

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.)

NORTHWEST ANTELOPE VALLEY RURAL STUDY AREA PROFILE

RURAL STUDY AREA ID #1 / PNA STUDY AREA ID #18

- » 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 Northwest Antelope Valley Study Area is located in the Antelope Valley Regional Study Area. The Northwest Antelope Valley Study Area is bordered by the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale to the east, the Angeles National Forest to the south, the Los Padres National Forest to the west, and the Tehachapi mountains and high desert in Kern County to the north. The Study Area encompasses approximately 309 square miles. The unincorporated communities of Gorman, Del Sur, Antelope Acres, Neenach, and Three Points are in the Northwest Antelope Valley Study Area.

STUDY AREA CONSIDERATIONS

The Study Area has major constraints, including natural hazards, such as earthquakes and extreme heat, lack of infrastructure, including public transit service, and limited water supply. It is critical that existing rural communities, agriculture, natural resources, and biological diversity remain protected. The desirability of rural living and the availability of affordable housing have led to significant growth in some unincorporated communities. In turn, many residents have had to commute further distances to access employment opportunities. Employment opportunities and schools continue to operate in more populated areas of the Antelope Valley. As a result, many residents in the Study Area commute long distances to schools and workplaces.

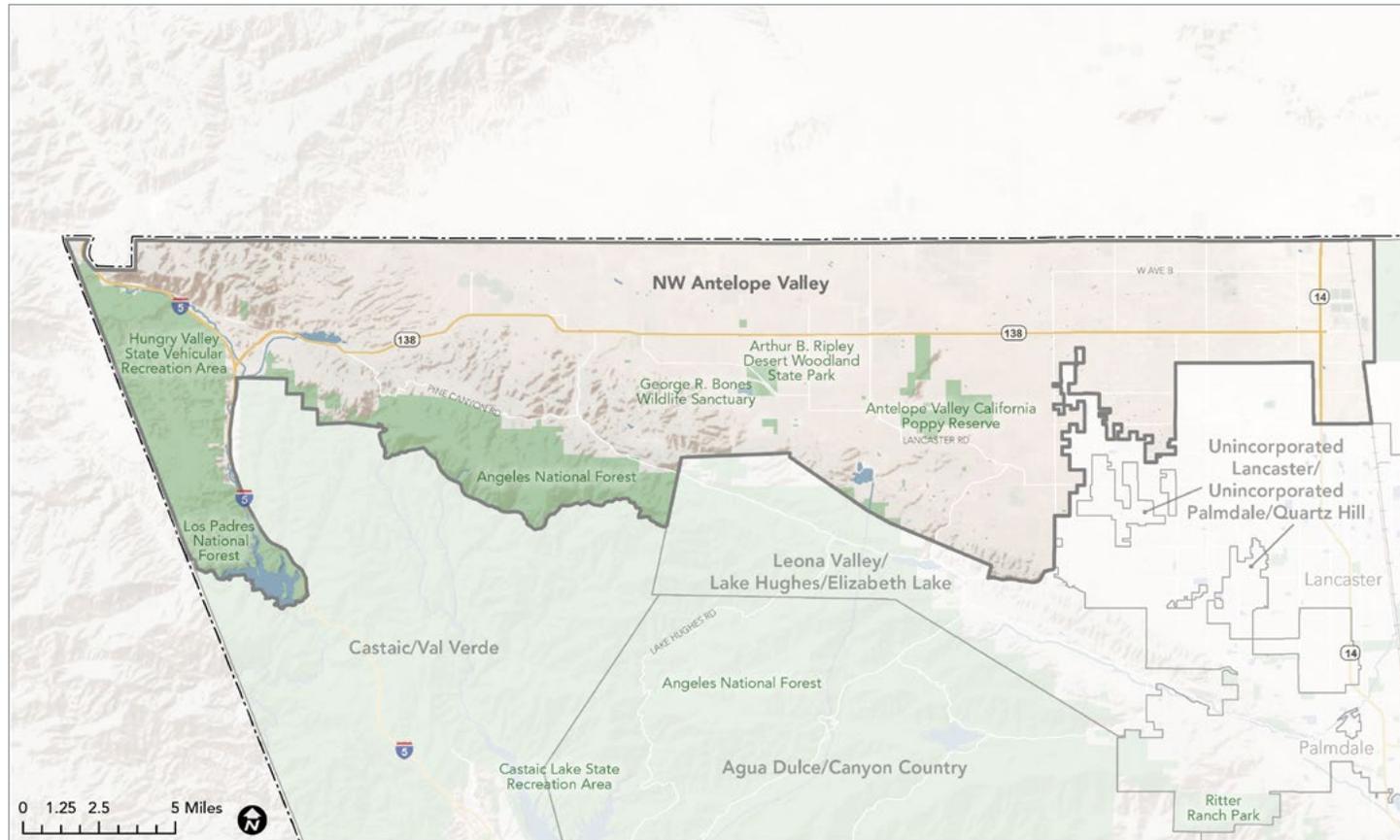
KEY ANALYSIS TAKEAWAYS

- » Transportation barriers are the most prevalent dimension of population vulnerability in the Study Area.
 - » Only 1% of residents live within walking distance of a rural recreation site.
 - » Only 11% of residents live within cycling 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 Local Park or Regional Recreational Park area.
- » Study Area residents live within proximity to very few types of recreation opportunities.
 - » A very small proportion of Study Area residents live within a 5-mile drive of water-based recreation opportunities (0.9%), overnight accommodations (6%), sports facilities (7.3%), general recreation facilities (6.4%), and health and fitness facilities (6.4%).
- » 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

- » Time, distance, safety and lack of information about activities and facilities are identified barriers to park use for residents who live in the Study Area.
- » Residents say they need more local recreation facilities and greenspaces, safe places to ride bikes, and more places for community and cultural events.
- » Greatest needs are for places to swim; spaces to gather with friends and family; places to play and to be surrounded by nature.
- » 43% of survey respondents say they are recreating outside less often due to COVID, and twice that number (86%) are looking for more recreation activities closer to home.

NORTHWEST 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	5,520

Race	Percentage
White	84.4%
Black or African American	7.15%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1%
Asian	2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0%
Some Other Race	2.35%
Two or More Races	3.1%
Total	100%

Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	17.05%
Not Hispanic or Latino	82.95%
Total	100%

Income	Percentage
Less than \$25,000	26.15%
\$25,000-\$49,999	21.25%
\$50,000-\$74,999	11.1%
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.3%
\$100,000-\$150,000	17.3%
\$150,000	9.9%
Total	100%

Gender	Percentage
Female	48.95%
Male	51.05%
Total	100%

Age	Percentage
Under 5 years	0.9%
5 to 9 years	3.2%
10 to 14 years	6.8%
15 to 19 years	7.25%
20 to 29 years	9.1%
30 to 39 years	8.65%
40 to 49 years	16.75%
50 to 59 years	19.3%
60 to 69 years	16.85%
70 to 79 years	3.5%
80+ years	5.6%
Total	100%

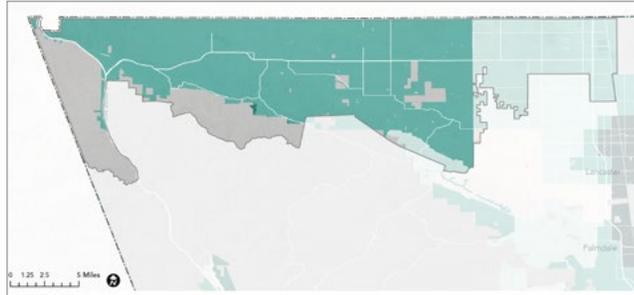
Education Level	Percentage
High School Diploma	27.85%
Some College, No Degree	31.7%
Associates Degree	10.25%
Bachelor's Degree	11%
Master's Degree	7.1%
Other	12.2%
Total	100%

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.

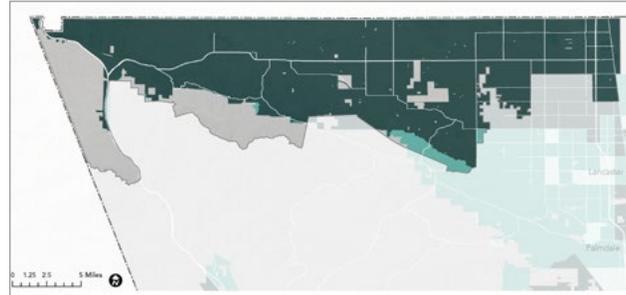
POPULATION VULNERABILITY DIMENSIONS

Social Barriers Dimension



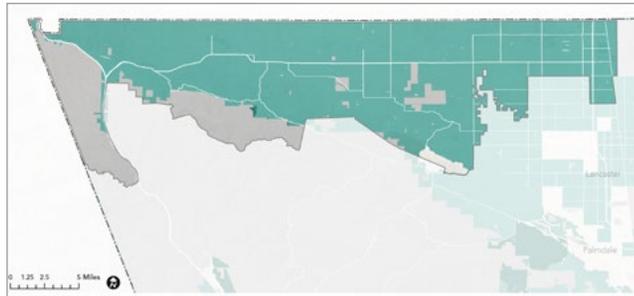
- Indicators:
- » High Poverty Rate
 - » High Unemployment Rate
 - » Majority-Minority Population
 - » High % of Young Children
 - » High % of Elderly Residents
 - » High % of Non-English-Speaking Residents
 - » Low % of Two-Parent Households

Transportation Barriers Dimension



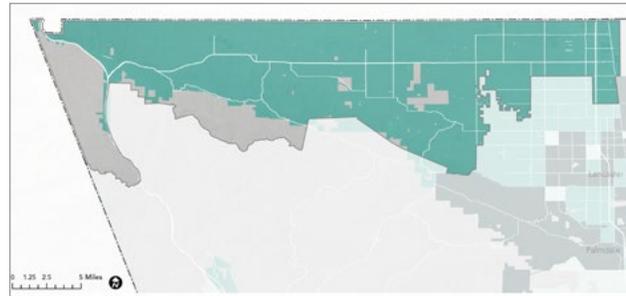
- Indicators:
- » Low Automobile Access
 - » Low Public Transit Access
 - » Low Active Commuting Rate
 - » High Traffic Density
 - » High Pedestrian Injuries

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



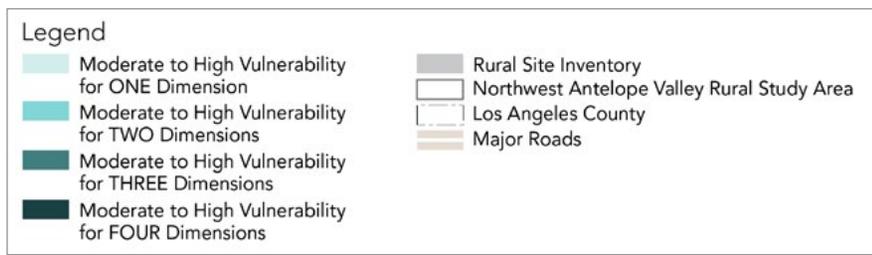
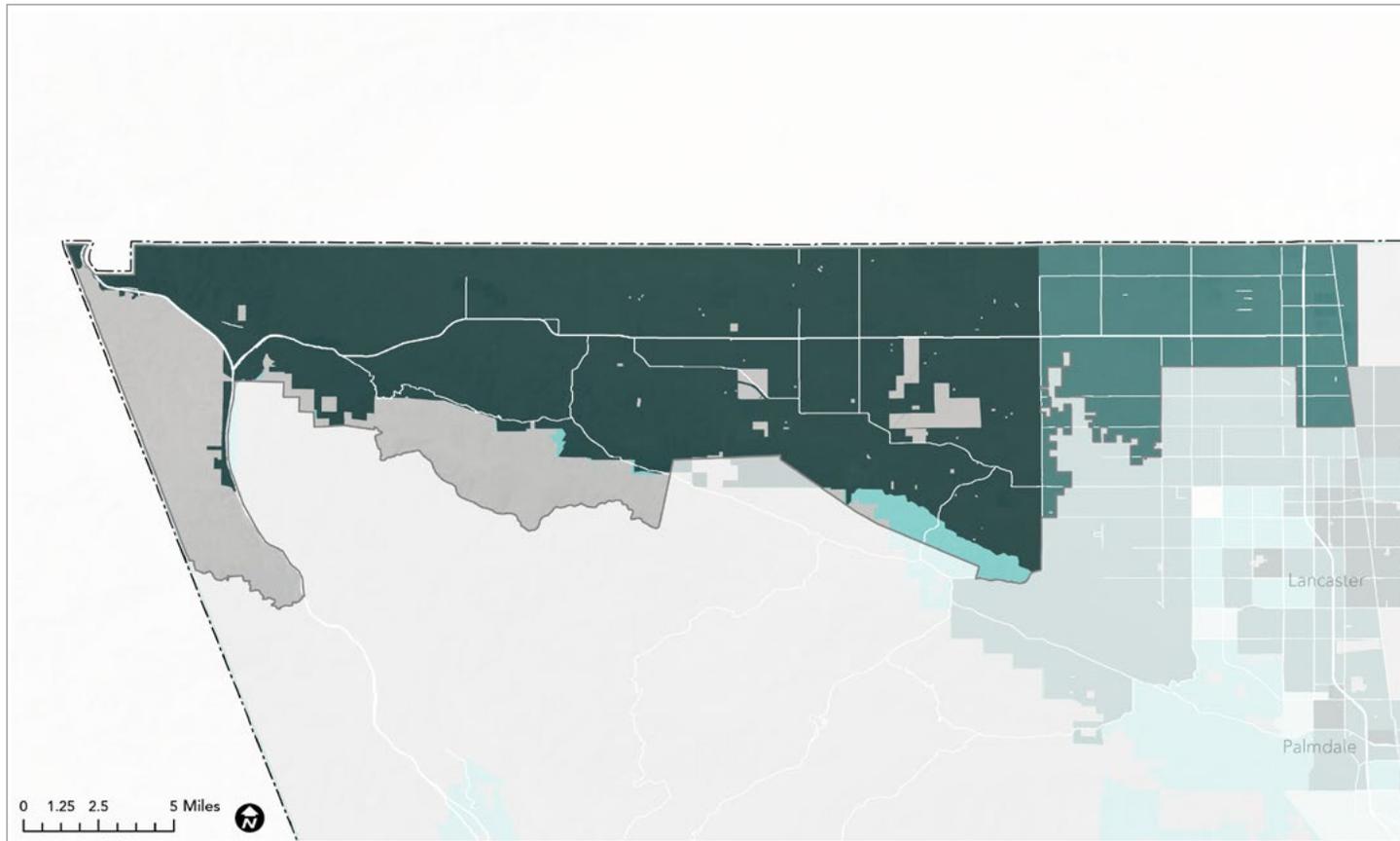
- Indicators:
- » Reduced Life Expectancy at Birth
 - » High Pollution Levels

Legend

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

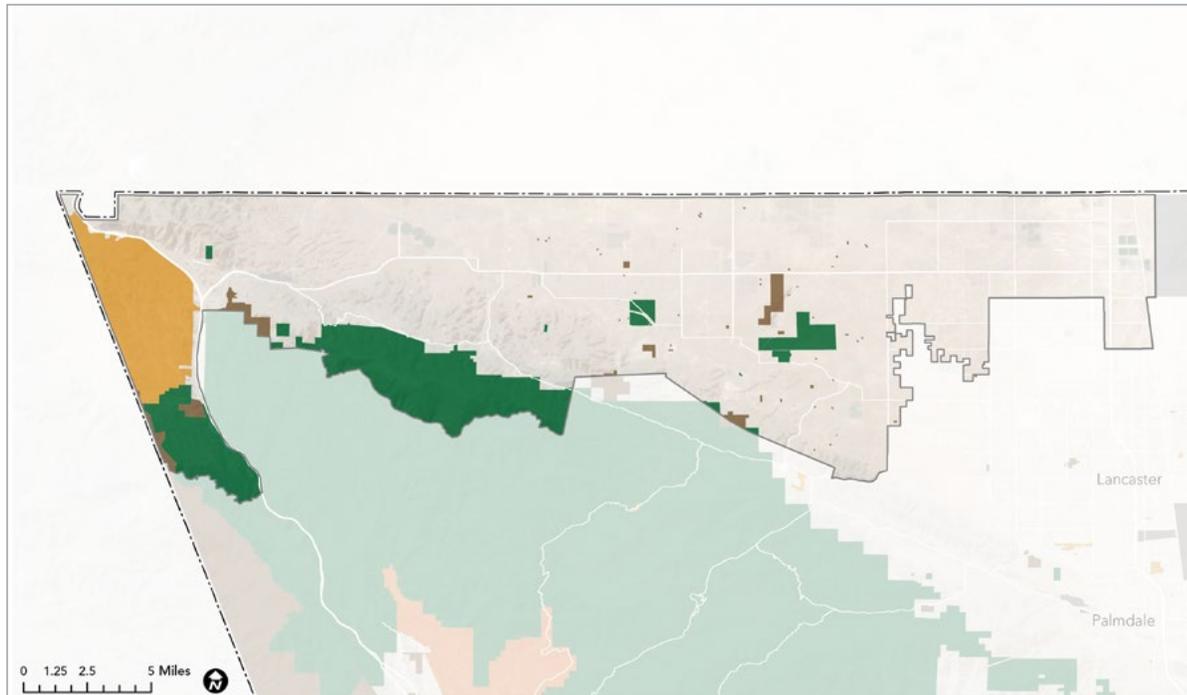
Maps source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

COMPOSITE POPULATION VULNERABILITY

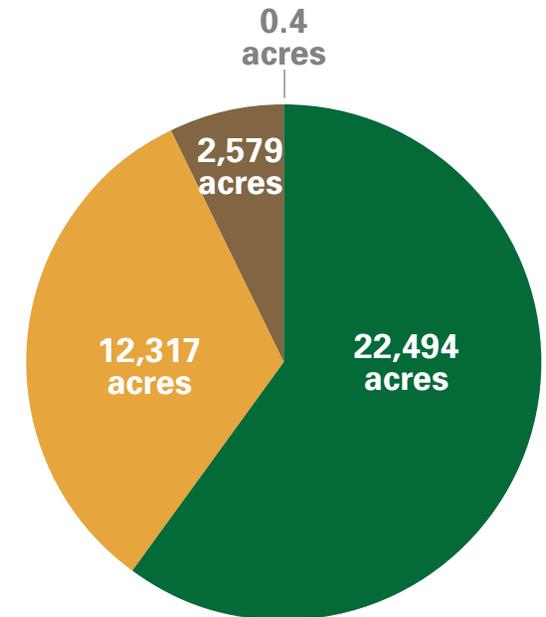


Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

RURAL SITE INVENTORY



Map source: 2021 RRE Inventory



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



37,391

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



18.9%

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

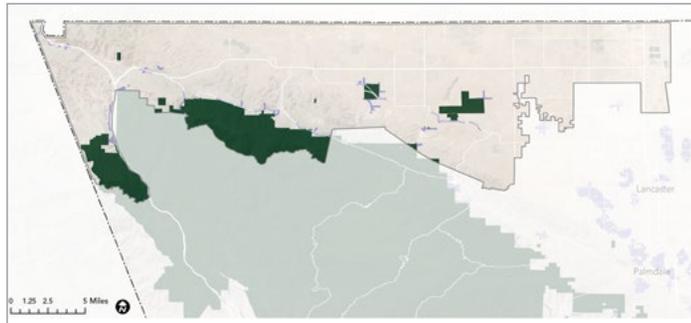


6,773

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

RURAL RECREATION SITE ACCESS

Walking Distance (0.5 miles from entry)

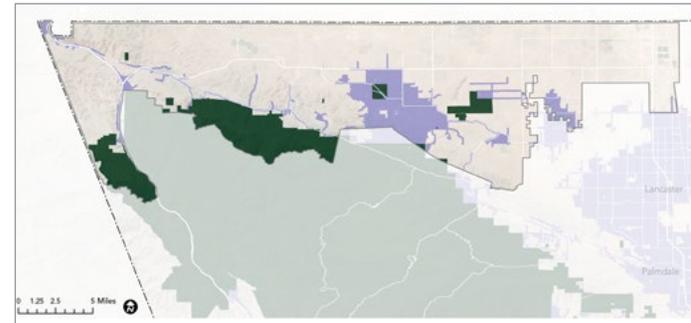


1% 
OF STUDY AREA
RESIDENTS LIVE
WITHIN WALKING
DISTANCE
OF A RURAL
RECREATION SITE

Legend

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

Cycling Distance (2.5 miles from entry)

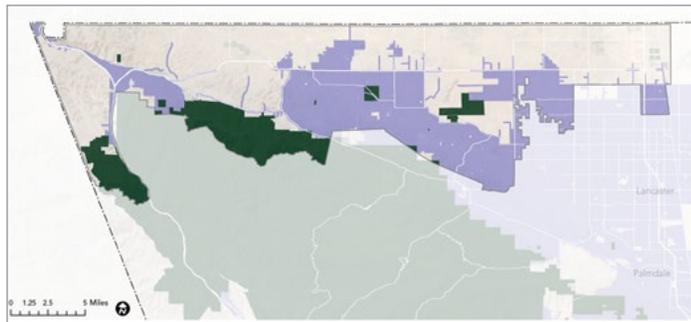


11% 
OF STUDY AREA
RESIDENTS LIVE
WITHIN CYCLING
DISTANCE
OF A RURAL
RECREATION SITE

Legend

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

Driving Distance (5 miles from entry)

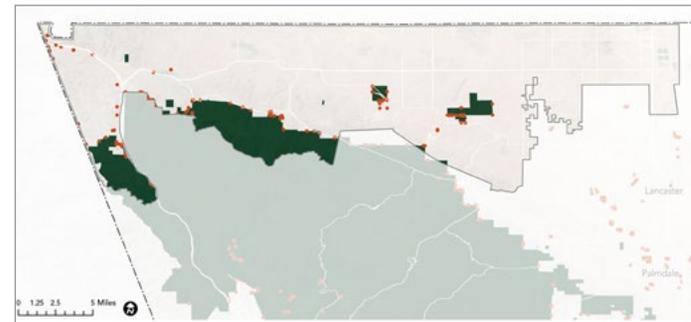


53% 
OF STUDY AREA
RESIDENTS LIVE
WITHIN DRIVING
DISTANCE
OF A RURAL
RECREATION SITE

Legend

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

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



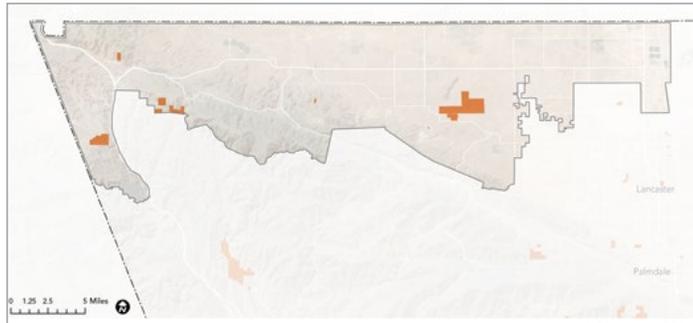
0% 
OF RURAL
RECREATION
SITES ARE
SERVED BY
PUBLIC TRANSIT

-  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
-  Northwest Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
-  Los Angeles County
-  Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

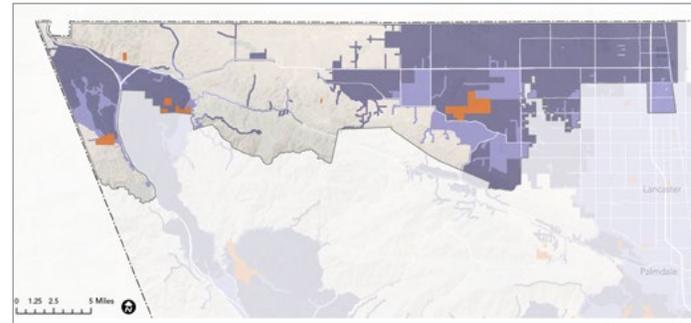
Gathering Spaces



Legend

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

Proximity to Sites With Gathering Spaces

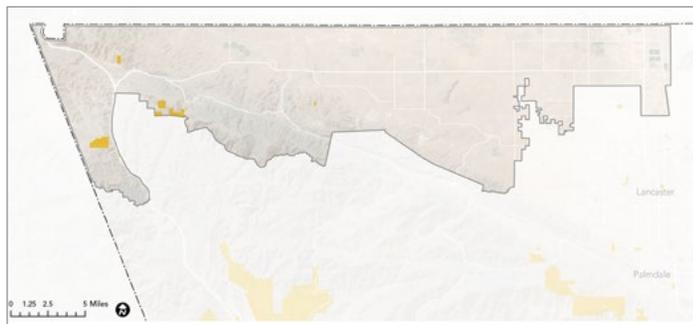


16.4%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

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
- Northwest Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

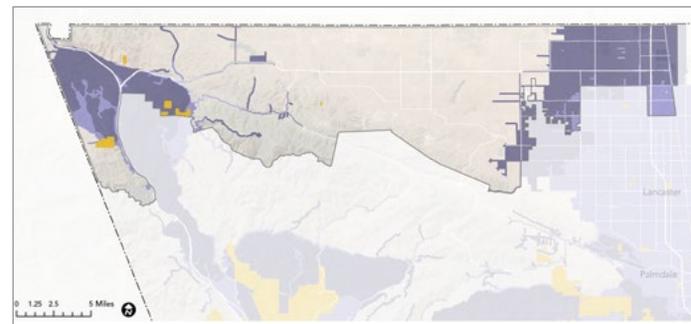
Sports Facilities



Legend

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

Proximity to Sites With Sports Facilities



7.3%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

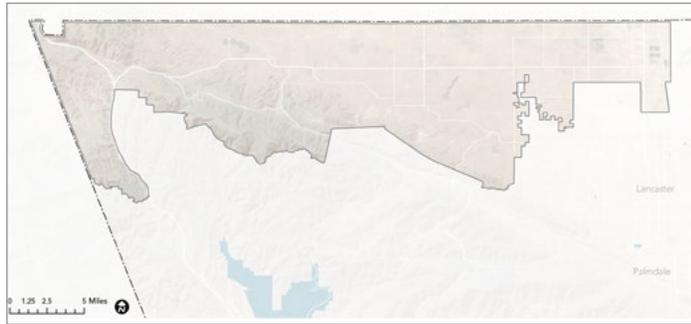
Legend

- 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
- Northwest 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

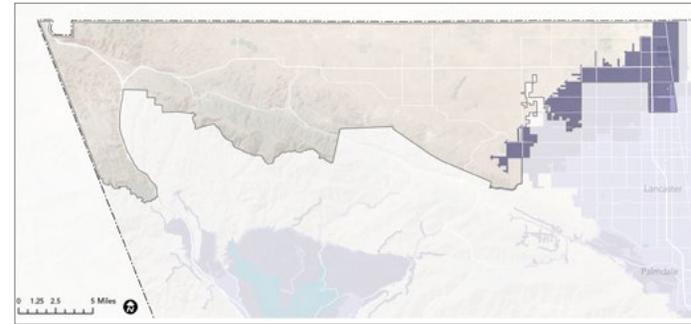


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Water-Based Recreation
- Northwest Antelope Valley 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

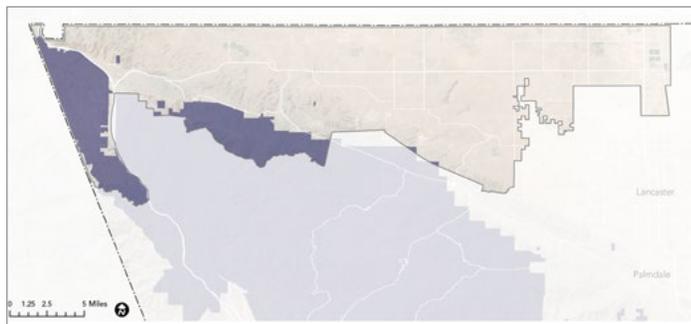


0.9%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

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
- Northwest Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

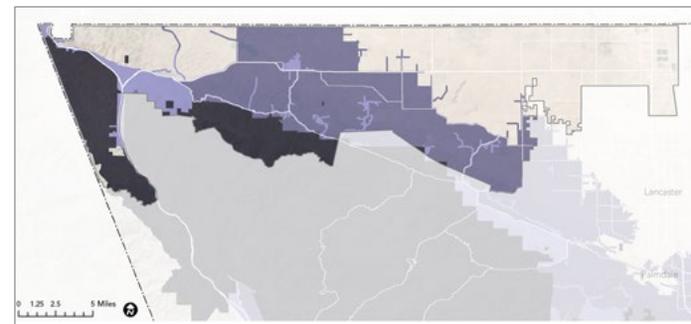
Overnight Accommodations



Legend

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

Proximity to Sites With Overnight Accommodations



6%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

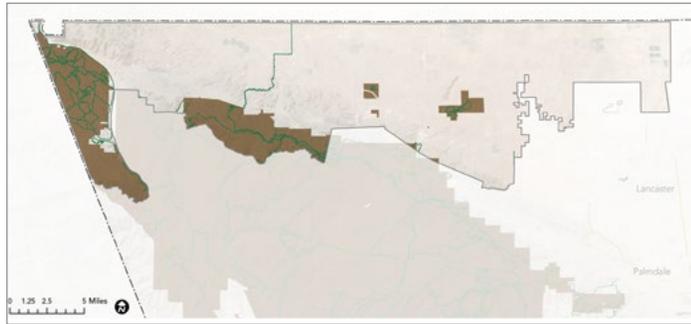
Legend

- 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
- Northwest Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

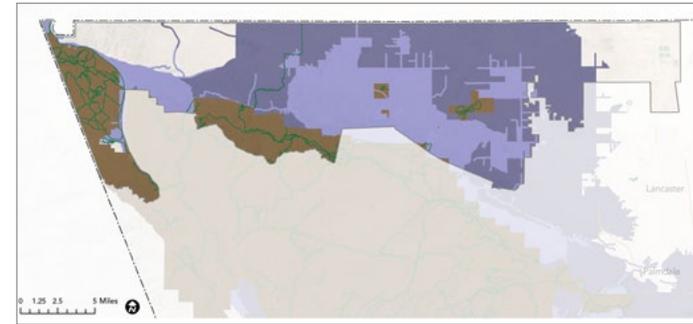
Trails and Pathways



Legend

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

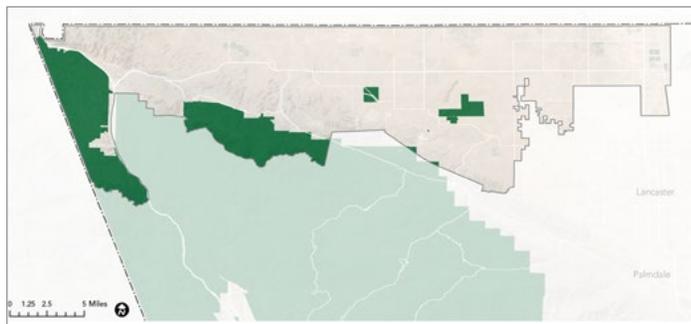
Proximity to Sites With Trails and Pathways



31.8%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

- 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
- Northwest Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

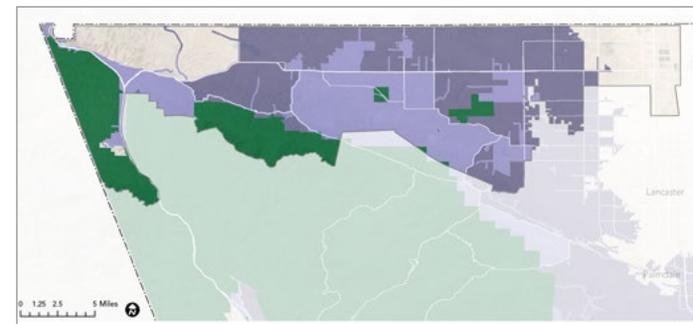
Experiential Learning Opportunities



Legend

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

Proximity to Sites With Experiential Learning Opportunities



31.8%
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
- Northwest 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

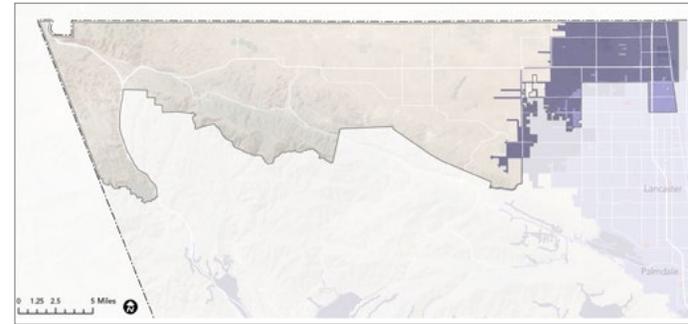


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with General Recreation Facilities
- Northwest Antelope Valley 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



6.4%
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
- Northwest Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Health and Fitness Facilities

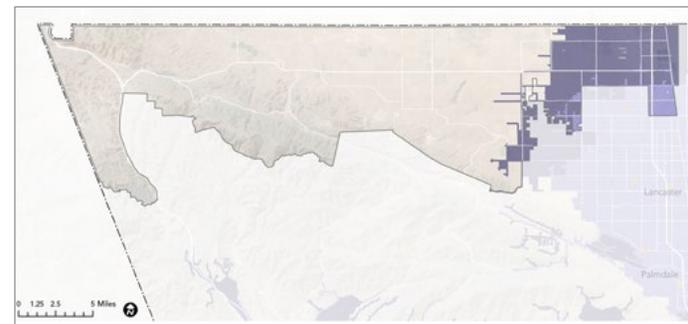


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Health and Fitness Facilities
- Northwest Antelope Valley 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



6.4%
OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

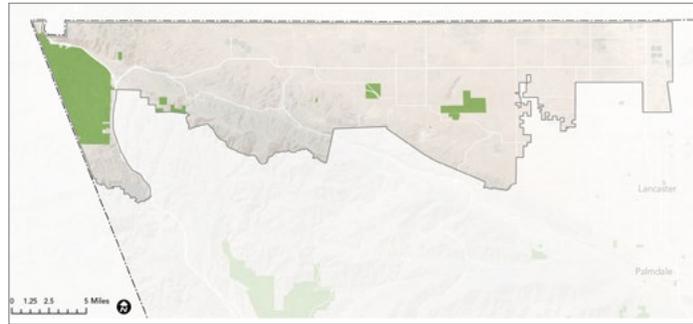
Legend

- 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
- Northwest Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

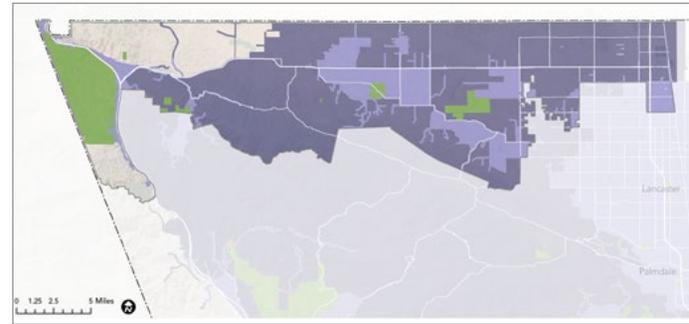
Support Facilities



Legend

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

Proximity to Sites With Support Facilities



20.7%
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
- Northwest 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



HEAT

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



LACK OF SHADE

Few places to sit or gather in the shade at parks in the Study Area.



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 and would rather walk or bike to nearby parks.



LACK OF GREEN SPACE

There are not enough parks and green spaces in communities in the Study Area.



SAFETY CONCERNS

Residents don't feel safe at parks. Safer bike riding opportunities for youth and families near parks and along streets are needed.



LACK OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING

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



LIMITED HOURS

Facilities are not open when people can use them.



LIMITED ADA ACCESSIBILITY

Limited opportunities for seniors and those with disabilities to use parks and facilities.

“Gas money to drive stops me from doing more things with my grandkids.”

“We really don't have anything classified as a “park” close to home.”

“No safe place to ride bikes with kids near me.”

“The weather—usually too hot and/or too windy.”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THEMES

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



MORE SHADE

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



ACCESS TO WATER

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



MORE PARKS AND GREENSPACE

Reduce distance residents have to travel to parks by creating pocket parks and other local greenspace in the study area.



EXPANDED RECREATION FACILITIES

Extend facility hours, and provide more basketball courts, sports fields, swimming facilities, skate parks, and places to run and walk dogs.



IMPROVE ADA ACCESSIBILITY AT PARKS

Provide wheelchair and disabled accessible parks and facilities.



EXPAND COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL EVENTS

Provide more music and movie nights and open up park spaces for the community to hold more events.



MORE TRAILS FOR PEDESTRIAN USE

Additional trails for walking, jogging and bike riding.



ENHANCED CONNECTIVITY

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



IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE

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

“We need a swimming area locally.”

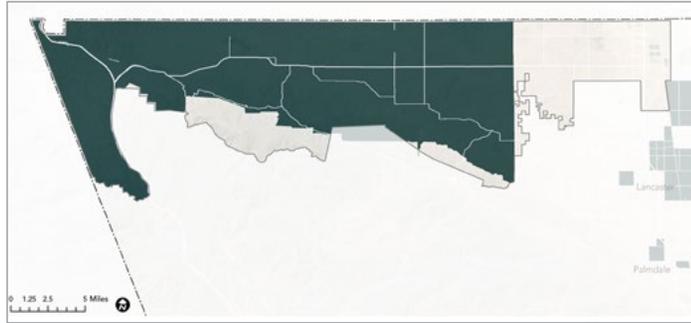
“Places for aquatic exercise.”

“I enjoy being close to safe and healthy water.”

“Allow leashed dogs in prime desert woodland preserve”

RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY ANALYSIS

Areas Experiencing the Highest Levels of Overall Population Vulnerability



High Levels of Social and Transportation Barriers

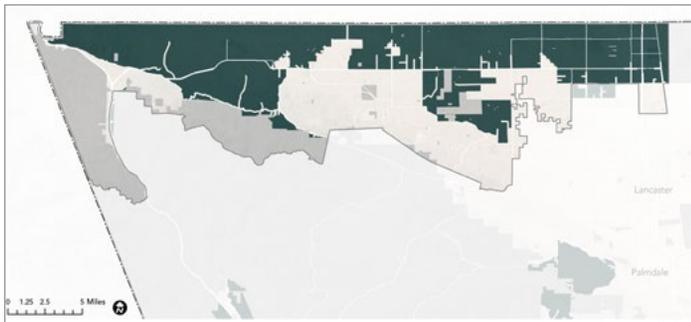


High Levels of Health and Environmental Vulnerability

- Areas of Moderate to High Vulnerability Across All Four Dimensions
- Northwest 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

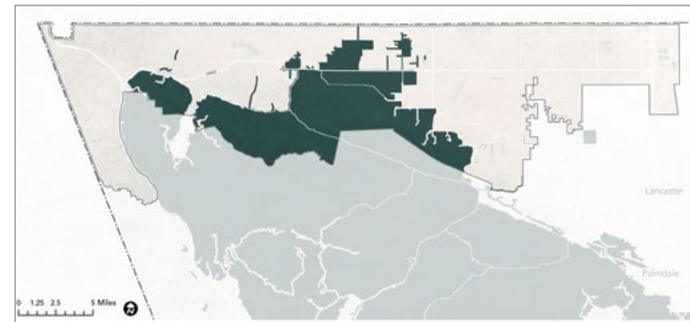


Low Proximity to Rural Recreation Sites

- 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
- Northwest 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

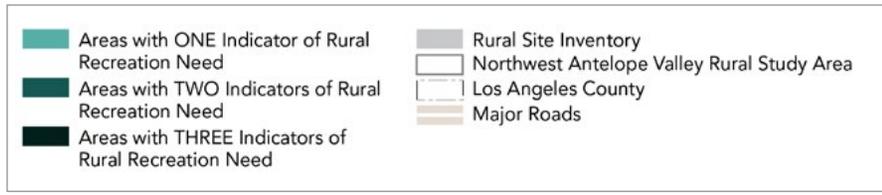
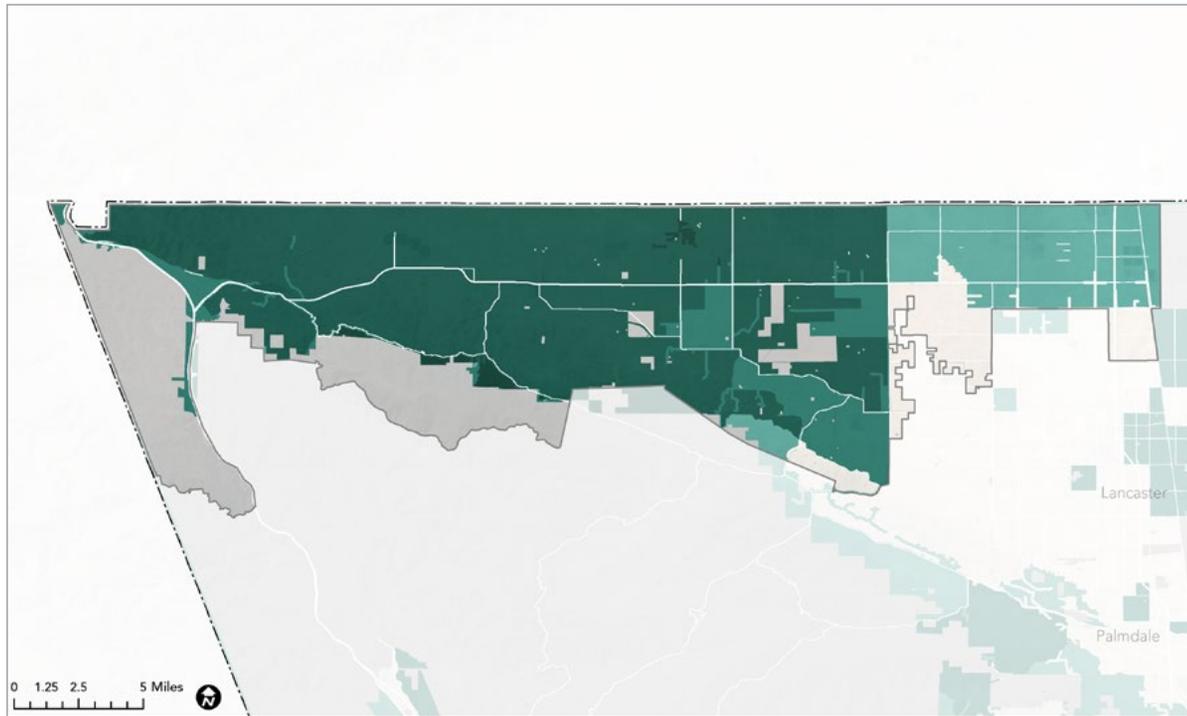


Proximity to Fewest Recreation Opportunity Types

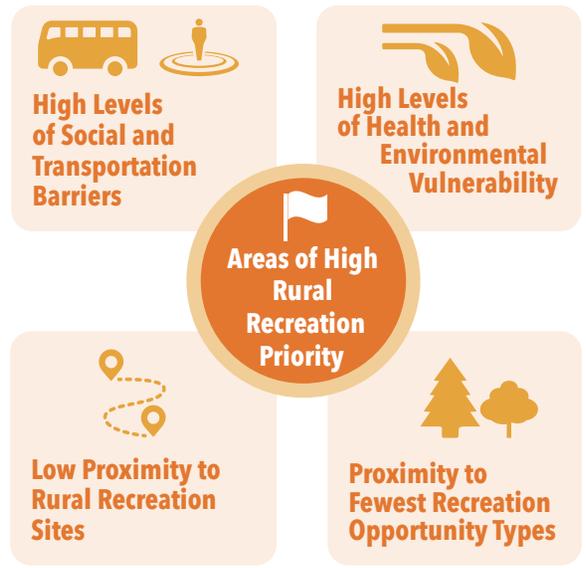
- Areas in proximity (5-mile driving distance) to THREE OR FEWER Rural Recreation Opportunity Types
- Northwest Antelope Valley Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY AREAS

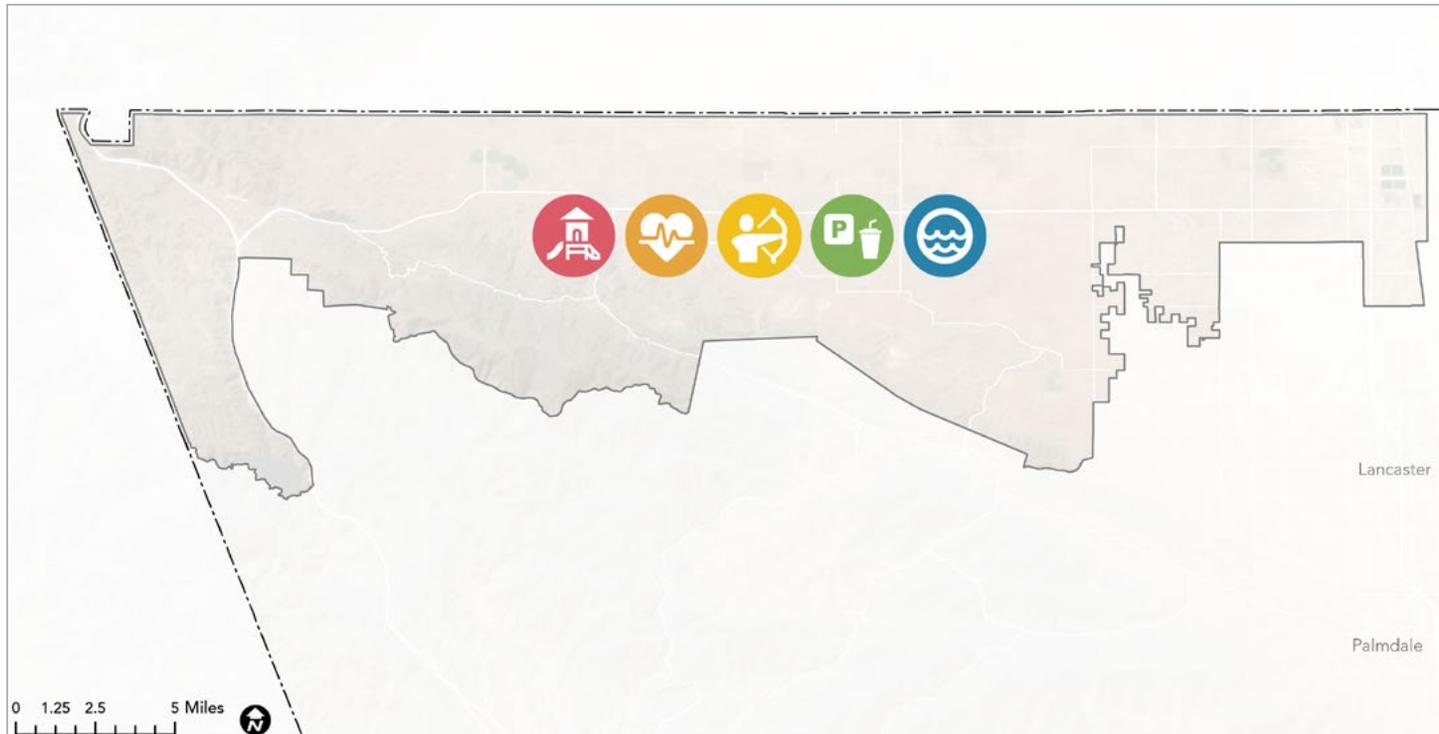


Areas with:



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

PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES



PRIORITY PROJECTS

- » Community/Recreation Center
- » Playgrounds
- » Fitness Zones
- » Multipurpose Field-Grass
- » Basketball Courts

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.