

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.)

# LITTLEROCK/SUN VILLAGE/ JUNIPER HILLS

## RURAL STUDY AREA PROFILE

### RURAL STUDY AREA ID #8 / PNA STUDY AREA ID #36

- » 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 Littlerock/Sun Village Study Area is located in the Antelope Valley Regional Study Area. The Littlerock/Sun Village Study Area is bordered by the City of Palmdale and the San Gabriel Mountains to the west, the City of Palmdale and County areas to the north, unincorporated County to the east, and the San Gabriel mountains to south. The Study Area encompasses approximately 56 square miles. The unincorporated communities of Littlerock, Sun Village, and Juniper Hills are located in the Study Area.

### STUDY AREA CONSIDERATIONS

The Study Area has major constraints, including natural hazards, such as earthquakes, extreme heat, and wildfire, lack of infrastructure, including public transit service, and limited water supply. The desirability of rural living and the availability of affordable housing have led to significant growth in some unincorporated communities, including Sun Village. However, Littlerock has experienced population decline in the past several years that has offset growth that occurred in the early 2010s. Poverty levels in the Study Area are high; in 2016, 60 percent of the population had an income below 200 percent poverty level (the County average in 2016 was 40 percent). Some residents commute long distances to access specialized recreational facilities in Palmdale, Lancaster, and other communities in the region.

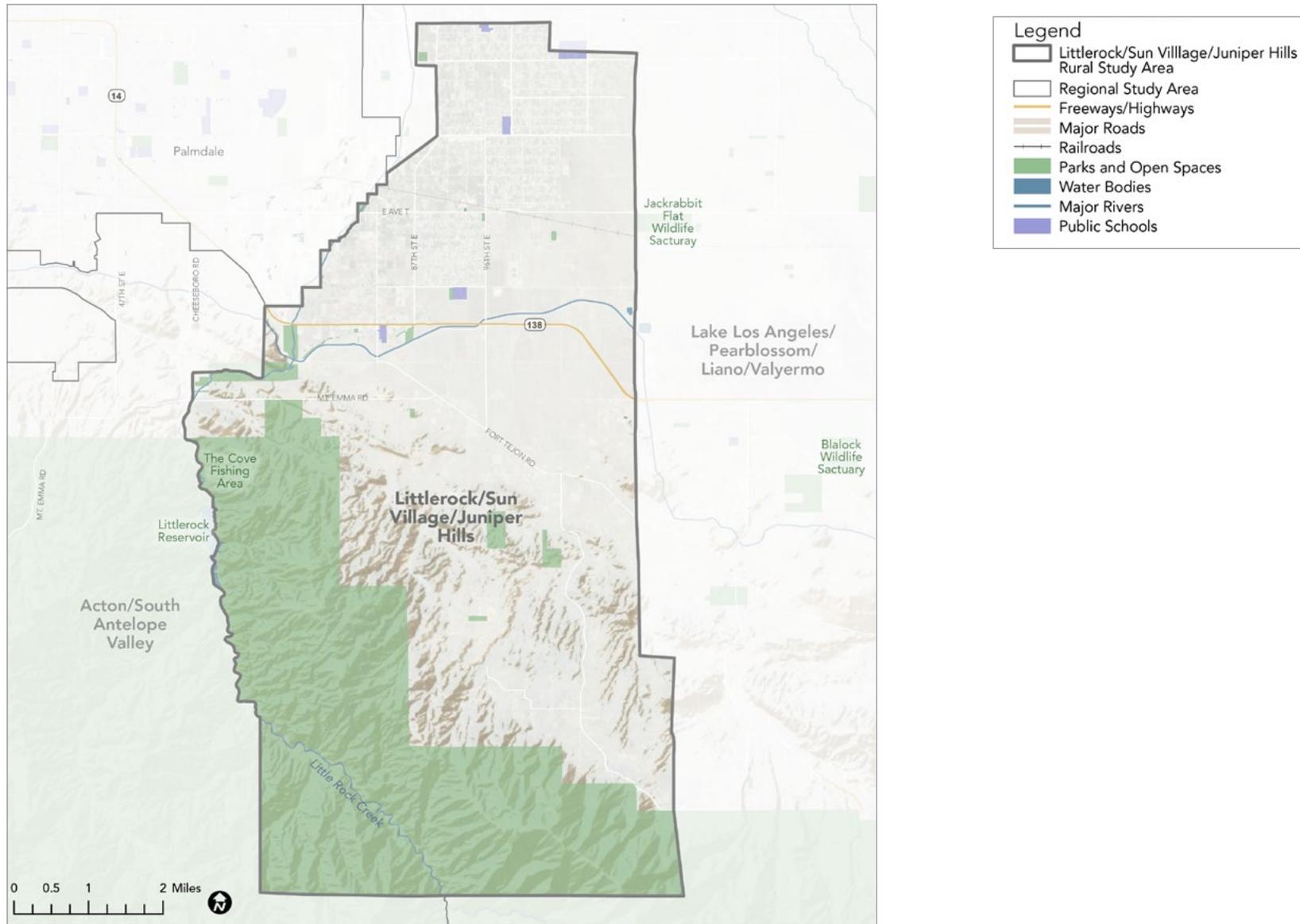
### KEY ANALYSIS TAKEAWAYS

- » Environmental vulnerability and transportation barriers are the most prevalent dimension of population vulnerability in the Study Area.
  - » Only 14% 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 no Regional Recreational Park area and relatively little Local Park area.
- » Few Study Area residents live within a 5-mile drive of trail and pathways (13.7%) and experiential learning opportunities (13.7%).
- » High levels of population vulnerability and access to few recreation opportunity types are the most pronounced aspects to rural recreation priority in the Study Area.

### KEY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TAKEAWAYS

- » Heat, lack of shade, distance, safety, time and limited information about parks and facilities 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 programs for young people and seniors.
- » Greatest needs are for places to swim, play and attend fitness classes; spaces for events and cultural activities; and places to be surrounded by nature.
- » 60% of survey respondents say they are recreating outside less often due to COVID, and 73% are looking for recreation activities closer to home because of the pandemic.

# LITTLEROCK/SUN VILLAGE/JUNIPER HILLS 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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,769</b>

Race	Percentage
White	67.43%
Black or African American	4.23%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.37%
Asian	5.27%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.3%
Some Other Race	18.47%
Two or More Races	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	32.93%
Not Hispanic or Latino	67.07%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Income	Percentage
Less than \$25,000	22.77%
\$25,000-\$49,999	21.57%
\$50,000-\$74,999	9.7%
\$75,000-\$99,999	10.93%
\$100,000-\$150,000	26.77%
\$150,000	8.17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Gender	Percentage
Female	38.3%
Male	61.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Age	Percentage
Under 5 years	3.23%
5 to 9 years	3.27%
10 to 14 years	4.6%
15 to 19 years	6.33%
20 to 29 years	11.97%
30 to 39 years	5.07%
40 to 49 years	14.97%
50 to 59 years	25.93%
60 to 69 years	14.73%
70 to 79 years	3.5%
80+ years	3.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

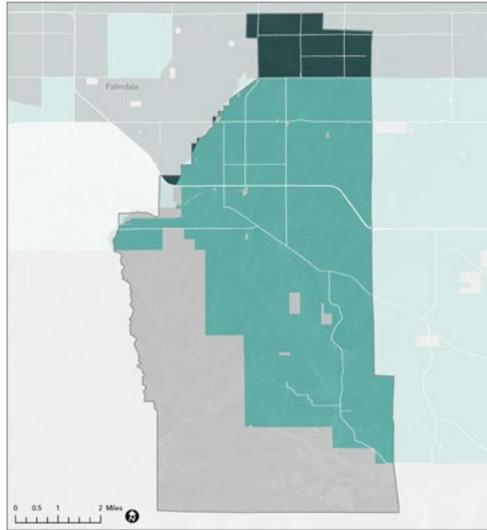
Education Level	Percentage
High School Diploma	24.47%
Some College, No Degree	24.87%
Associates Degree	11.93%
Bachelor's Degree	15.63%
Master's Degree	4.4%
Other	18.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

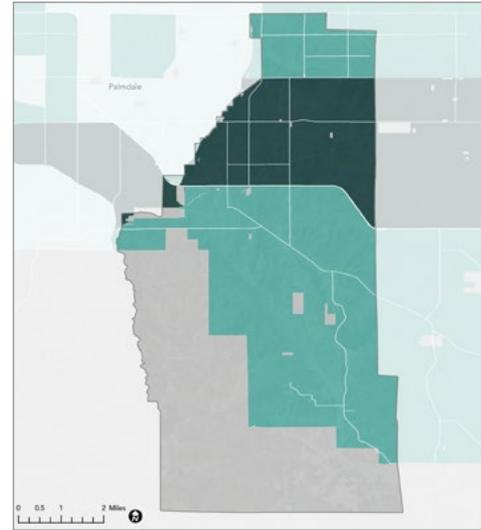
# POPULATION VULNERABILITY DIMENSIONS

## Social Barriers Dimension



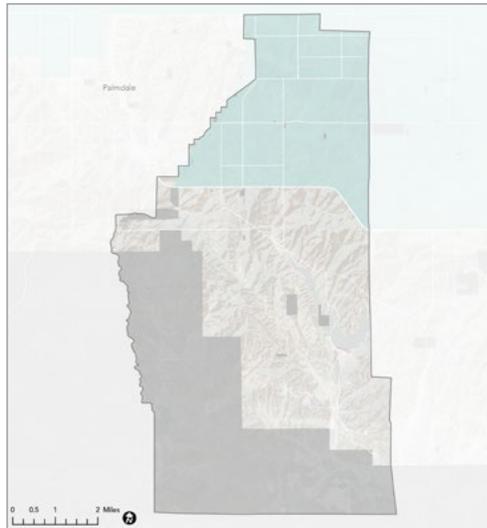
- Indicators:
- » High Poverty Rate
  - » High Unemployment Rate
  - » Majority-Minority Population
  - » High % of Young Children
  - » High % of Elderly Residents
  - » High % of Non-English-Speaking Residents
  - » Low % of Two-Parent Households

## Transportation Barriers Dimension



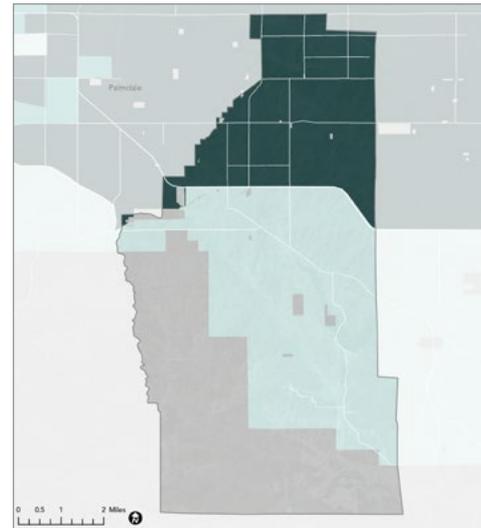
- Indicators:
- » Low Automobile Access
  - » Low Public Transit Access
  - » Low Active Commuting Rate
  - » High Traffic Density
  - » High Pedestrian Injuries

## 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

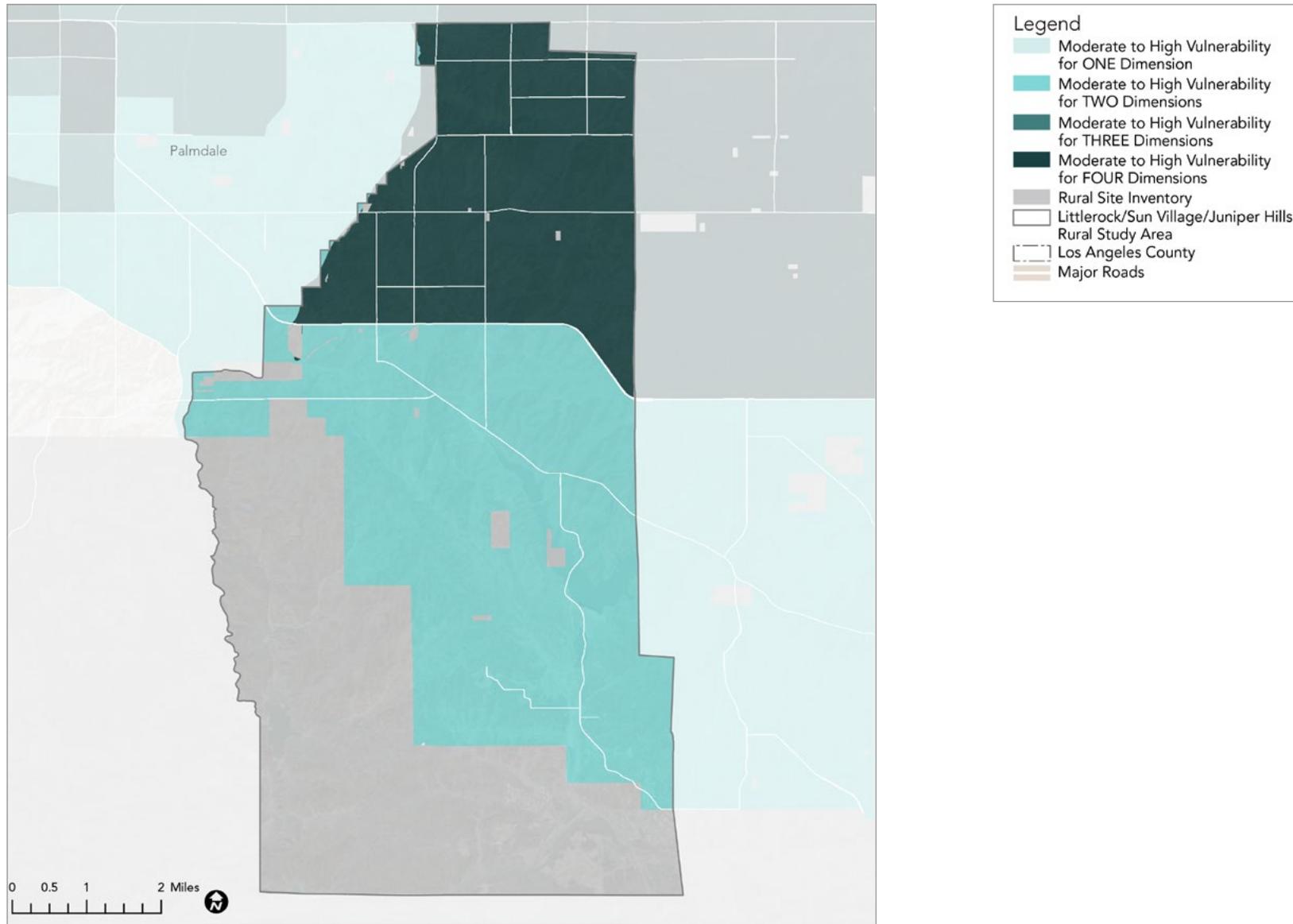


- Indicators:
- » Reduced Life Expectancy at Birth
  - » High Pollution Levels



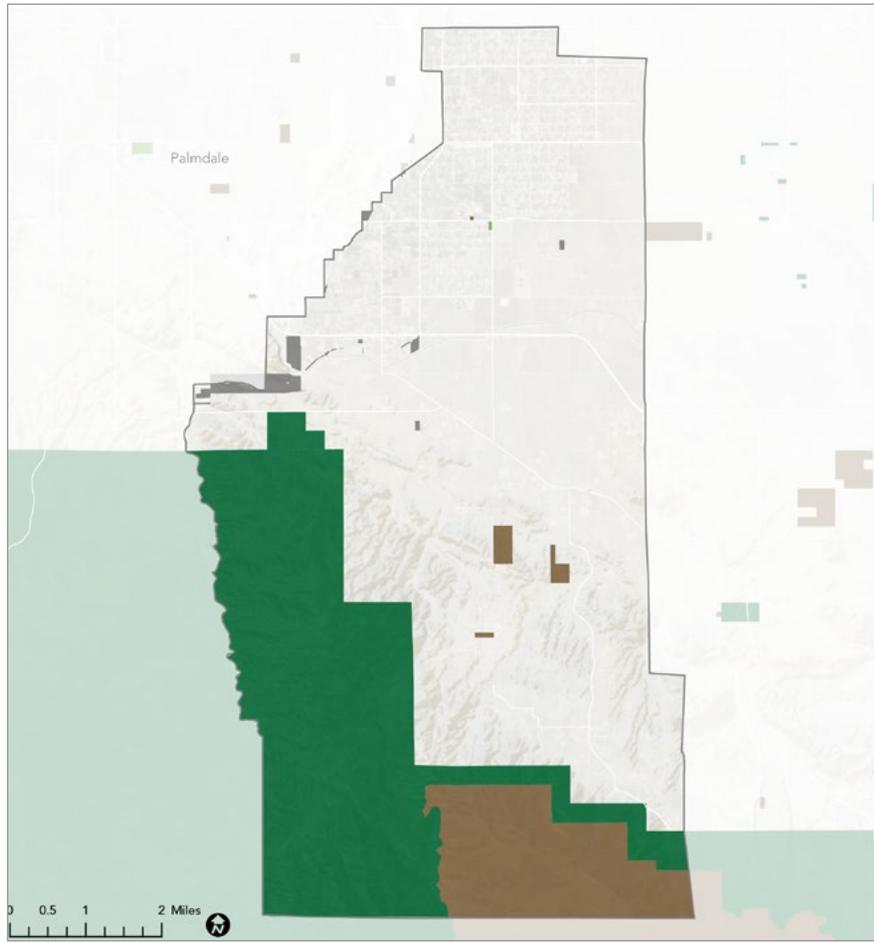
Maps source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

## COMPOSITE POPULATION VULNERABILITY



Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

# RURAL SITE INVENTORY

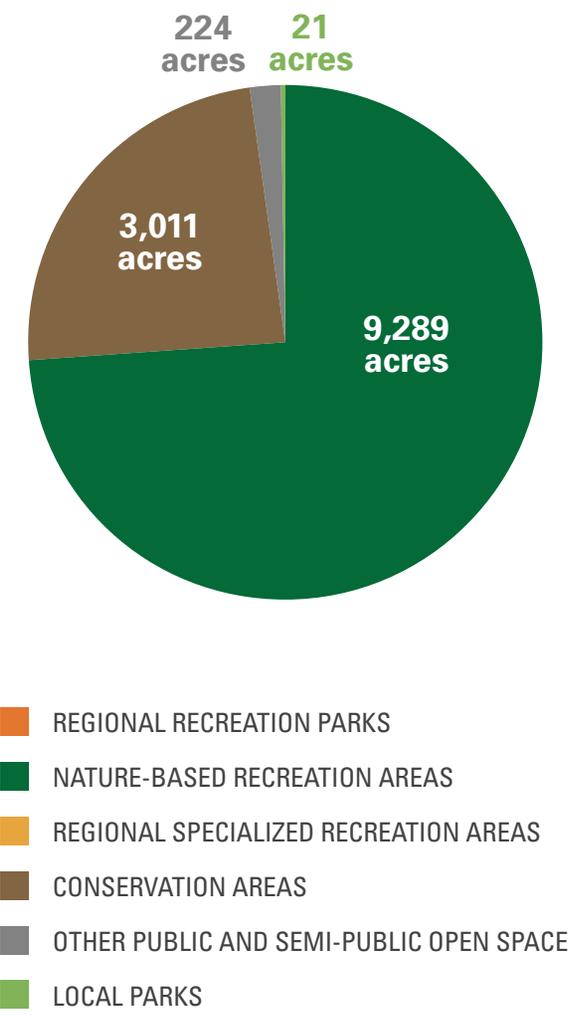


Map source: 2021 RRE Inventory

  
**12,546**  
 TOTAL ACRES OF RURAL RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AREA LAND LOCATED WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

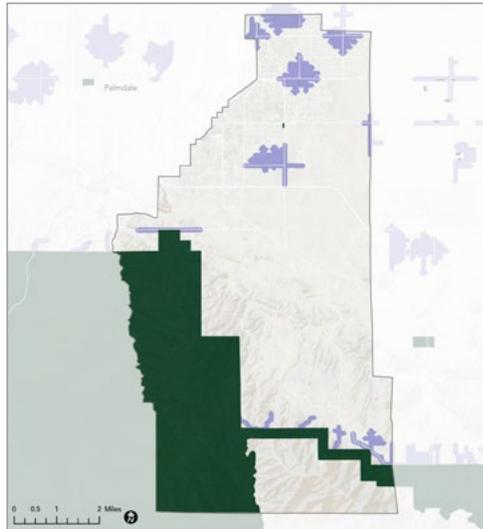
  
**34.6%**  
 OF THE TOTAL LAND AREA WITHIN THE STUDY AREA IS RURAL RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AREA LAND

  
**1,613**  
 ACRES OF RURAL RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AREA LAND PER 1000 STUDY AREA RESIDENTS



# RURAL RECREATION SITE ACCESS

Walking Distance (0.5 miles from entry)

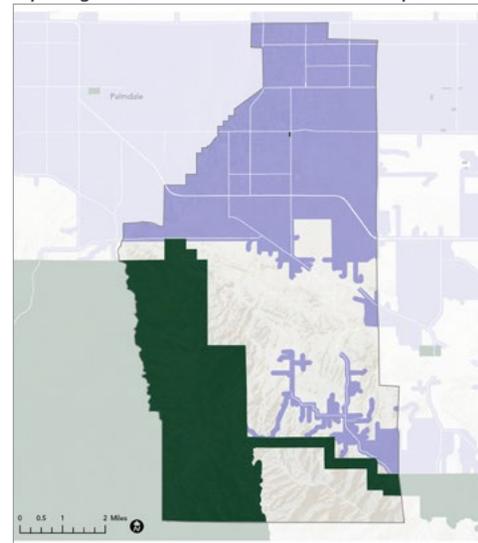


- Legend**
- Areas within a 0.5-mile walk of a Rural Recreation Park Entry
  - Rural Recreation Site
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hill: Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

**14%**

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

Cycling Distance (2.5 miles from entry)

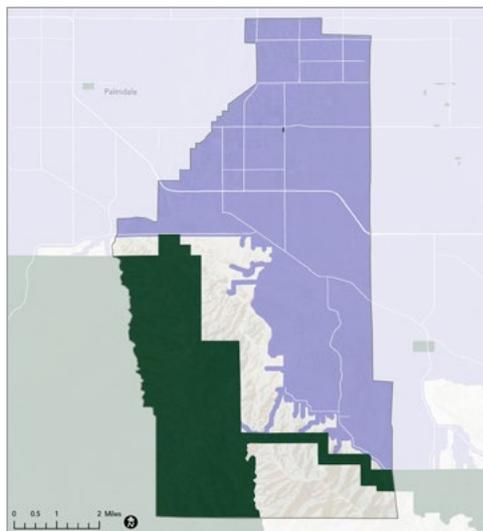


- Legend**
- Areas within a 2.5-mile bicycle ride of a Rural Recreation Park Entry
  - Rural Recreation Site
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

**92%**

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

Driving Distance (5 miles from entry)

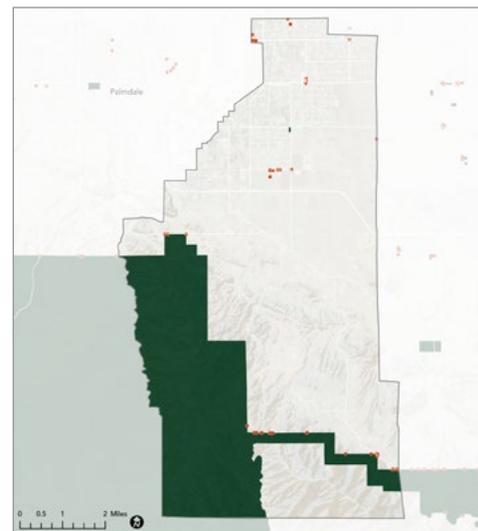


- Legend**
- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Park Entry
  - Rural Recreation Site
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hill: Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

**98%**

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

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



- 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
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

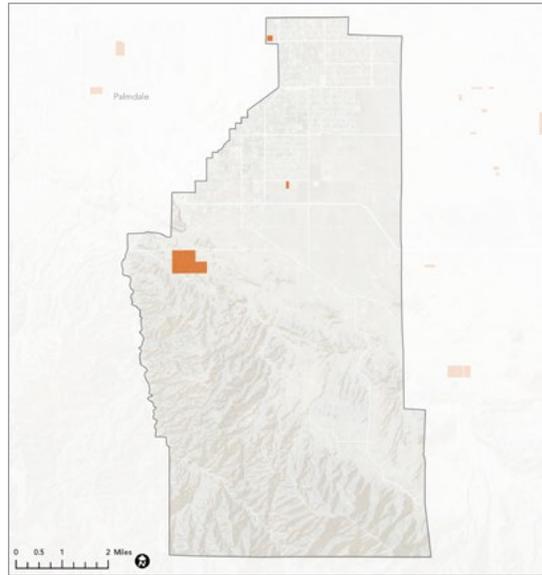
**0%**

**OF RURAL RECREATION SITES ARE SERVED BY PUBLIC TRANSIT**

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

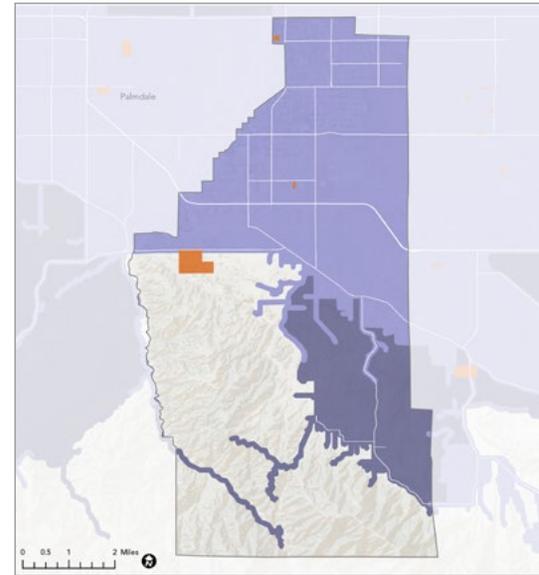
# RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

## Gathering Spaces



- Legend**
- Rural Recreation Sites with Gathering Spaces
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

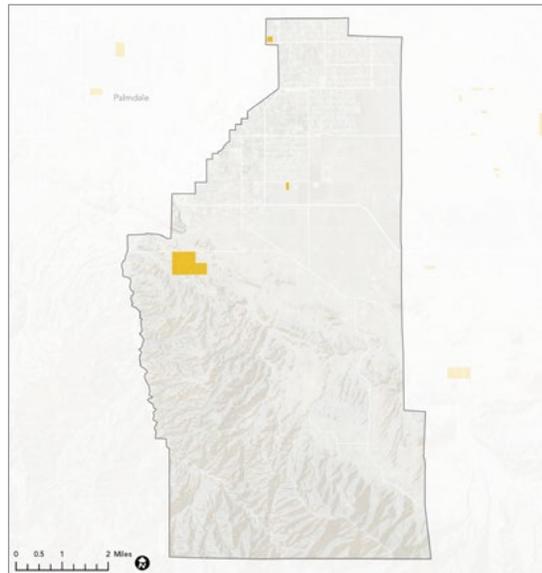
## Proximity to Sites With Gathering Spaces



- 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
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

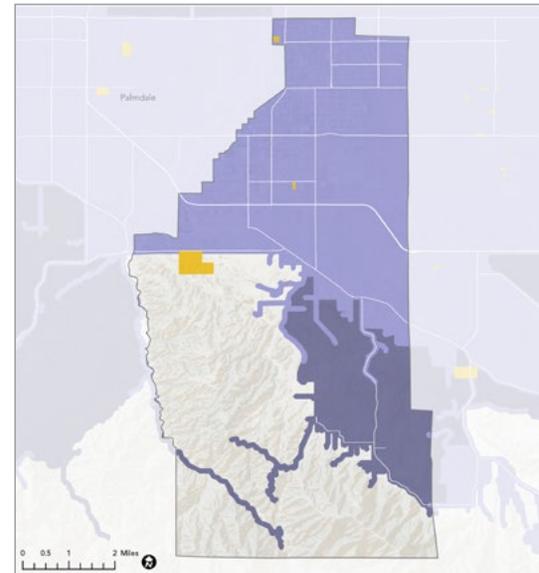
**92.8%**  
OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN  
A 5-MILE DRIVE

## Sports Facilities



- Legend**
- Rural Recreation Sites with Sports Facilities
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

## Proximity to Sites With Sports Facilities



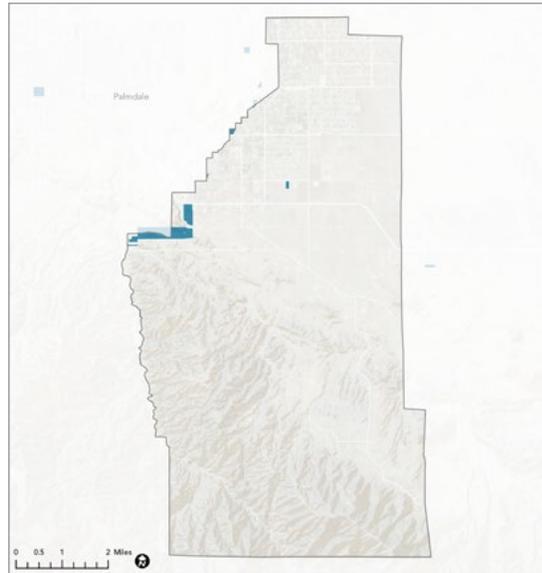
- Legend**
- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Sports Facilities
  - Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Sports Facilities
  - Rural Recreation Sites with Sports Facilities
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

**92.8%**  
OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN  
A 5-MILE DRIVE

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

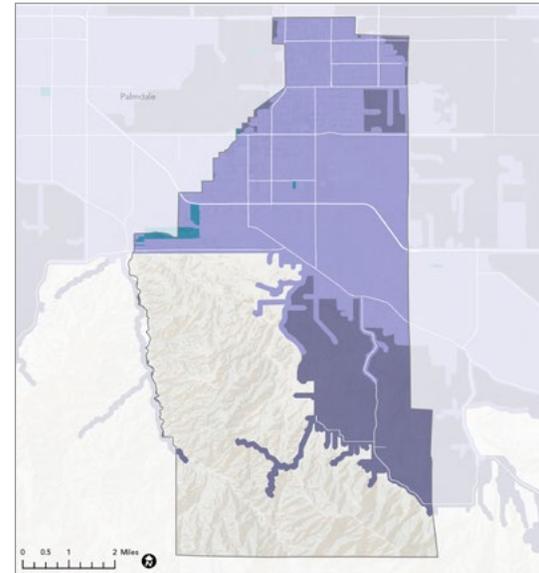
# RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

## Water-Based Recreation



- Legend**
- Rural Recreation Sites with Water-Based Recreation
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

## Proximity to Sites With Water-Based Recreation

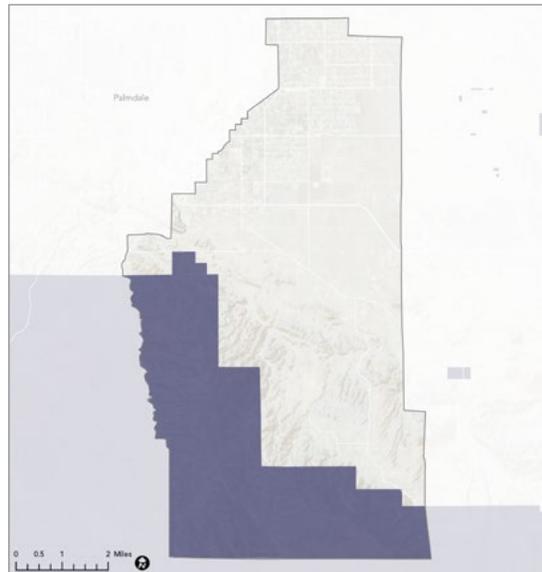


- Legend**
- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Water-Based Recreation
  - Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Water-Based Recreation
  - Rural Recreation Sites with Water-Based Recreation
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

**87.8%**

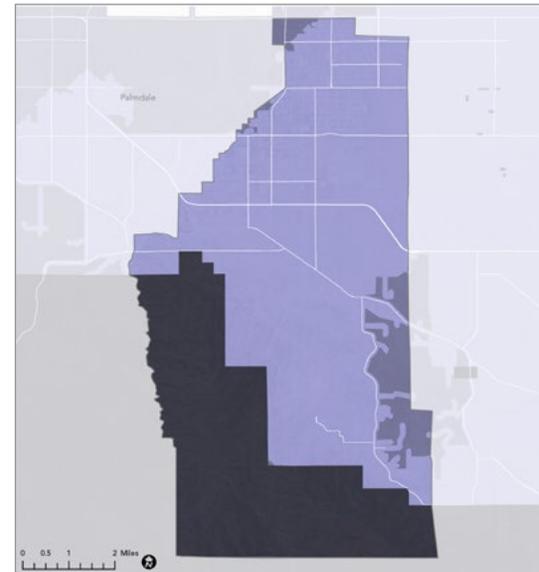
**OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE**

## Overnight Accommodations



- Legend**
- Rural Recreation Sites with Overnight Accommodations
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper H Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

## Proximity to Sites With Overnight Accommodations



- 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
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

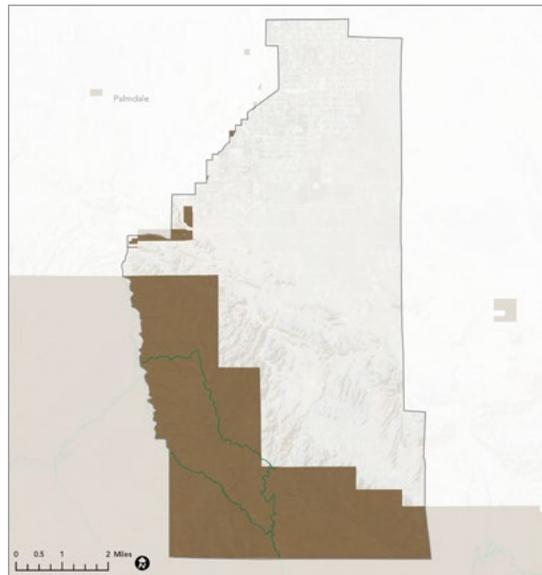
**95.8%**

**OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE**

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

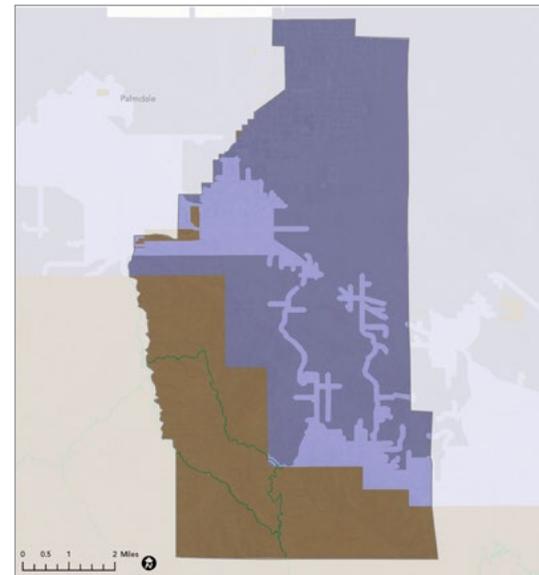
# RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

## Trails and Pathways



- Legend**
- Rural Sites with Trails and Pathways
  - Regional Trails
  - Regional Bikeways
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

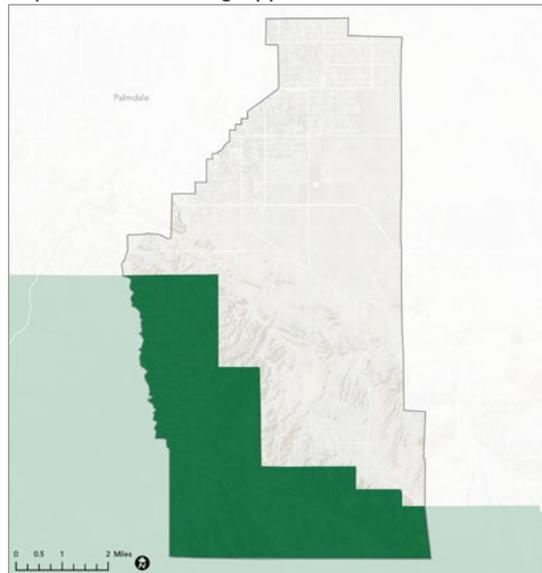
## Proximity to Sites With Trails and Pathways



- 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
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

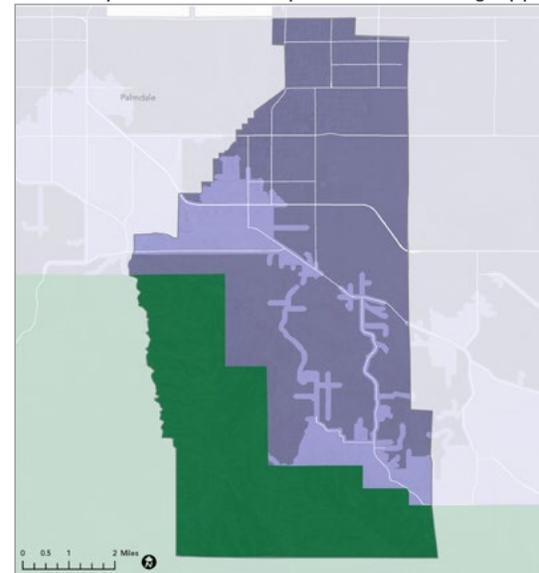
**13.7%**  
OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN  
A 5-MILE DRIVE

## Experiential Learning Opportunities



- Legend**
- Rural Recreation Sites with Experiential Learning Opportunities
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

## Proximity to Sites With Experiential Learning Opportunities



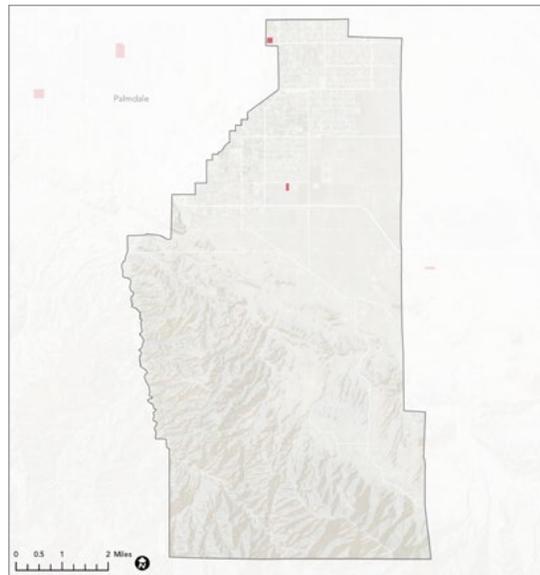
- Legend**
- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Experiential Learning Opportunities
  - Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Experiential Learning Opportunities
  - Rural Recreation Sites with Experiential Learning Opportunities
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

**13.7%**  
OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN  
A 5-MILE DRIVE

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

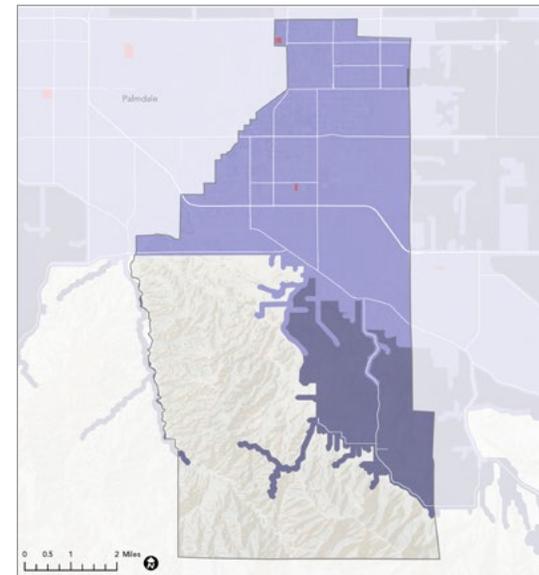
# RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

## General Recreation Facilities



- Legend**
- Rural Recreation Sites with General Recreation Facilities
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

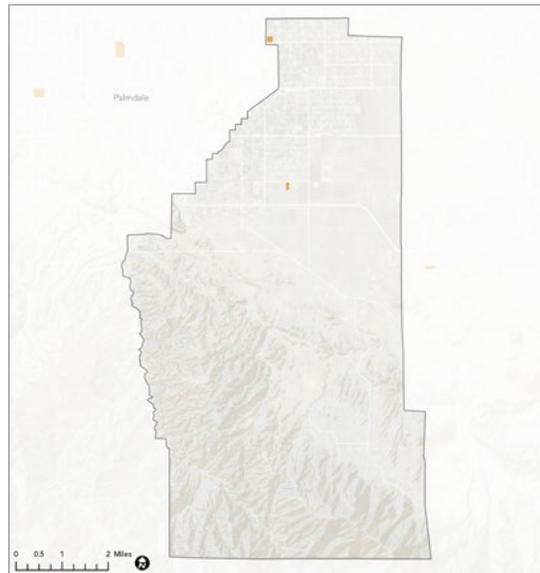
## Proximity to Sites With General Recreation Facilities



- 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
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

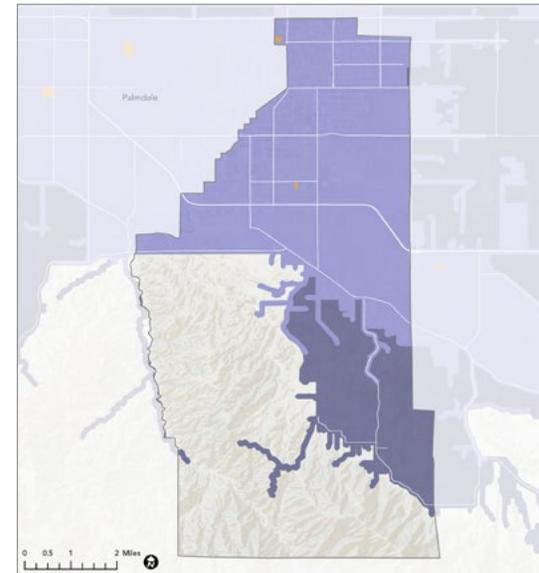
**92.7%**  
OF RESIDENTS LIVE  
WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

## Health and Fitness Facilities



- Legend**
- Rural Recreation Sites with Health and Fitness Facilities
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper H Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

## Proximity to Sites With Health and Fitness Facilities



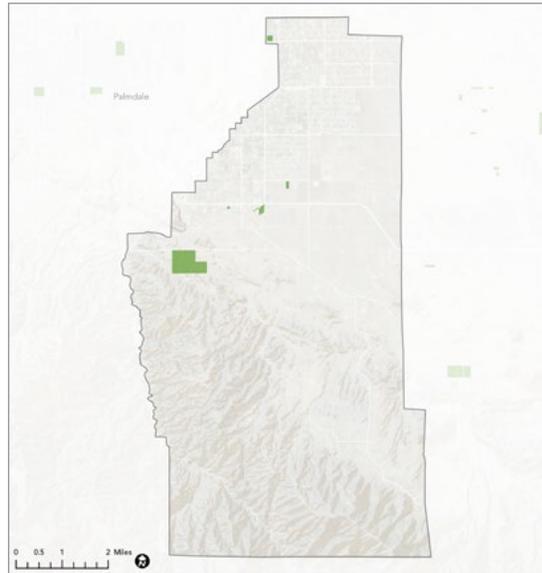
- Legend**
- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Health and Fitness Facilities
  - Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Health and Fitness Facilities
  - Rural Recreation Sites with Health and Fitness Facilities
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

**92.7%**  
OF RESIDENTS LIVE  
WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

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

# RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

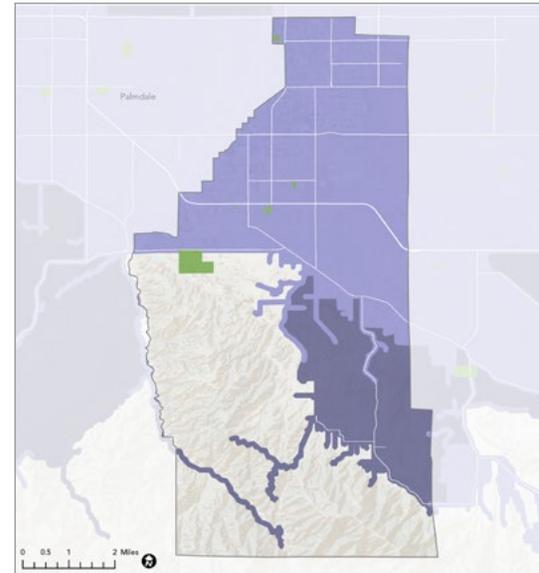
## Support Facilities



- Legend**
- Rural Recreation Sites with Support Facilities
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

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

## Proximity to Sites With Support Facilities



- 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
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads

**92.8%**  
OF RESIDENTS LIVE  
WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THEMES

## BARRIERS RESIDENTS EXPERIENCE TO USING PARKS AND FACILITIES



### HEAT

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



### LACK OF SHADE

Without shade, many parks are unusable during hot months.



### LIMITED ACCESS TO WATER

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



### DISTANCE

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



### LACK OF TRANSIT

Public transit wait and travel times to parks can be up to two hours or more and there are few options for carpooling or shuttles.



### SAFETY

Concerns about stray animals in parks and nearby, as well as wildfire dangers in parks in the study area.



### TIME

Many residents do not have time, due to work or other reasons, to travel to and/or use regional parks and facilities.



### LACK OF INFORMATION

Residents do not know where parks are located, what facilities are available, or how to use and get to parks.



### NOT ENOUGH MAINTENANCE AT PARKS AND FACILITIES

Park facilities and trails need repairs, maintenance and restoration.



### LACK OF CONNECTIVITY

Not enough trail networks or safe biking and pedestrian options.



### LACK OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING

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

**“Too many stray dogs around the neighborhood to go on a walk or jog. Can’t even walk my dog because number of stray dogs.”**

**“No programs in the park for community like toddler activities, dance activities, like a community class/ activities in bigger cities.”**

**“I live on the Eastside In Sun Village. Any park is 4 miles away and has NOTHING.”**

**“Our Littlerock bus only goes to 47th St. It takes 2-3 buses to get anywhere else.”**

# 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.



### MORE SHADE

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



### BETTER ACCESS TO INFORMATION

More information about events at parks and available amenities.



### TRANSIT OPTIONS

Provide free and more frequent transit to nearby parks.



### MORE CULTURAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Open up park spaces for the community to hold more events and cultural activities.



### EXPANDED RECREATION FACILITIES

Extend facilities hours, provide more outdoor equipment and indoor recreation spaces, and build additional parks, courts and swimming facilities to meet demand.



### IMPROVED MAINTENANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Clean and upgraded restrooms and trails, more wildfire mitigation and removal of dead vegetation. More places to sit, gather with friends and family, and walk dogs.



### BETTER ACCESS TO PROGRAMS

Provide affordable equipment and classes for all ages, especially youth and seniors.



### DEDICATED USE TRAILS

Provide separate trails for hiking, biking, equestrian use to help mitigate conflict and increase safety for all users along trails.



### ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

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



### EXPAND GREEN SPACE

More pocket parks, trees, native habitat gardens, and natural open spaces.



### PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Expand park use and green space access through school and community partnerships.

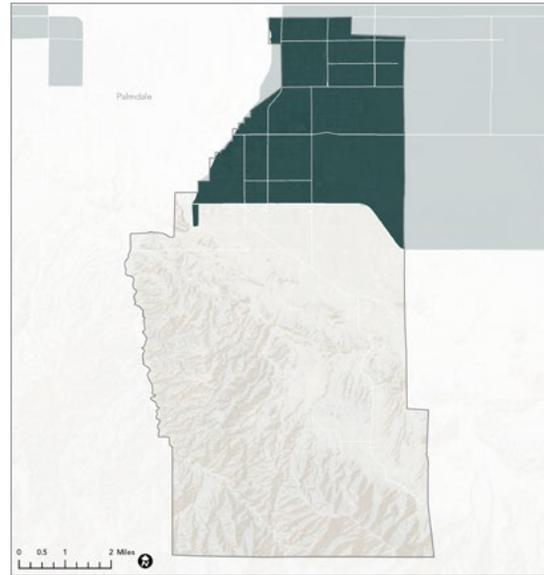
“We need a place for our kids and older adults to gather and partake in healthy activities.”

“Juniper Hills is like living in a park, even with the recent Bobcat fire, it is nature’s park. There is NO need for improvement other than rebuilding and opening Devil’s Punchbowl. We know that this will take time and we will be patient.”

“Trees for shade and something permeable with native landscaping.”

# RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY ANALYSIS

Areas Experiencing the Highest Levels of Overall Population Vulnerability



- Legend**
- Areas of Moderate to High Vulnerability Across All Four Dimensions
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads



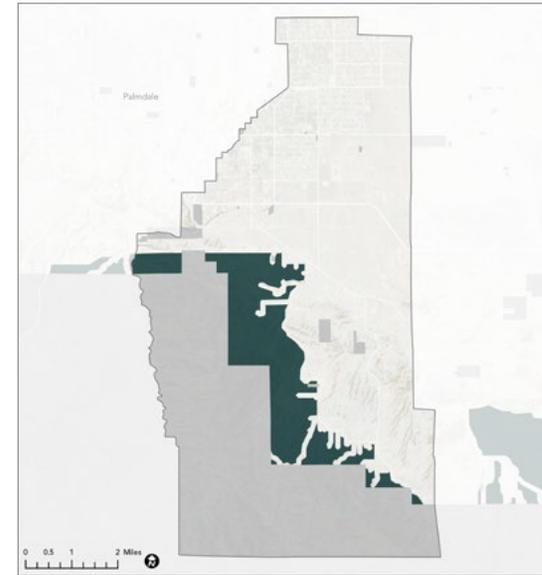
**High Levels of Social and Transportation Barriers**



**High Levels of Health and Environmental Vulnerability**

Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

Areas Located in Low Proximity to Rural Recreation Sites

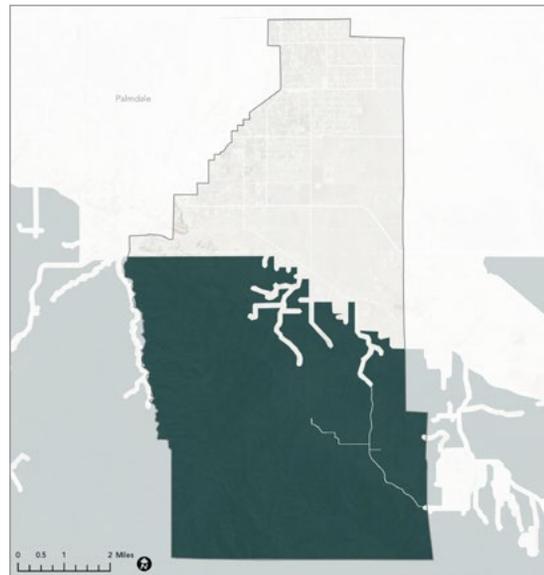


- Legend**
- Areas in Low Proximity to Rural Recreation Sites (beyond a 5-mile drive to any Regional Recreation Park Entry Points, Nature-Based Recreation Area Entry Points or Local Park Entry Points)
  - Rural Site Inventory
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads



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

Areas With Access to the Fewest Recreation Opportunity Types



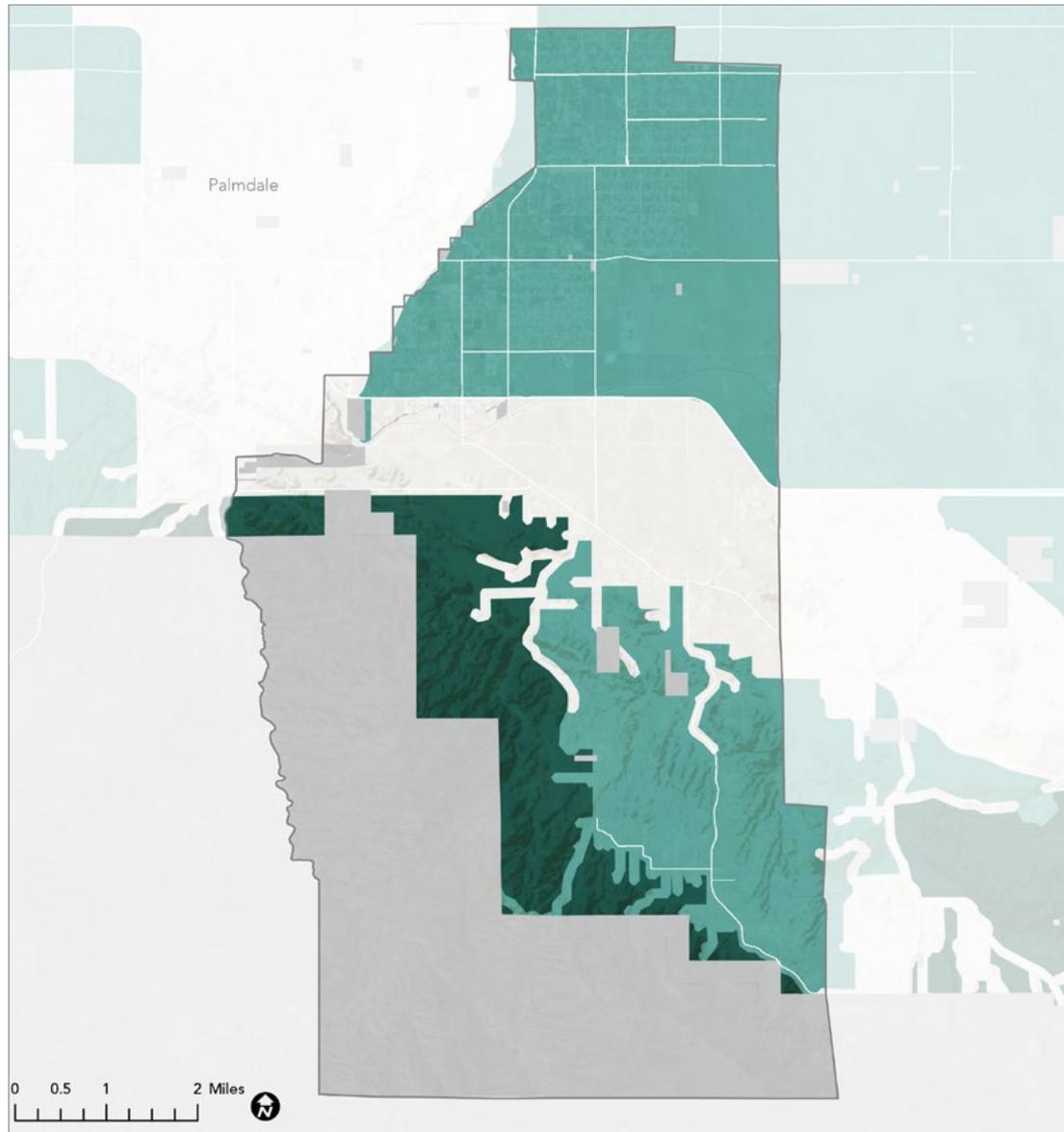
- Legend**
- Areas in proximity (5-mile driving distance) to THREE OR FEWER Rural Recreation Opportunity Types
  - Littlerock/Sun Village/Juniper Hills Rural Study Area
  - Major Roads



**Proximity to Fewest Recreation Opportunity Types**

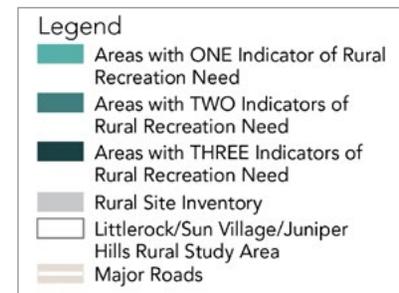
Map source: ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

# RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY AREAS

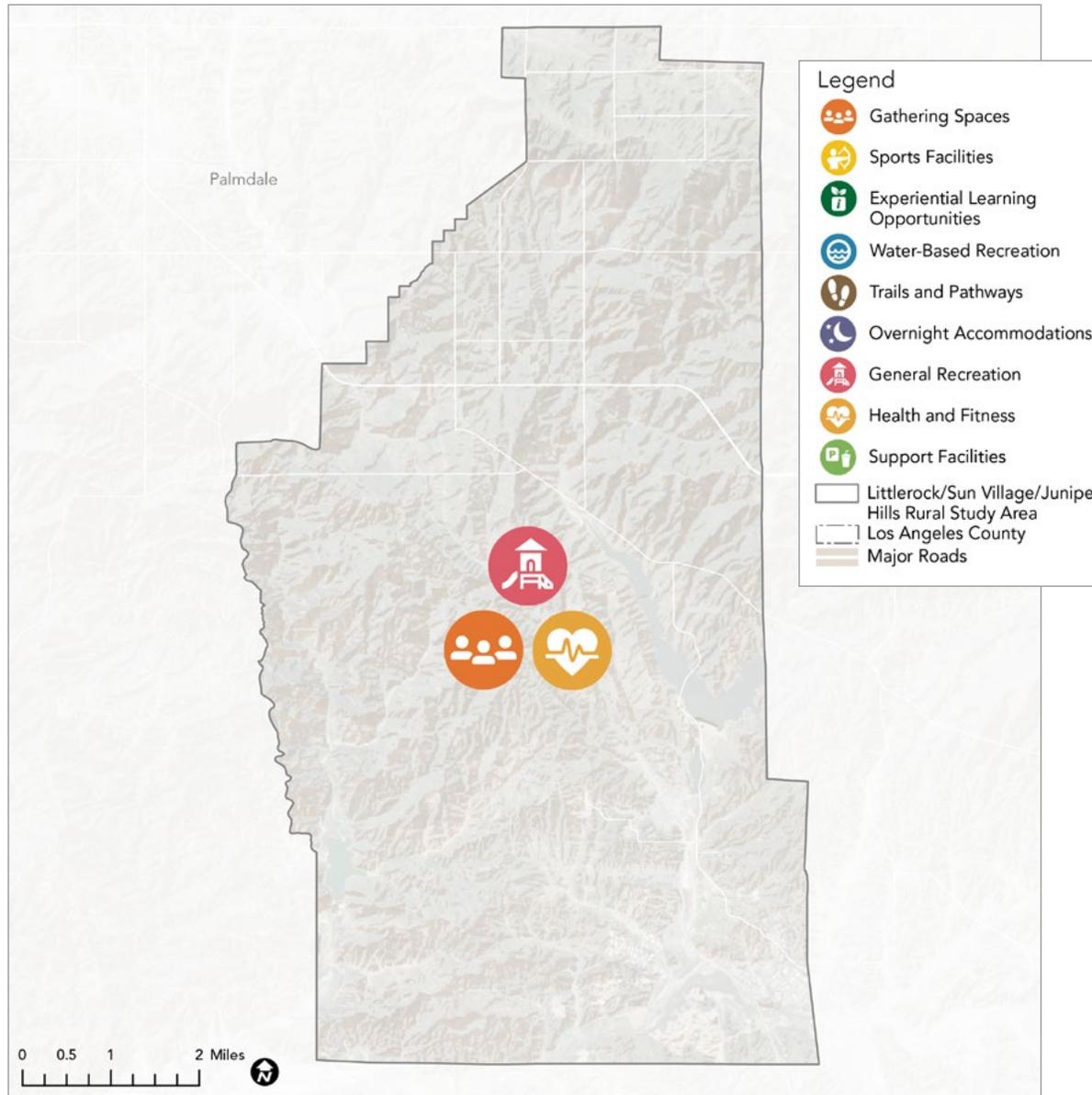


Map source: HPI, 2021; ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

Areas with:



## PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES



## PRIORITY PROJECTS

- » New Littlerock (Primmer) Park to include:
  - » Playgrounds
  - » Shade Structures
  - » Picnic Shelters
  - » Fitness Zone
  - » Equestrian Pen
  - » Restrooms
- » Expansion of Jackie Robinson Park to include:
  - » Splash Pad
  - » Community Stage
  - » Multipurpose Field
  - » Walking Paths
  - » Picnic Shelters
  - » Restrooms
- » Replacement of Devil's Punchbowl Nature Center
- » Community/Recreation Center
- » Skatepark
- » Swimming Pool

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.