

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.)



LAKE LOS ANGELES/PEARBLOSSOM/ LLANO/VALYERMO RURAL STUDY AREA PROFILE

RURAL STUDY AREA ID #9 / PNA STUDY AREA ID #35

- » 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 Lake Los Angeles/Pearblossom/Llano/Valyermo Study Area is located in the Antelope Valley Regional Study Area. The Lake Los Angeles/Pearblossom/Llano/Valyermo Study Area is bordered by the Antelope Valley to the north and west, San Bernardino County to the east, and the Angeles National Forest to the south. The Study Area encompasses approximately 273 square miles. The unincorporated communities of Lake Los Angeles (partially), Pearblossom, Llano, Valyermo, and Crystalaire 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 Lake Los Angeles, the largest community in the Study Area. Poverty levels in the Study Area are high; in 2016, 49 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 employment opportunities and specialized recreational facilities in Lancaster, Palmdale, and the Los Angeles Basin.

KEY ANALYSIS TAKEAWAYS

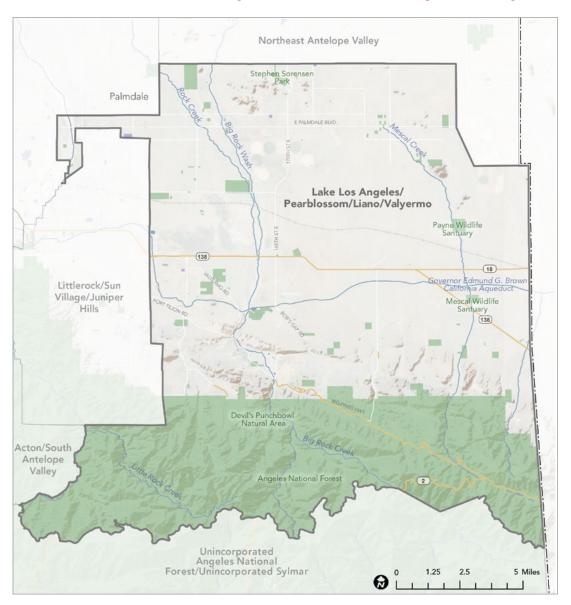
- Environmental vulnerability, social barriers, and transportation barriers are the most prevalent dimensions of population vulnerability in the Study Area.
 - Only 10% of residents live within walking distance of a rural recreation site.
 - » No rural recreation sites in the Study Area are served by public transit.
- The majority of rural recreation site area in the Study Area falls under Nature-Based Recreation Area. The Study Area contains relatively little Local Park and Regional Recreational Park area.
- » Only some Study Area residents live within a 5-mile drive of trails and pathways (21%) and experiential learning opportunities (20.6%).
- » All three indicators of rural recreation priority (high population vulnerability, low proximity to rural recreation sites and proximity to the fewest recreation opportunity types) are pronounced in the Study Area.

KEY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TAKEAWAYS

- Heat, safety, distance, time, limited information about parks and facilities and cost are identified barriers to park use for residents who live in the Study Area.
- » Residents say they need more swimming and recreation facilities, more trails, spaces for gathering and events, equestrian facilities, accessible spaces to exercise and programs for seniors.
- Solution
 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.
- Two-thirds of survey respondents say they are recreating outside less often due to COVID, and 79% are looking for recreation activities closer to home because of the pandemic.



LAKE LOS ANGELES/PEARBLOSSOM/LLANO/VALYERMO 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	16,197

Race	Percentage
White	55.57%
Black or African American	8.83%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.47%
Asian	0.57%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.3%
Some Other Race	27.83%
Two or More Races	6.4%
Total	100%

Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	48.33%
Not Hispanic or Latino	51.67%
Total	100%

Income	Percentage
Less than \$25,000	25.27%
\$25,000-\$49,999	28.8%
\$50,000-\$74,999	15.13%
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.6%
\$100,000-\$150,000	11.53%
\$150,000	6.6%
Total	100%

Gender	Percentage
Female	47.54%
Male	52.46%
Total	100%

Age	Percentage
Under 5 years	5.03%
5 to 9 years	5.9%
10 to 14 years	7.2%
15 to 19 years	10.43%
20 to 29 years	10.03%
30 to 39 years	8.67%
40 to 49 years	14.83%
50 to 59 years	16.83%
60 to 69 years	11.03%
70 to 79 years	3.5%
80+ years	3%
Total	100%

Education Level	Percentage
High School Diploma	29.83%
Some College, No Degree	25.8%
Associates Degree	5.9%
Bachelor's Degree	10.03%
Master's Degree	3.3%
Other	25.17%
Total	100%

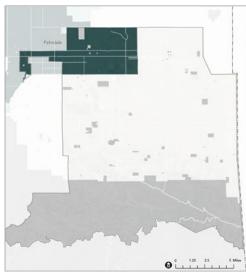
Source: 2016 PNA, U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 ACS 5-year Estimate Subject Tables, See Technical Appendix for Census Tracts included in each Study Area.

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



POPULATION VULNERABILITY DIMENSIONS

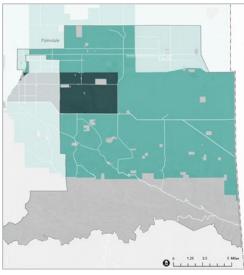
Social Barriers Dimension



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

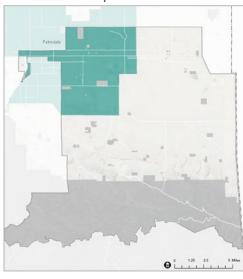
Transportation Barriers Dimension



Indicators:

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

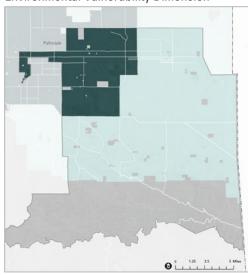
Health Vulnerability Dimension



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:

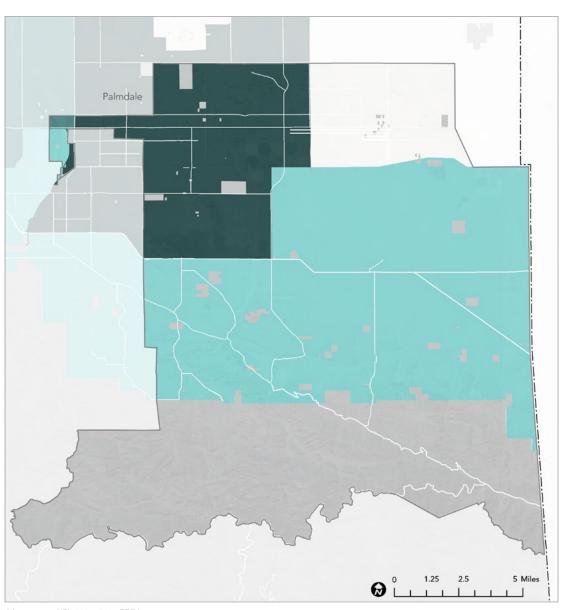
- » Reduced Life Expectancy at Birth
- » High Pollution Levels



Maps source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory



COMPOSITE POPULATION VULNERABILITY



Legend

Moderate to High Vulnerability for ONE Dimension

Moderate to High Vulnerability for TWO Dimensions

Moderate to High Vulnerability for THREE Dimensions

Moderate to High Vulnerability for FOUR Dimensions

Rural Site Inventory

Lake Los Angeles/
Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo
Rural Study Area

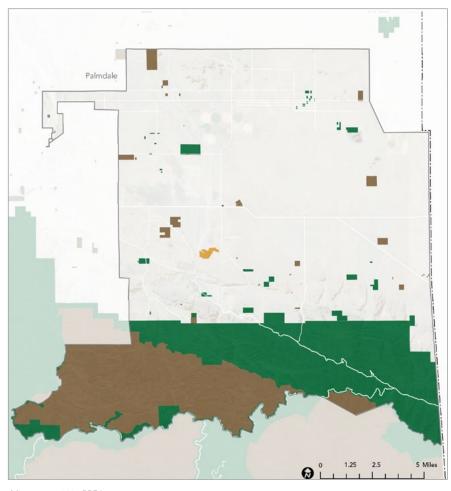
Los Angeles County

Major Roads

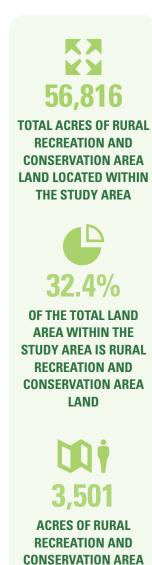
Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory



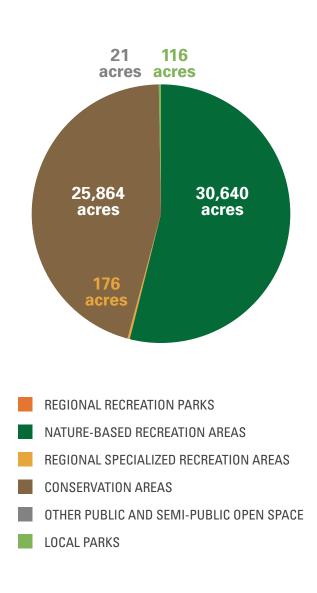
RURAL SITE INVENTORY



Map source: 2021 RRE Inventory



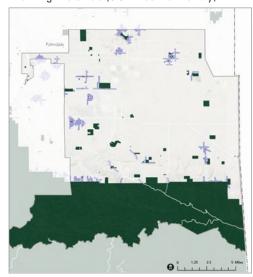
LAND PER 1000 STUDY AREA RESIDENTS

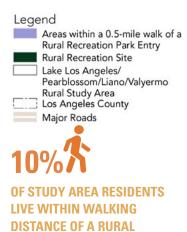


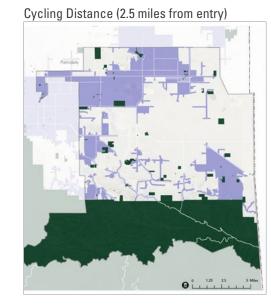


RURAL RECREATION SITE ACCESS

Walking Distance (0.5 miles from entry)



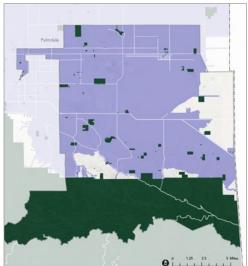




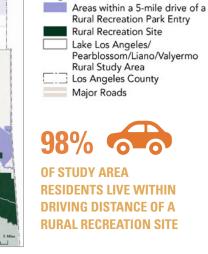


OF STUDY AREA RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN CYCLING DISTANCE OF A RURAL RECREATION SITE

Driving Distance (5 miles from entry)



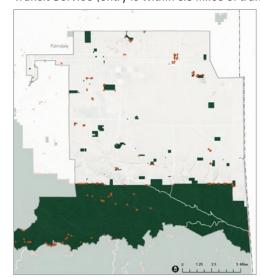
Maps source: ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory



RECREATION SITE

Legend

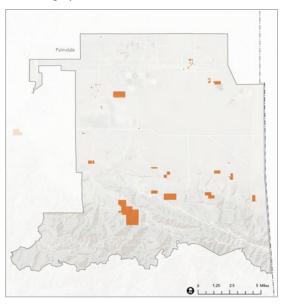
Transit Service (entry is within 0.5 miles of transit stop)





RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

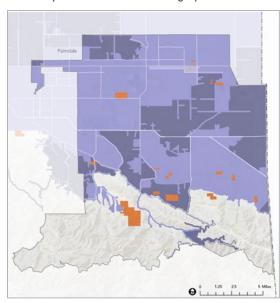
Gathering Spaces



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with **Gathering Spaces**
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Gathering Spaces





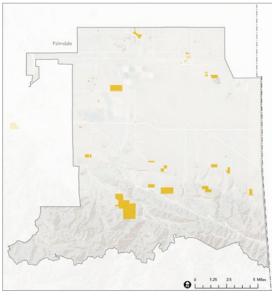
Legend

- 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
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

Sports Facilities



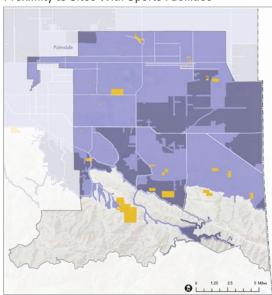


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Sports Facilities
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County Major Roads

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

Proximity to Sites With Sports Facilities





- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Sports
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Sports Facilities
- Rural Recreation Sites with Sports Facilities
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County

OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE



RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Water-Based Recreation



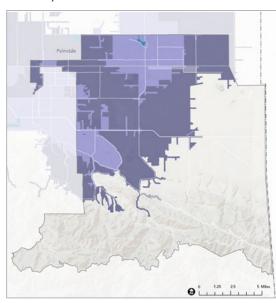


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Water-Based Recreation
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County

Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Water-Based Recreation





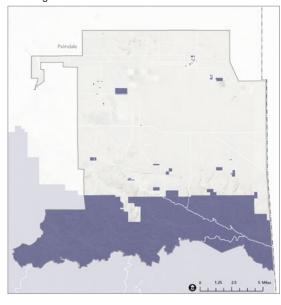
Legend

- 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
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo
- Rural Study Area Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

46.8%

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

Overnight Accomodations



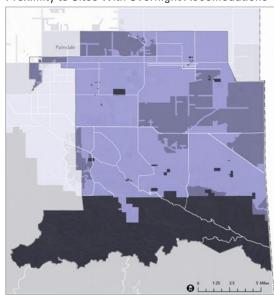


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Overnight Accommodations
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County Major Roads

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

Proximity to Sites With Overnight Accomodations





Legend

- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with
- Overnight Accommodations

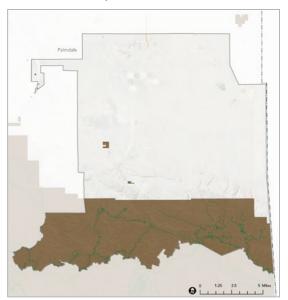
 Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with
- Overnight Accommodations Rural Recreation Sites with Overnight Accommodations
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo
- Rural Study Area Los Angeles County

OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

we all need

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNTIES

Trails and Pathways





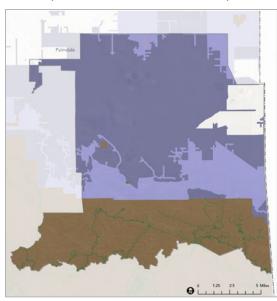
Legend

Rural Sites with Trails and Pathways Regional Trails

Regional Bikeways
Lake Los Angeles/
Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo
Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County
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

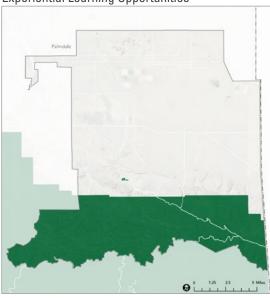
Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County

21%

OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

Experiential Learning Opportunities





Legend

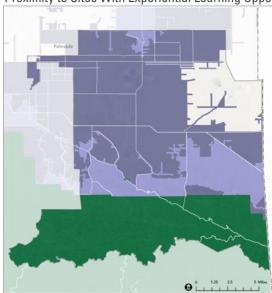
Rural Recreation Sites with Experiential Learning Opportunities

Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County
Major Roads

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

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 Experiential

Learning Opportunities

Rural Recreation Sites with

Experiential Learning Opportunities

Lake Los Angeles/

Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County

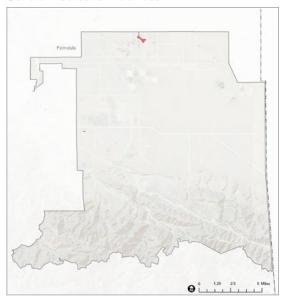
20.6%

OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE



RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

General Recreation Facilities

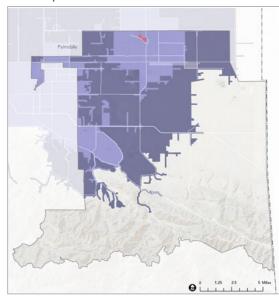




Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with General Recreation Facilities
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
 Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With General Recreation Facilities





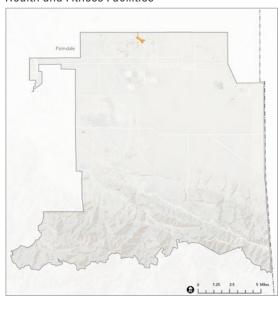
Legend

- 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
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
 Major Roads

EO CO/

OF RESIDENTS LIVE
WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

Health and Fitness Facilities



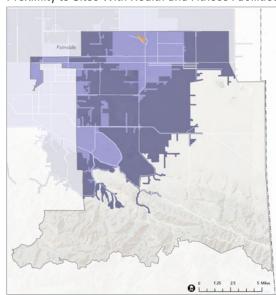


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Health and Fitness Facilities
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
 Major Roads

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

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
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
 Major Roads

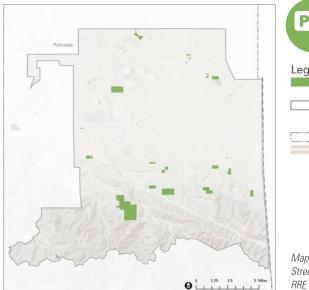
52.6%

OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

Appendix B | Lake Los Angeles/Pearblossom/Llano/Valyermo

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNTIES

Support Facilities



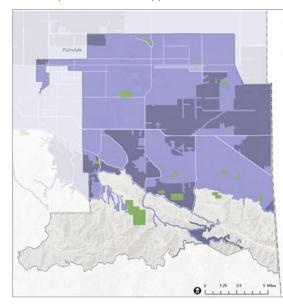


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Support Facilities
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
 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
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Support
- Facilities
 Rural Recreation Sites with
 Support Facilities
- Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo
- Rural Study Area
 Los Angeles County
 Major Roads
- 930/

OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THEMES

BARRIERS RESIDENTS EXPERIENCE TO USING PARKS AND FACILITIES



EXTREME WEATHER

Hot summers and cold winters in the Antelope Valley make outdoor recreation activities difficult many months of the year.



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.



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.



DISTANCE

Many residents and families have to travel long distances to parks and facilities since they are not available nearby.



SAFETY

Concern about unhoused people in the park, as well as pandemic safety precautions like social distancing and mask wearing in parks.



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.



COST

Fees to use some parks and facilities or rent equipment is too expensive for low income families.



LIMITED ADA ACCESSIBILITY

Parks and other facilities are not accessible to disabled and older residents.



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 swimming facilities, sports areas, and gathering spaces, and provide few activities for residents to participate in.



LACK OF OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS

Including trails for hikers and equestrians, pet-friendly areas and affordable water-based recreation.



LACK OF NEARBY GREEN SPACE

Many residents live in park-poor communities and cannot access parks or green spaces near to where they live.

"Too hot, too cold, too windy to do much outside in the Antelope Valley."

"Areas to hike by yourself aren't safe near me."

"No swimming pool nearby"

"There is no reach out program toward seniors in my community."

"There are NO spaces for taking kids on a field trip that is within our bus range without taking a full day trip, and buses are expensive!"



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, and restoration of local lakes and other waterways for recreation and to support area wildlife.



MORE SHADE

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



TRANSIT OPTIONS

Provide free and more frequent transit to nearby parks.



ENHANCED SAFETY MEASURES

Provide more patrols on trails and at parks. Ensure visitors are adhering to social distancing and other protective measures during the pandemic.



BETTER ACCESS TO INFORMATION

More information about events at parks and available amenities.



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, jogging tracks, courts and swimming facilities to meet demand.



IMPROVED MAINTENANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Clean and upgraded restrooms, playgrounds 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, seniors and residents with disabilities and/or health limitations.



MORE FACILITIES FOR EQUESTRIAN USE

Parking for horse trailers at equestrian staging areas and trailheads, and places to hold equestrian events.



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 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.

"Most people need free transportation and designated bus that takes people to parks."

"Swimming lessons should be free and encouraged in our youth. Swimming Programs and teams should be free for all people. The price for gear and membership to be in sport leagues can be too much for many community members. There should be free leagues and equipment at every park for the use of the community."

"More community rooms, too, in the established parks. The more community gathers, the more they will use the open spaces of the park."

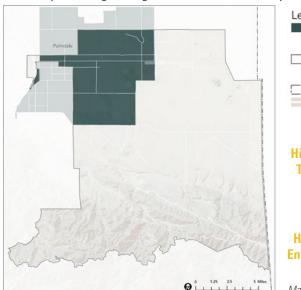
"Make it less complicated for local groups to use the parks. It is still too hard for a local soccer or 4H group to use facilities."

> "What's missing are smaller, but more plentiful parks that can fill the voids across the Antelope Valley."



RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY ANALYSIS

Areas Experiencing the Highest Levels of Overall Population Vulnerability



Legend Areas of Moderate to High Vulnerability Across All Four Dimensions Lake Los Angeles/ Pearblossom/Liano/Valyermo Rural Study Area Los Angeles County Major Roads



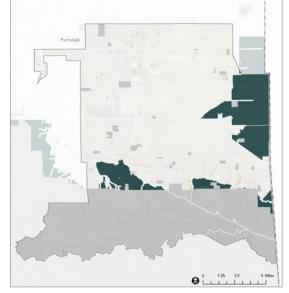
High Levels of Social and Transportation Barriers

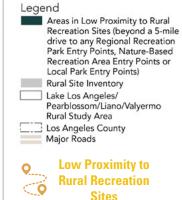


High Levels of Health and Environmental Vulnerability

Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

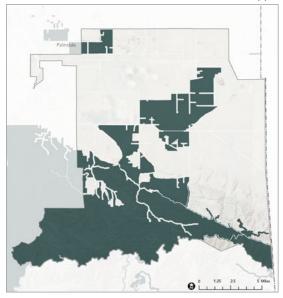
Areas Located in Low Proximity to Rural Recreation Sites

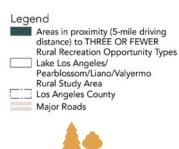




Map source: ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

Areas With Access to the Fewest Recreation Opportunity Types



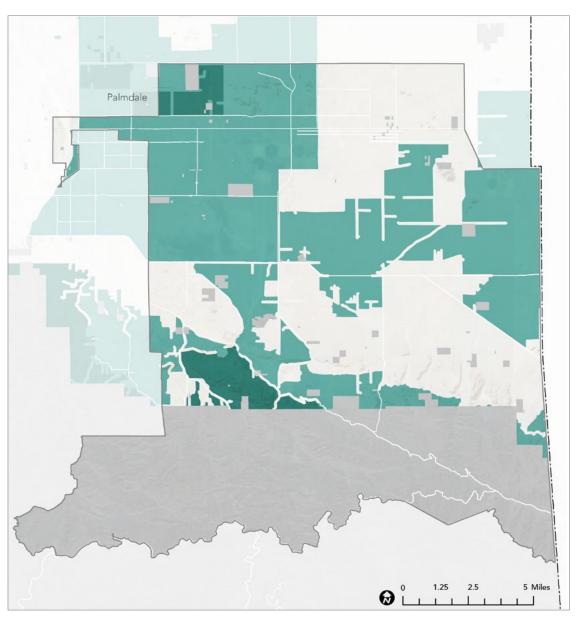




Map source: ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory



RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY AREAS



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

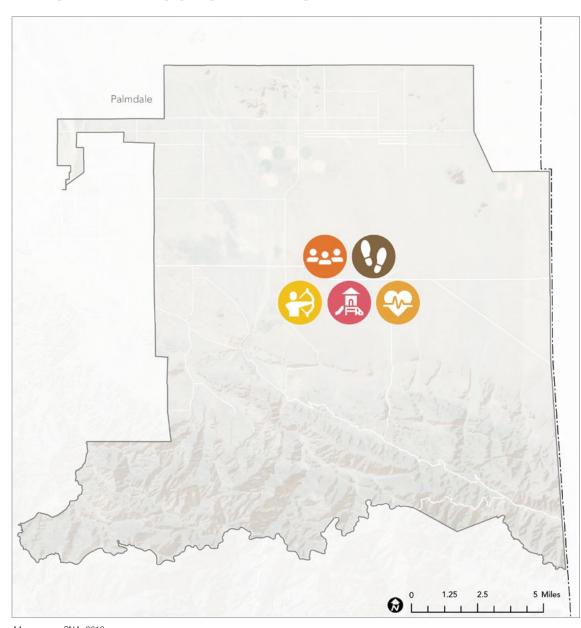
Areas with:







PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES



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.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

- » Improvements at Sorensen Park with new:
 - » Skatepark
 - » Shade Structures
 - » Fitness Zone
 - » Gazebo
- » Improvements at Pearblossom Park:
 - » Repair of General Infrastructure
- » Trails

