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

Note: All Rural Study Area Profile maps in this chapter include and refer to the sources listed here as basemap layers.

2022 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Plus
## STUDY AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

### Population, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Income, Age, and Education Level

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>69.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>4.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>16.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<table>
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<th>Income</th>
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<td>14.63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000-$49,999</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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<td>$50,000-$74,999</td>
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<td>$150,000</td>
<td>16.33%</td>
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<th>Age</th>
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<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>5.03%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 to 9 years</td>
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<td>10 to 14 years</td>
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<td>15 to 19 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 to 29 years</td>
<td>21.75%</td>
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<td>30 to 39 years</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 to 49 years</td>
<td>16.85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 to 59 years</td>
<td>17.63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 to 69 years</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 to 79 years</td>
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<td>80+ years</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<table>
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<th>Education Level</th>
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<td>High School Diploma</td>
<td>18.53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some College, No Degree</td>
<td>22.85%</td>
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<td>Associates Degree</td>
<td>10.48%</td>
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<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
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<td>Master’s Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>16.83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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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

Legend
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Rural Site Inventory
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar
- Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads
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.

- **498 acres** of regional recreation parks.
- **122 acres** of nature-based recreation areas.
- **76,222 acres** of regional specialized recreation areas.
- **120,615 acres** of conservation areas.
- **0.02 acres** of other public and semi-public open space.
- **231,209 acres** of local parks.

**2022 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Plus**
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
- 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
- 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
- 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)
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Maps source: ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory
Appendix B  |  Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar

RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Gathering Spaces

Proximity to Sites With Gathering Spaces

51.9% OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

Sports Facilities

Proximity to Sites With Sports Facilities

56.4% OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

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

Legend
- Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Gathering Spaces
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

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

Legend
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Gathering Spaces
- Rural Recreation Sites with Gathering Spaces

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

Water-Based Recreation

Proximity to Sites With Water-Based Recreation

51.4% OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

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

Overnight Accomodations

Proximity to Sites With Overnight Accomodations

62.6% OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 5-MILE DRIVE

Legend
- 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

Proximity to Sites With Trails and Pathways

63.5% of residents live within a 5-mile drive

Legend
- Rural Recreation Sites with Trails and Pathways
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar
- Regional Trails
- Regional Bikeways
- Los Angeles Country
- Major Roads

Experiential Learning Opportunities

Proximity to Sites With Experiential Learning Opportunities

63.5% of residents live within a 5-mile drive

Legend
- Rural Recreation Sites with Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar
- Regional Trails
- Regional Bikeways
- Los Angeles Country
- Major Roads

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

General Recreation Facilities

Proximity to Sites With 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

52.4% of residents live within a 5-mile drive

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

Health and Fitness Facilities

Proximity to Sites With 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

52.4% of residents live within a 5-mile drive

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

Support Facilities

Proximity to Sites With Support Facilities

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

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

56.3% of residents live within a 5-mile drive.

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.

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

**LACK OF TRANSPORT**
Many parks and trails are not accessible by public transit.

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

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

**LIMITED ADA ACCESSIBILITY**
Facilities are not always accessible to disabled and older residents.

**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.

**NOT ENOUGH MAINTENANCE AT PARKS AND FACILITIES**
Park facilities and trails need repairs, maintenance and restoration.

**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.

**LACK OF CONNECTIVITY**
Not enough safe biking and pedestrian options to get to parks.
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

![Map showing areas with high levels of health and environmental vulnerability and high levels of social and transportation barriers.](image)

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

![Map showing areas in low proximity to rural recreation sites.](image)

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

![Map showing areas with proximity to fewest recreation opportunity types.](image)

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:

- High Levels of Social and Transportation Barriers
- High Levels of Health and Environmental Vulnerability
- Areas of High Rural Recreation Priority
- Low Proximity to Rural Recreation Sites
- Proximity to Fewest Recreation Opportunity Types

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: HPPI, 2021; ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory
Appendix B  |  Unincorporated Angeles National Forest/Unincorporated Sylmar

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

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.