

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.)

UNINCORPORATED ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST / UNINCORPORATED SYLMAR RURAL STUDY AREA PROFILE

RURAL STUDY AREA ID #11 / PNA STUDY AREA ID #29

- » 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 Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Study Area is located in the Antelope Valley Regional Study Area. The Study Area spans from the east side of Interstate 5, just south of Santa Clarita to the eastern border of the County. The Angeles National Forest includes the San Gabriel Mountains and Sierra Pelona Mountains and is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The mountain range runs in an east/west direction just north of the metropolitan area of Los Angeles. The Study Area is the largest of the Rural Study Areas at approximately 485 square miles. Unincorporated Sylmar is located in this Study Area.

STUDY AREA CONSIDERATIONS

The Study Area has major constraints, including natural hazards, such as earthquakes and wildfire, limited infrastructure, including public transit service, and limited water supply. The study area is considered young and moderately racially diverse, according to census data. Lack of affordable housing has led to above-average household sizes.

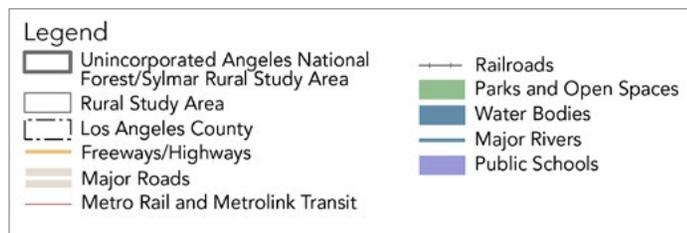
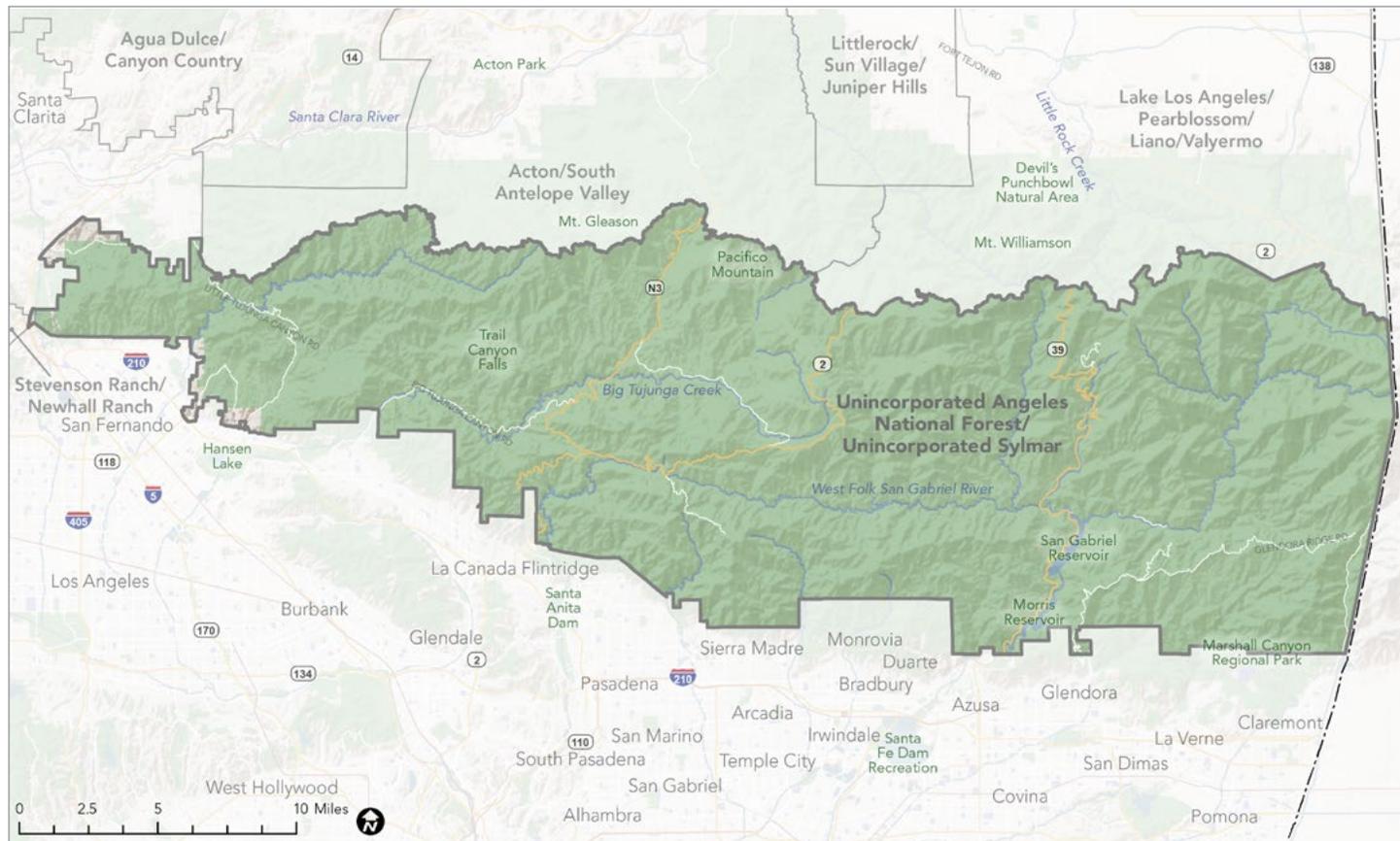
KEY ANALYSIS TAKEAWAYS

- » Transportation barriers are the most prevalent dimension of population vulnerability in the Study Area.
 - » Only 12% 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 Recreation Park area and relatively little Local Park area.
- » Approximately half of Study Area residents live within a 5-mile drive of all recreation opportunity types.
- » Access to few recreation opportunity types is the most pronounced aspect of rural recreation priority in the Study Area.

KEY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TAKEAWAYS

- » Time, distance, cost, safety, lack of information and limited park amenities are identified barriers to park use for residents who live in the Study Area.
- » Residents say they need more outdoor recreation areas and facilities, affordable access to parks, facilities and equipment, better access to parks and trails for disabled and seniors, and more access to waterways and swimming facilities.
- » Greatest needs are for places to swim, play and bring animals to exercise; gather with friends and family; and to be surrounded by nature.

UNINCORPORATED ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST/UNINCORPORATED SYLMAR



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	2,664

Race	Percentage
White	69.08%
Black or African American	4.53%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.5%
Asian	2.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.3%
Some Other Race	16.55%
Two or More Races	6.6%
Total	100%

Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	39.85%
Not Hispanic or Latino	60.15%
Total	100%

Income	Percentage
Less than \$25,000	14.63%
\$25,000-\$49,999	12.5%
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.68%
\$75,000-\$99,999	22.95%
\$100,000-\$150,000	13.03%
\$150,000	16.33%
Total	100%

Gender	Percentage
Female	45.74%
Male	54.26%
Total	100%

Age	Percentage
Under 5 years	5.03%
5 to 9 years	3.45%
10 to 14 years	2.23%
15 to 19 years	5.75%
20 to 29 years	21.75%
30 to 39 years	9.3%
40 to 49 years	16.85%
50 to 59 years	17.63%
60 to 69 years	13.3%
70 to 79 years	3.5%
80+ years	1.2%
Total	100%

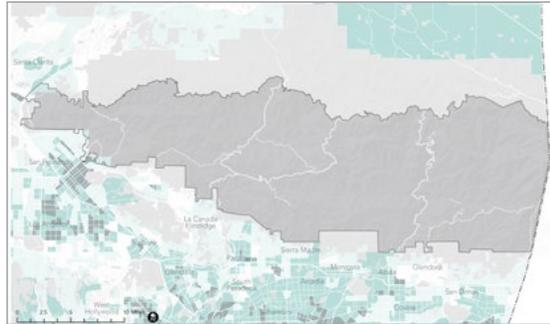
Education Level	Percentage
High School Diploma	18.53%
Some College, No Degree	22.85%
Associates Degree	10.48%
Bachelor's Degree	22.25%
Master's Degree	9.08%
Other	16.83%
Total	100%

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

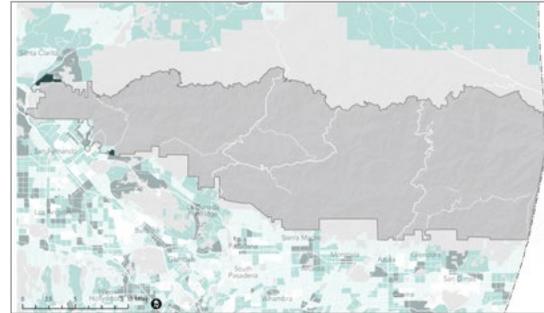
Social Barriers Dimension



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

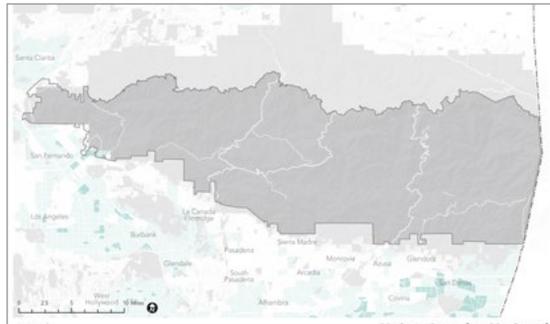
Transportation Barriers Dimension



Indicators:

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

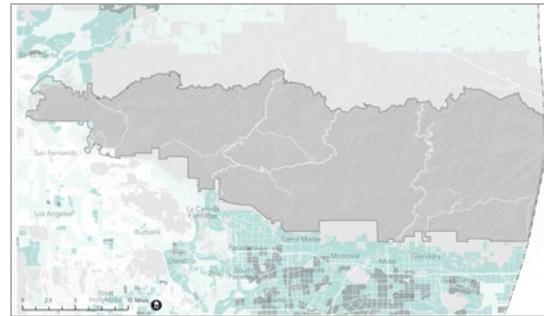
Health Vulnerability Dimension



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



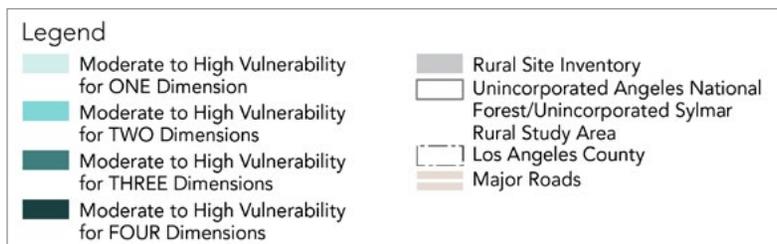
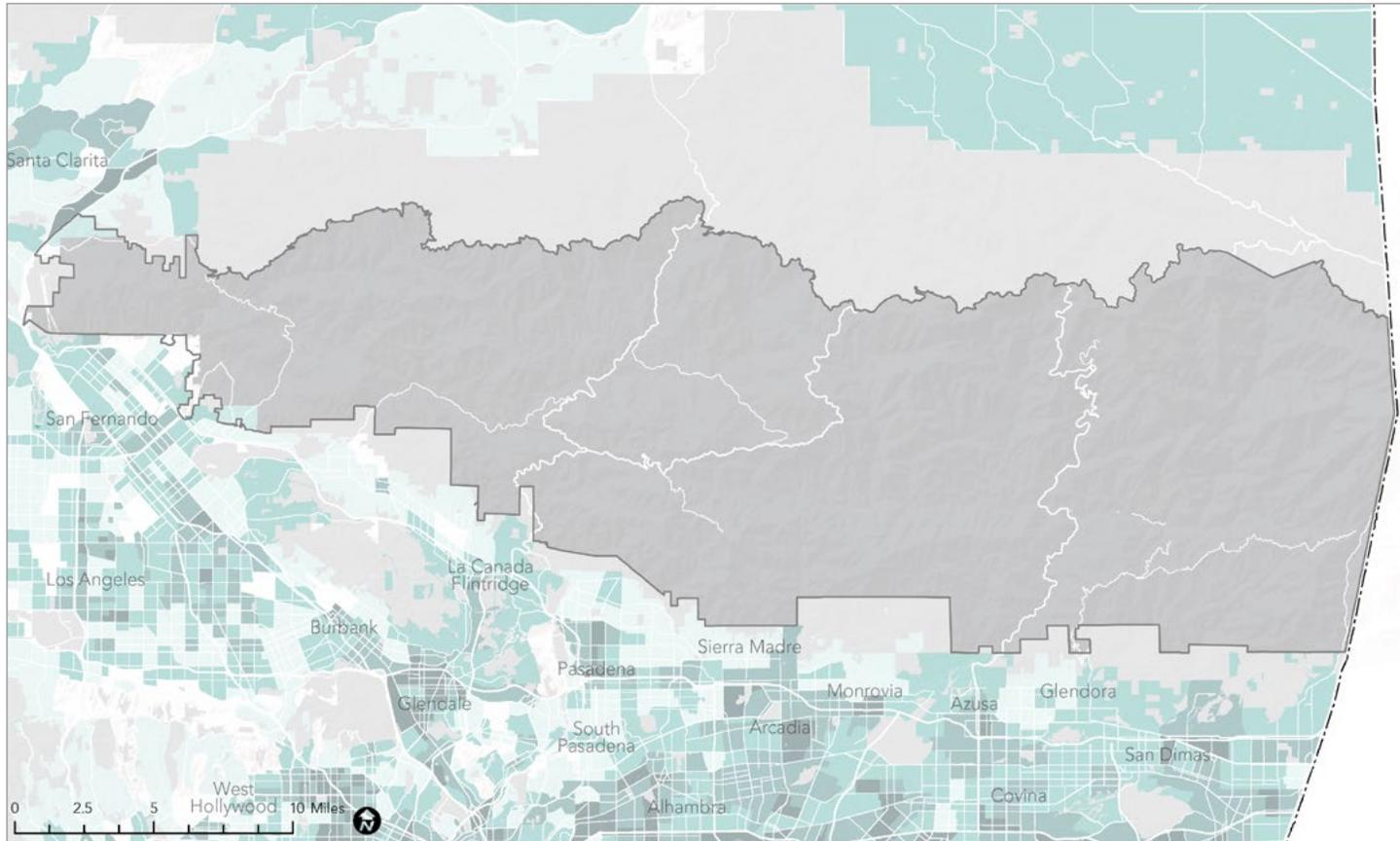
Indicators:

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



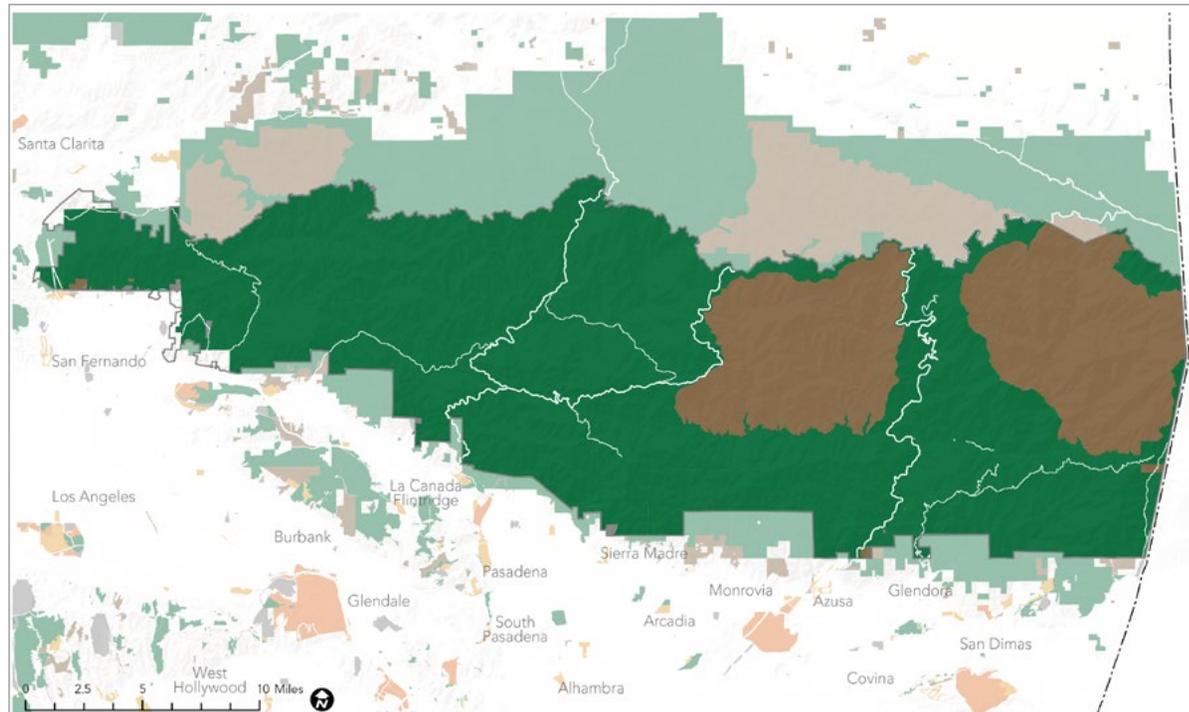
Maps source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

COMPOSITE POPULATION VULNERABILITY

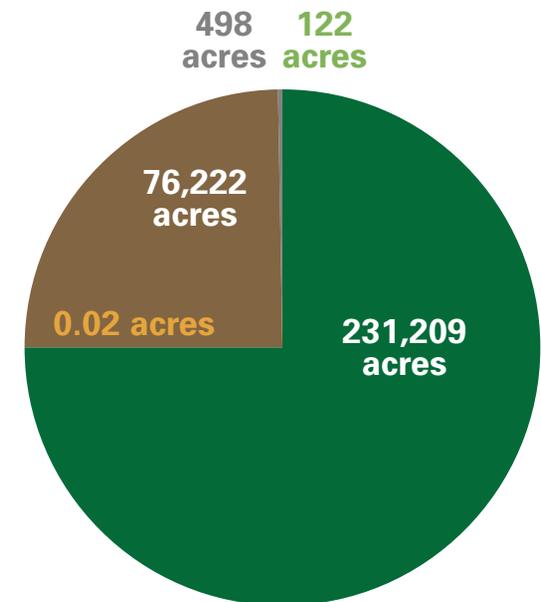


Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

RURAL SITE INVENTORY



Map source: 2021 RRE Inventory





308,051

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



99.2%

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



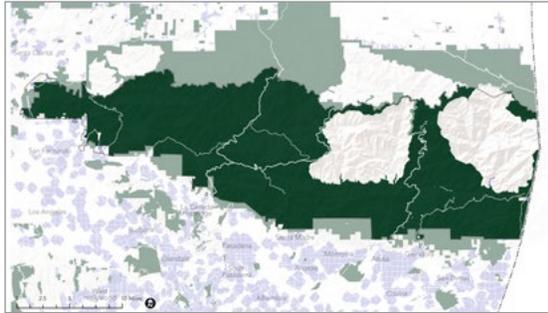
120,615

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)

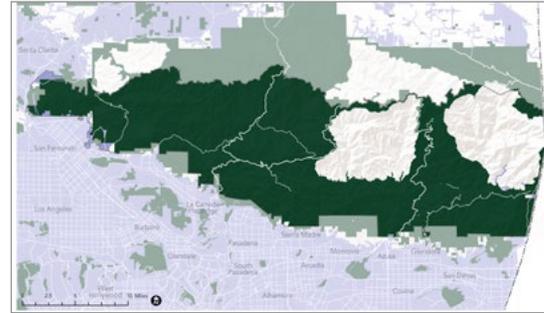


12% 
OF STUDY AREA RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF A RURAL RECREATION SITE

Legend

-  Areas within a 0.5-mile walk of a Rural Recreation Site
-  Rural Recreation Site
-  Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
-  Los Angeles County
-  Major Roads

Cycling Distance (2.5 miles from entry)

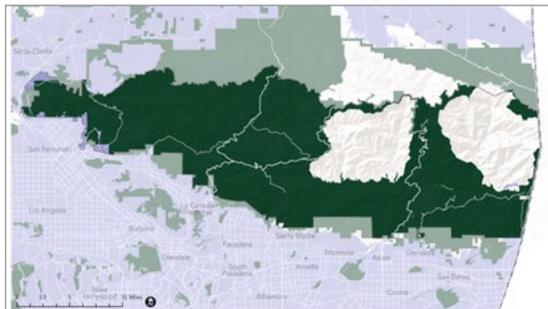


57% 
OF STUDY AREA RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN CYCLING DISTANCE OF A RURAL RECREATION SITE

Legend

-  Areas within a 2.5-mile bicycle ride of a Rural Recreation Site
-  Rural Recreation Site
-  Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
-  Los Angeles County
-  Major Roads

Driving Distance (5 miles from entry)

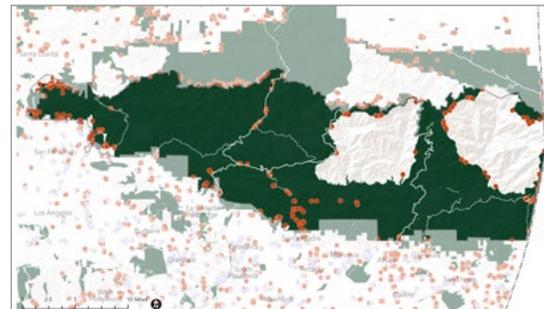


75% 
OF STUDY AREA RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE OF A RURAL RECREATION SITE

Legend

-  Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site
-  Rural Recreation Site
-  Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar 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

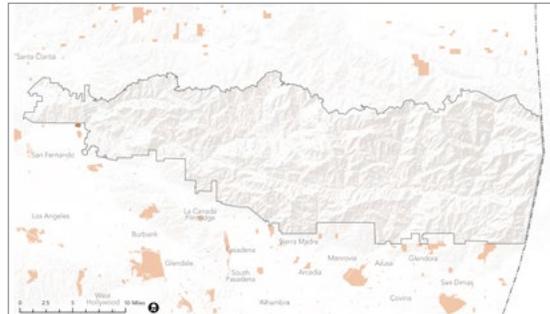
Legend

-  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
-  Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
-  Los Angeles County
-  Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

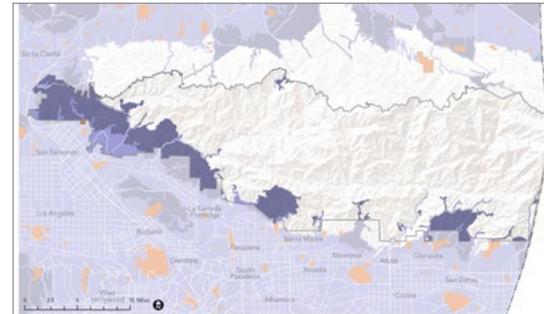
Gathering Spaces



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Gathering Spaces
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Gathering Spaces

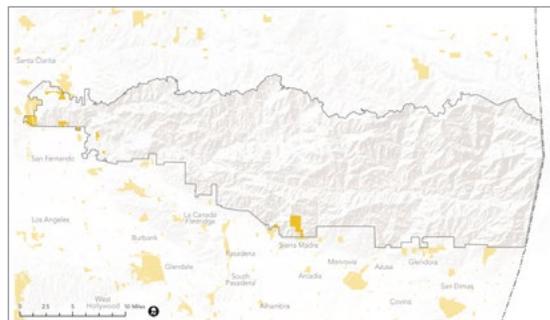


51.9%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

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
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

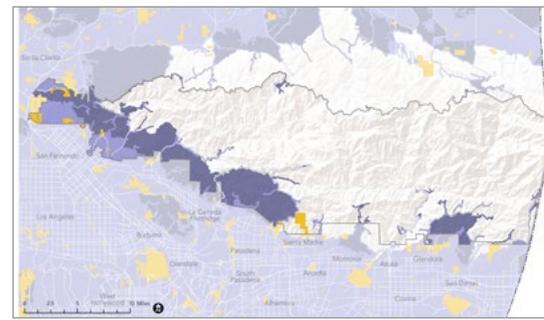
Sports Facilities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Sports Facilities
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Sports Facilities



56.4%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

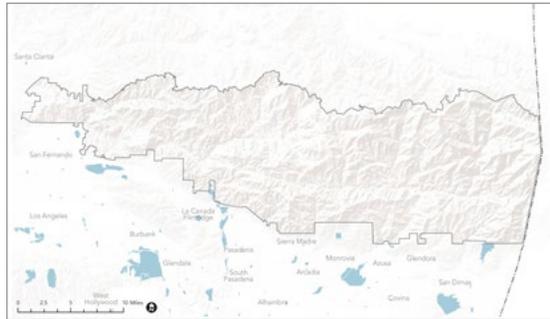
Legend

- 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
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

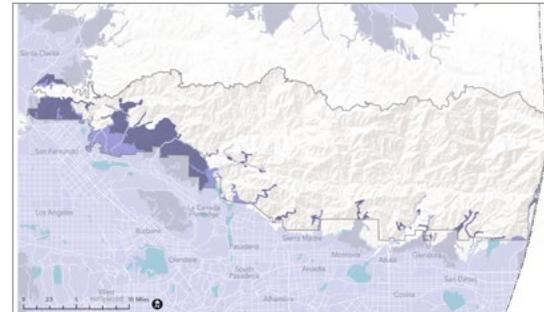
Water-Based Recreation



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Water-Based Recreation
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Water-Based Recreation

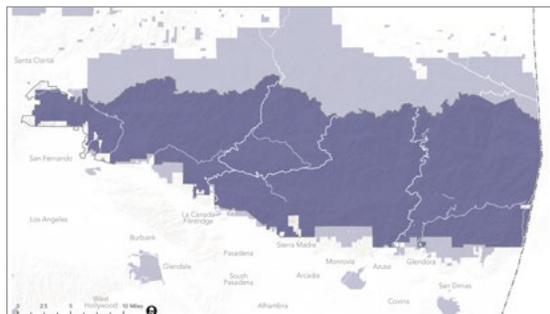


51.4%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

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
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

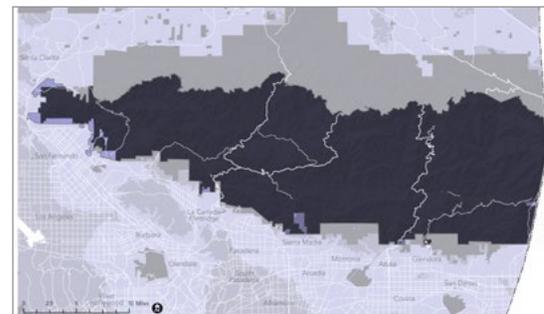
Overnight Accommodations



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Overnight Accommodations
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Overnight Accommodations



62.6%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

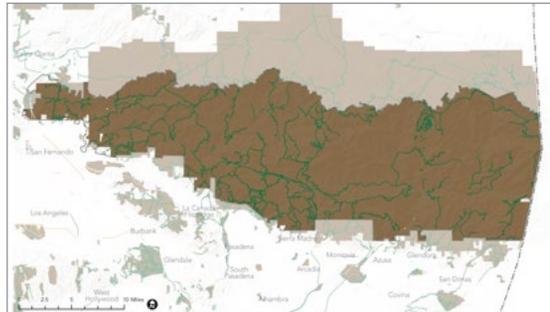
Legend

- 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
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar 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
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Trails and Pathways

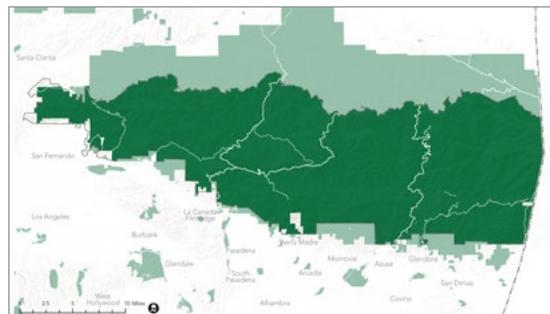


63.5%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

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
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

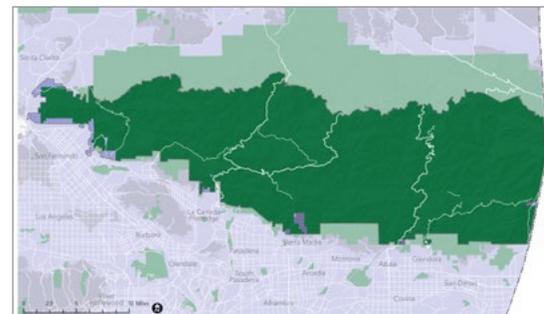
Experiential Learning Opportunities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Experiential Learning Opportunities



63.5%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

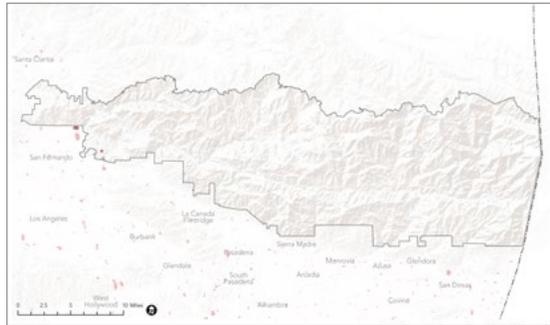
Legend

- 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
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

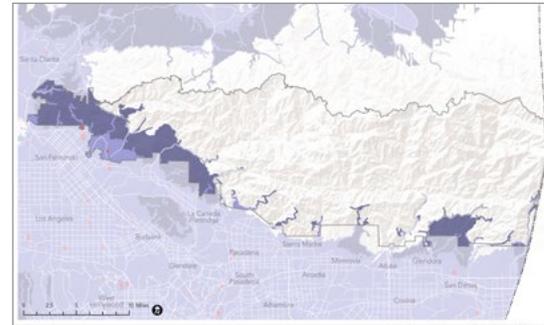
General Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with General Recreation Facilities
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With General Recreation Facilities

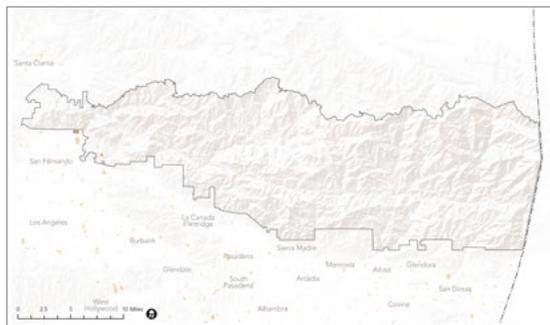


52.4%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

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
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

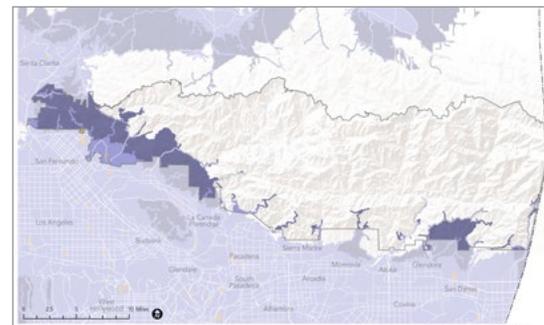
Health and Fitness Facilities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Health and Fitness Facilities
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Health and Fitness Facilities



52.4%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

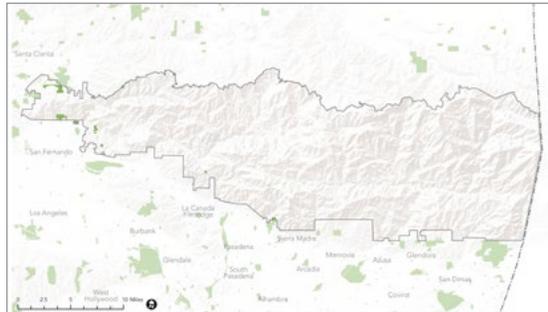
Legend

- 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
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

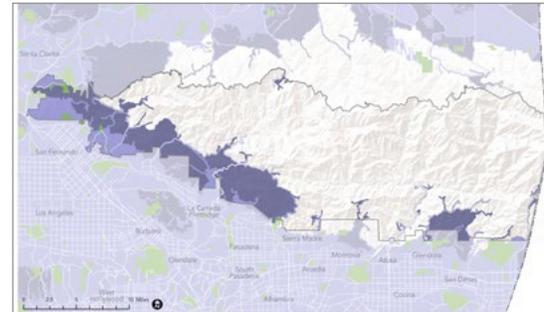
Support Facilities



Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Support Facilities
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Support Facilities



56.3%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Support Facilities
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads
- 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

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THEMES

BARRIERS RESIDENTS EXPERIENCE TO USING PARKS AND FACILITIES



LACK OF SHADE

Not enough shade in parks and at facilities, especially near gathering spaces and seating areas.



LIMITED ADA ACCESSIBILITY

Facilities are not always accessible to disabled and older residents.



DISTANCE

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



LACK OF PRIVACY AND ACCESS FOR NATIVE PEOPLES

Tribal members do not have access and/ or do not feel safe gathering for ceremony and other activities, and do not have privacy in park spaces.



LACK OF TRANSIT

Many parks and trails are not accessible by public transit.



NOT ENOUGH MAINTENANCE AT PARKS AND FACILITIES

Park facilities and trails need repairs, maintenance and restoration.



COST

Fees to enter and/or park at some parks and facilities or rent equipment are often too expensive.



LACK OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING

Nearby parks lack restrooms, outdoor recreation areas, sports fields, walking and jogging tracks, gathering and open spaces, and places to swim.



SAFETY

Concerns about unhoused people and wildfire dangers in parks in the region, as well as pandemic safety precautions like social distancing in parks and along popular trails.



LACK OF CONNECTIVITY

Not enough safe biking and pedestrian options to get to parks.



LACK OF INFORMATION

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THEMES

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



MORE SHADE

More shade structures and trees in gathering and playground spaces.



ACCESS TO WATER

Water fountains for users and animals in parks and along trails.



ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Expand services to support unhoused people who use parks.



REDUCE FACILITIES FEES

Consider more affordable facilities and user fees for low income residents.



ADA ACCESSIBILITY

Provide wheelchair and disabled accessible trails and facilities, including restrooms.



EXPAND NATIVE AMERICAN ACCESS AND FACILITIES

Respect privacy and provide access to ceremonial spaces for gatherings and events.



BETTER ACCESS TO INFORMATION

More information about events at parks and available amenities.



IMPROVED MAINTENANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Clean and maintain restrooms and trails and provide more wildfire mitigation and removal of dead vegetation.



MORE RECREATION FACILITIES

Extend facilities hours, provide more bike paths, sports fields, walking tracks, gathering spaces, swimming facilities, and places to exercise animals.



IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE

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



ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

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



ENHANCE PRESERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Organize stewardship and restoration activities at par.

“My local public funded pool was absorbed by the Y making swimming not accessible now. It has membership fees, and restricted hours.”

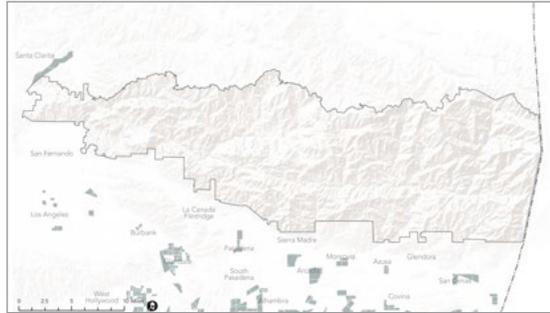
“Local tracks were closed because of school closures- there is no safe place to walk or for students to practice track drills to maintain conditioning.”

“[We need a] track for safe walking.”

“[We need] pools and tracks particularly during pandemic to keep the population healthy.”

RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY ANALYSIS

Areas Experiencing the Highest Levels of Overall Population Vulnerability



**High Levels
of Social and
Transportation
Barriers**



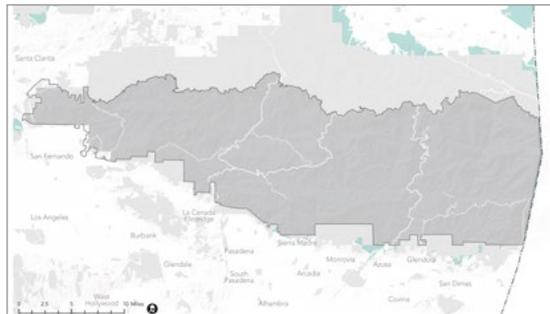
**High Levels
of Health and
Environmental
Vulnerability**

Legend

- Areas of Moderate to High Vulnerability Across All Four Dimensions
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

Areas Located in Low Proximity to Rural Recreation Sites



**Low
Proximity
to Rural
Recreation
Sites**

Legend

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

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

Areas With Access to the Fewest Recreation Opportunity Types



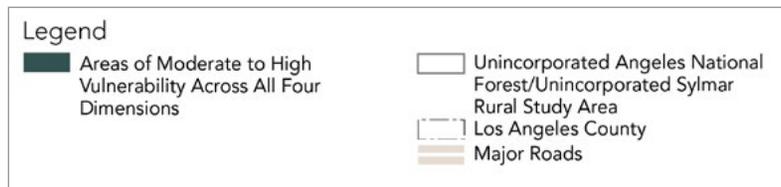
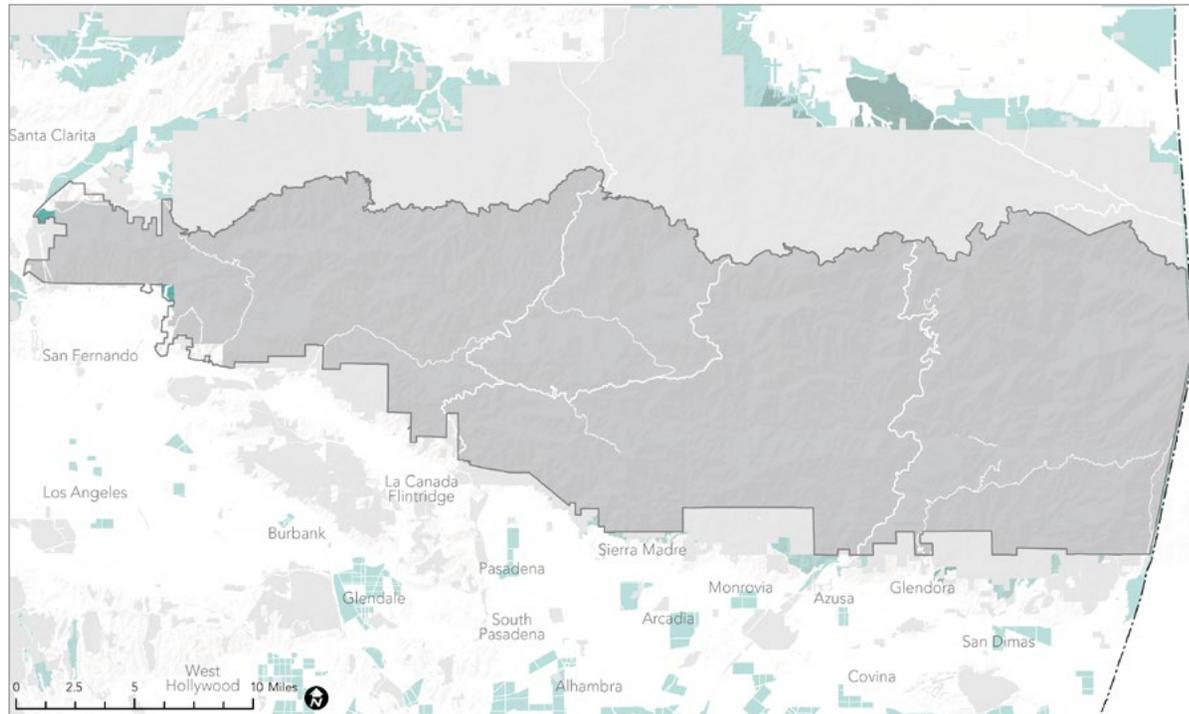
**Proximity
to Fewest
Recreation
Opportunity
Types**

Legend

- Areas in proximity (5-mile driving distance) to THREE OR FEWER Rural Recreation Opportunity Types
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

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

RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY AREAS

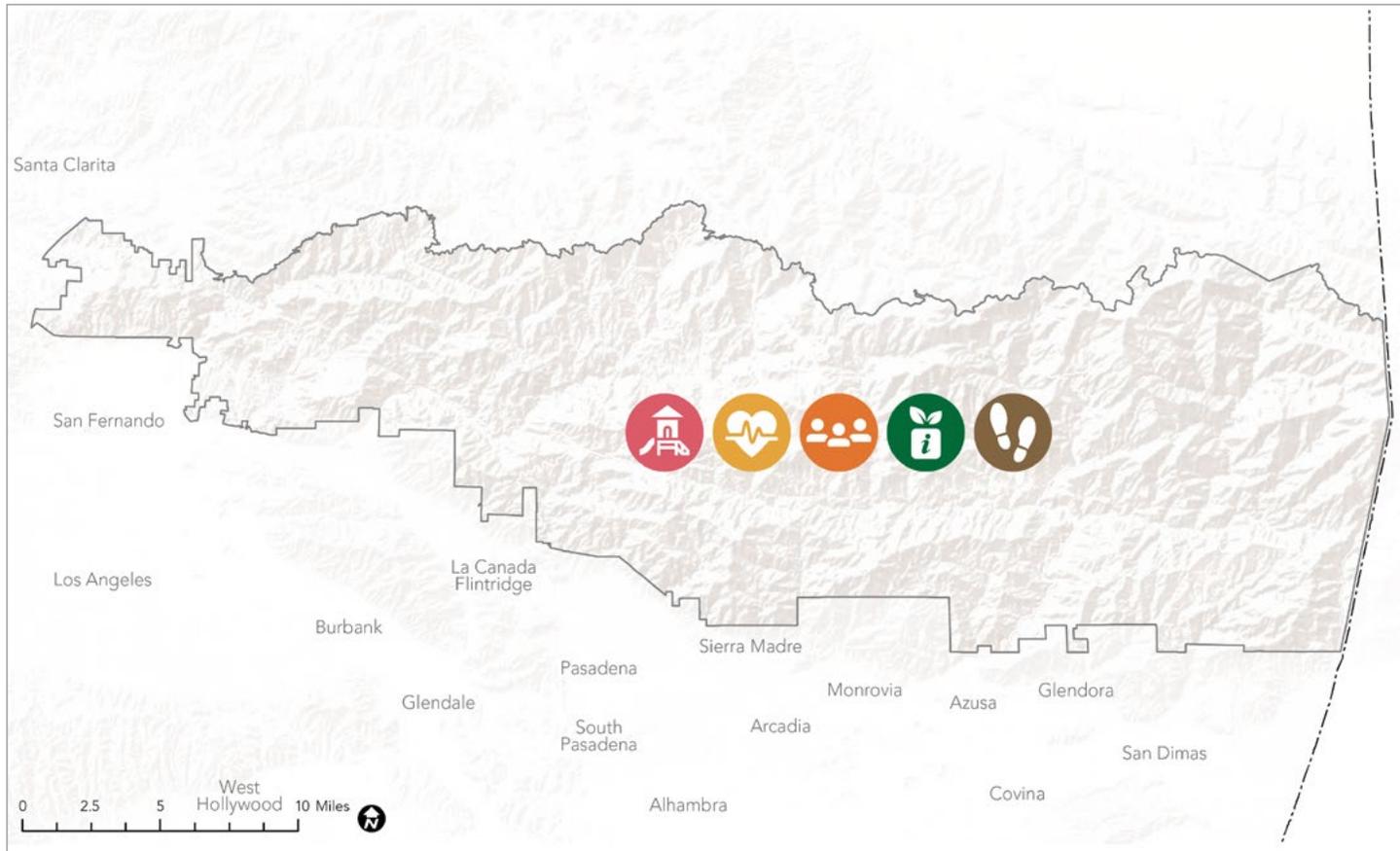


Areas with:



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

PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES



PRIORITY PROJECTS

- » Improvements at Dexter Park:
 - » Repair of Playgrounds
 - » Repair of Community/ Recreation Center
 - » Repair of General Infrastructure
 - » New Amphitheater
- » Dog Park
- » Fitness Zone
- » Trails

Legend

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

Map source: PNA, 2016

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