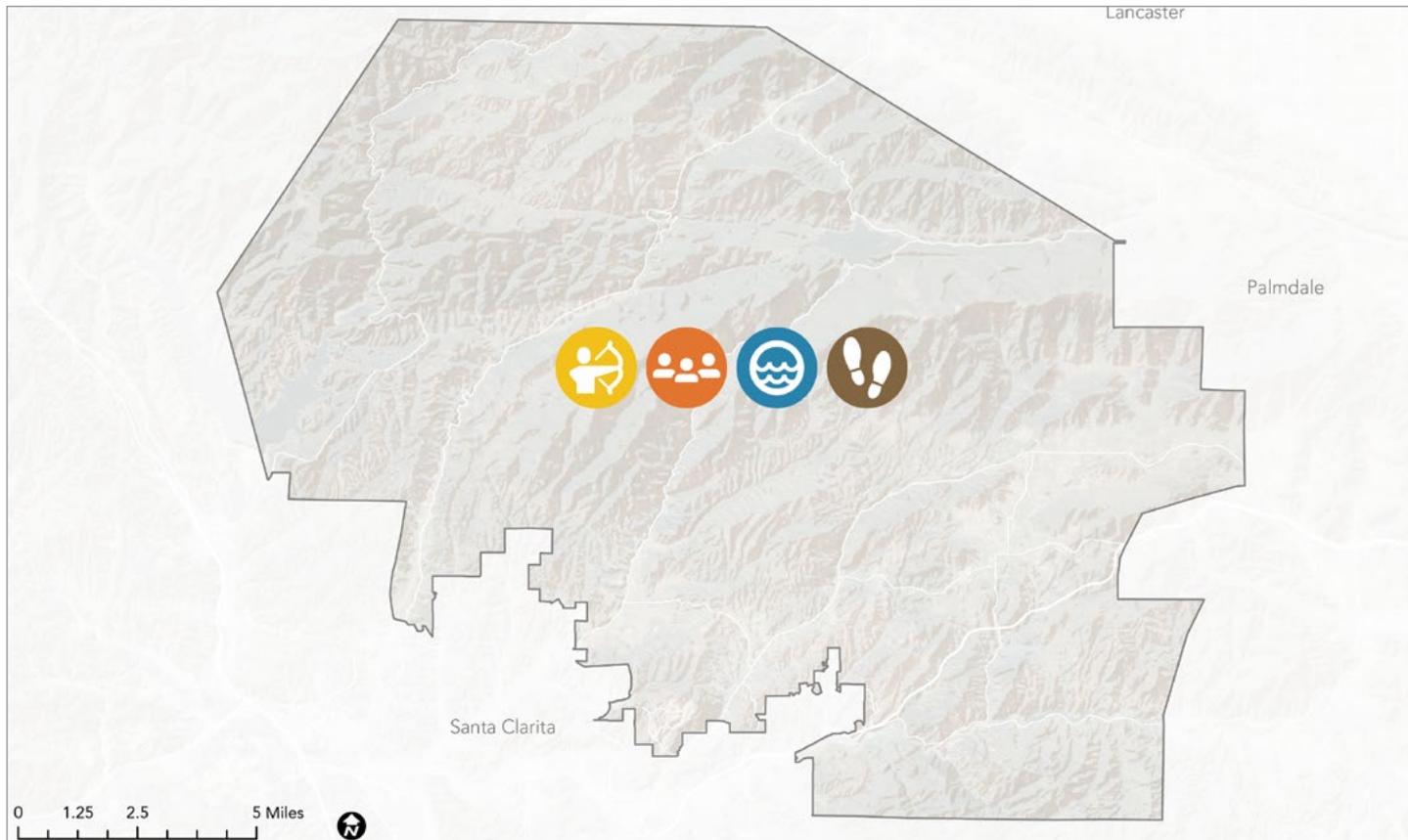


Areas with:



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

PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES



PRIORITY PROJECTS

- » Equestrian Park
- » Staging Area
- » Swimming Pool
- » Picnic Shelters
- » Soccer Fields
- » Basketball Courts
- » Trails



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.