

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.)

we all need

UNINCORPORATED LANCASTER/ UNINCORPORATED PALMDALE/QUARTZ HILL RURAL STUDY AREA PROFILE

RURAL STUDY AREA ID #4 / PNA STUDY AREA ID #19

- » 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 Lancaster/Unincorporated Palmdale/Quartz Hill Study Area is located in the Antelope Valley Regional Study Area. The Unincorporated Lancaster/Unincorporated Palmdale/Quartz Hill Study Area is located between the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster in southern Antelope Valley. The Study Area encompasses approximately 14 square miles. The Study Area is broken up into four non-contiguous areas of Antelope Valley located within the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster. The unincorporated community of Quartz Hill and unincorporated neighborhoods of Palmdale and Lancaster are located in this Study Area.

STUDY AREA CONSIDERATIONS

The Study Area has constraints, including natural hazards, such as earthquakes and extreme heat, somewhat limited public transportation infrastructure, and limited water supply. The desirability of rural living and the availability of affordable housing have led to significant growth in the many unincorporated communities, though Quartz Hill has seen a small decrease in population since 2010. Some parts of the Study Area, including Quartz Hill, are generally better served by public transportation, pedestrian infrastructure, schools, and recreational facilities than others, such as unincorporated Lancaster.

KEY ANALYSIS TAKEAWAYS

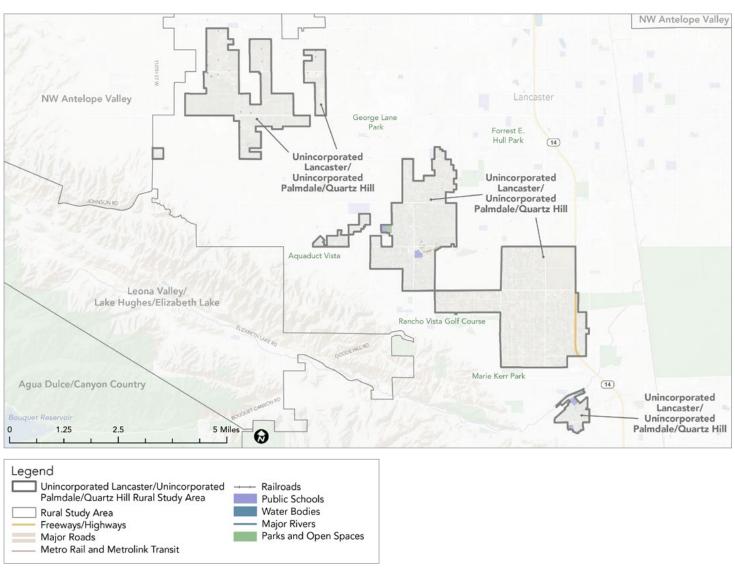
- » Environmental vulnerability and transportation barriers are the most prevalent dimensions of population vulnerability in the Study Area.
 - Only 28% of residents live within walking distance of a rural recreation site.
 - » No rural recreation sites in the Study Area are served by public transit.
- The majority of rural recreation site area in the Study Area falls under Local Parks. The Study Area contains no Nature-Based Recreation Area land or Regional Recreational Park area.
- » A very small proportion of Study Area residents live within a 5-mile drive of overnight accommodations (0%), trails and pathways (0.3%), and experiential learning opportunities (0.3%).
- High level of population vulnerability is the most pronounced aspect of rural recreation priority in the Study Area.

KEY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TAKEAWAYS

- » Heat, lack of shade, safety, time, distance, costs of travelling and lack of information about facilities are identified barriers to park use for residents who live in the Study Area.
- » Residents say they need more recreation and swimming facilities, expanded facilities hours, safe places to ride bikes, more trails and greenspaces, and places for exercising animals.
- » Greatest needs are for places to swim; play or attend fitness classes; gather with friends and family; and be surrounded by nature.
- 37% of survey respondents from the study area say they are recreating outside less often due to COVID, and 86% are looking for more recreation activities closer to home because of the pandemic.



UNINCORPORATED LANCASTER/UNINCORPORATED PALMDALE/QUARTZ HILL 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	18,435

Race	Percentage
White	76.7%
Black or African American	8.13%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.67%
Asian	4.97%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0%
Some Other Race	5.83%
Two or More Races	3.67%
Total	100%

Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	27.93%
Not Hispanic or Latino	72.07%
Total	100%

Income	Percentage
Less than \$25,000	15%
\$25,000-\$49,999	16.97%
\$50,000-\$74,999	16.47%
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.1%
\$100,000-\$150,000	19.47%
\$150,000	17.97%
Total	100%

Gender	Percentage
Female	49.85%
Male	50.15%
Total	100%

Age	Percentage
Under 5 years	5.3%
5 to 9 years	6.8%
10 to 14 years	8.47%
15 to 19 years	8.43%
20 to 29 years	9.47%
30 to 39 years	8.2%
40 to 49 years	17.73%
50 to 59 years	16.87%
60 to 69 years	9.3%
70 to 79 years	3.5%
80+ years	3.73%
Total	100%

Education Level	Percentage
High School Diploma	26.43%
Some College, No Degree	29.07%
Associates Degree	11.83%
Bachelor's Degree	12.83%
Master's Degree	10.6%
Other	9.23%
Total	100%

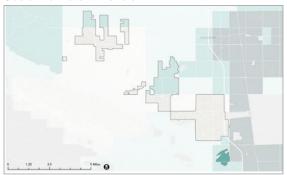
Source: 2016 PNA, U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 ACS 5-year Estimate Subject Tables, See Technical Appendix for Census Tracts included in each Study Area.

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



POPULATION VULNERABILITY DIMENSIONS

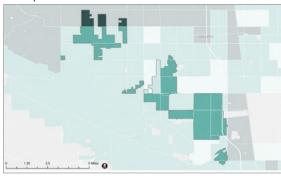
Social Barriers Dimension



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

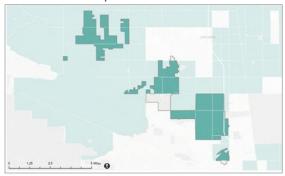
Transportation Barriers Dimension



Indicators:

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

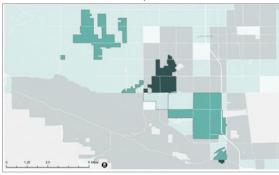
Health Vulnerability Dimension



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:

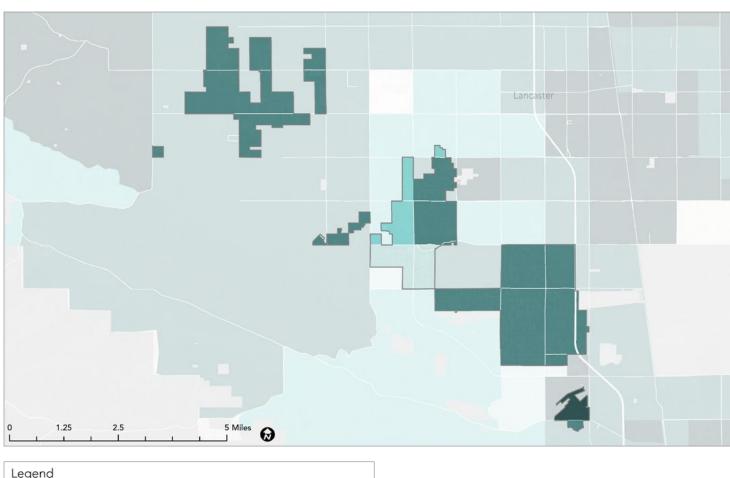
- » Reduced Life Expectancy at Birth
- » High Pollution Levels

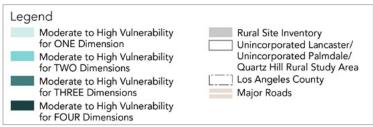
Maps source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

Legend Low Moderate High Rural Site Inventory Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area Los Angeles County Major Roads



COMPOSITE POPULATION VULNERABILITY





Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory



RURAL SITE INVENTORY







14

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



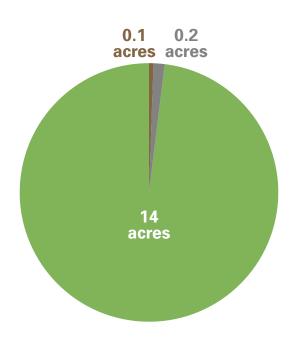
0.2%

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



0.01

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









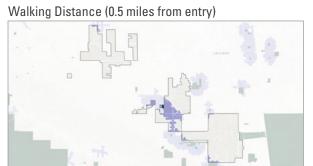








RURAL RECREATION SITE ACCESS

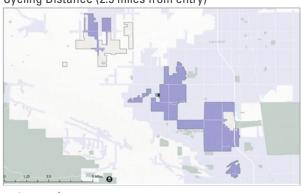


OF STUDY AREA RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN WALKING **DISTANCE OF A RURAL RECREATION SITE**

Legend

- Areas within a 0.5-mile walk of a Rural Recreation Site
- Rural Recreation Site
- Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County Major Roads

Cycling Distance (2.5 miles from entry)



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

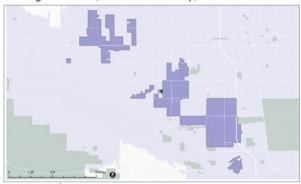
RECREATION SITE

Legend

- Areas within a 2.5-mile bicycle ride of a Rural Recreation Site
- Rural Recreation Site

- Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County Major Roads

Driving Distance (5 miles from entry)



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 Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County Major Roads

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

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





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 Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads



Gathering Spaces





Legend

Rural Recreation Sites with Gathering Spaces Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County
Major Roads

Sports Facilities



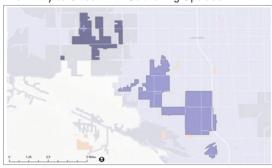


Legend
Rural Recreation Sites with Sports
Facilities

Unincorporated Lancaster/
Unincorporated Palmdale/
Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
Los Angeles County
Major Roads

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

Proximity to Sites With Gathering Spaces





93.4%

OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A

5-MILE DRIVE

Legend

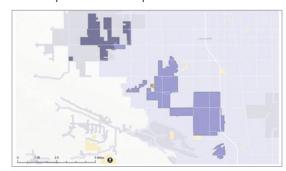
Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Gathering Spaces

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

Rural Recreation Sites with Gathering Spaces Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County
Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Sports Facilities





93.8% 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 Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County
Major Roads



Water-Based Recreation





Legend

Rural Recreation Sites with Water-Based Recreation Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County
Major Roads

Overnight Accomodations





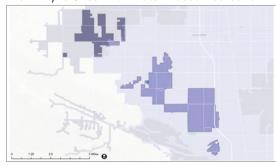
Legend

Rural Recreation Sites with Overnight Accommodations Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County
Major Roads

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

Proximity to Sites With Water-Based Recreation





93.8%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

Legend

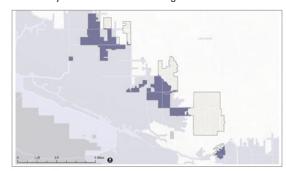
Areas within a 5-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Water-Based Recreation

Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Water-Based Recreation

Rural Recreation Sites with Water-Based Recreation Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County
Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Overnight Accomodations





0.0% 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 Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County
Major Roads



Trails and Pathways





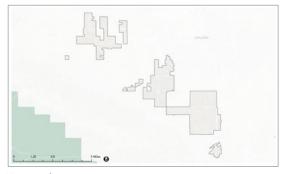
Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Trails and Pathways
 - Regional Trails
 Regional Bikeways

- Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County

 Major Roads

Experiential Learning Opportunities



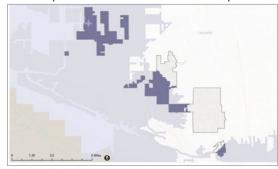


Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
 Major Roads

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

Proximity to Sites With Trails and Pathways



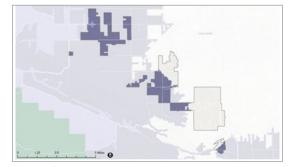


0.3%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

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 Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
- Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Experiential Learning Opportunities





0.3% OF RESIDENTS

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
- Areas within a 10-mile drive of a Rural Recreation Site with Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Rural Recreation Sites with
 Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
 Major Roads



General Recreation Facilities





Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with General Recreation Facilities
- Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
 Major Roads

Health and Fitness Facilities





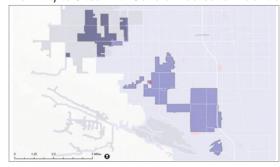
Legend

- Rural Recreation Sites with Health and Fitness Facilities
- Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County

 Major Roads

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

Proximity to Sites With General Recreation Facilities



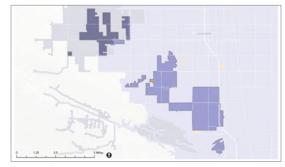


93.7%
OF RESIDENTS
LIVE WITHIN A
5-MILE DRIVE

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 Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County
 Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Health and Fitness Facilities





93.7%
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 Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area
- Los Angeles County

 Major Roads



Support Facilities



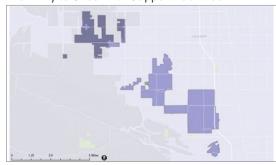


Legend

Rural Recreation Sites with Support Facilities Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County
Major Roads

Proximity to Sites With Support Facilities





94%

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

Unincorporated Lancaster/ Unincorporated Palmdale/ Quartz Hill 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

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.



SAFETY CONCERNS

Residents don't feel safe at parks.
Better trail connectivity and safer riding opportunities along busy streets and in parks are needed.



TIME

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



DISTANCE

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



COST

Affording the costs of travel to parks, including gas, limit what activities residents can do.



LIMITED ADA ACCESSIBILITY

Facilities and programming are not accessible to disabled and older residents, and many people find it difficult to get outside due to health issues.



NOT ENOUGH MAINTENANCE AT PARKS AND FACILITIES

Park facilities and trails need repairs, maintenance and restoration.



LACK OF RECREATION FACILITIES

Nearby parks lack outdoor recreation areas, sports fields, swimming facilities, skate parks, gathering and open spaces, and places to ride horses and exercise animals.



LIMITED HOURS

Facilities are not open when people can use them.

"The weather - usually too hot and/or too windy."

"No safe place to ride bikes with kids near me."

"There is no shade at the newer parks."

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

"Lack of parking for horse trailers; lack of safe designated trails."



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.



MORE FACILITIES FOR EQUESTRIAN USE

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



ACCESS TO WATER

Additional water facilities and features like swimming pools and access to waterways for activities like fishing.



MORE TRAILS FOR EQUESTRIAN AND PEDESTRIAN USE

Additional trails for horse riding, and walking trails.



ADA ACCESSIBILITY

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



DEDICATED USE TRAILS

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



IMPROVED MAINTENANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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



ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

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



MORE CULTURAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

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



EXPAND GREEN SPACE

More trees, native habitat gardens, and natural open space.



"We need a swimming area locally."

"More cultural activities [like] movies and music."

"Add to the skate park."

"Better swimming hours for seniors."

"Hiking and horseback riding trails."

"More trees, more community gardens."

"Preserve our trails for the future for horseback trail riding."

"[The] closest park is George Lane but the playground is more for little kids, my kids would like a bigger playground. We drive 25 miles to the Lake LA splash pad."



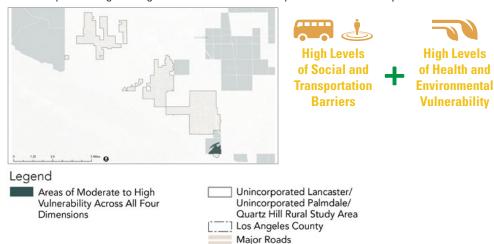
MORE RECREATION FACILITIES

Extend facilities hours, provide more tennis and racquetball courts, spaces for swimming and indoor sports, skate parks, walking and jogging tracks, and gathering spaces.



RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY ANALYSIS

Areas Experiencing the Highest Levels of Overall Population Vulnerability



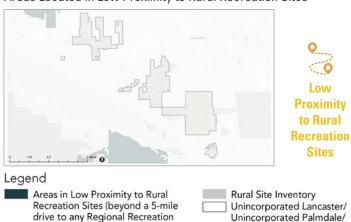
Quartz Hill Rural Study Area

Los Angeles County

Major Roads

Map source: HPI, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

Areas Located in Low Proximity to Rural Recreation Sites



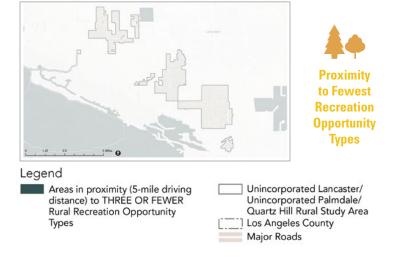
Map source: ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory

Park Entry Points, Nature-Based

Recreation Area Entry Points or

Local Park Entry Points)

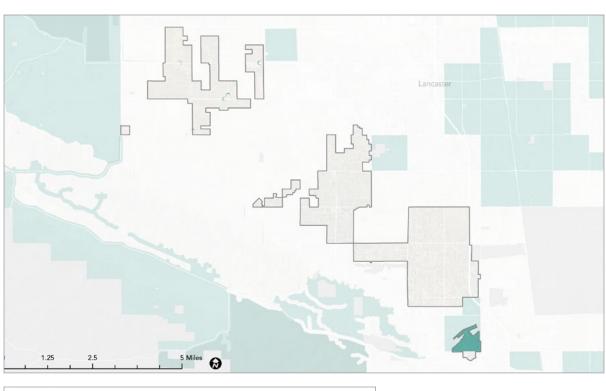
Areas With Access to the Fewest Recreation Opportunity Types



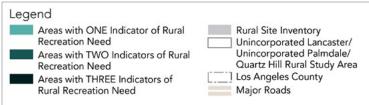
Map source: ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory



RURAL RECREATION PRIORITY AREAS



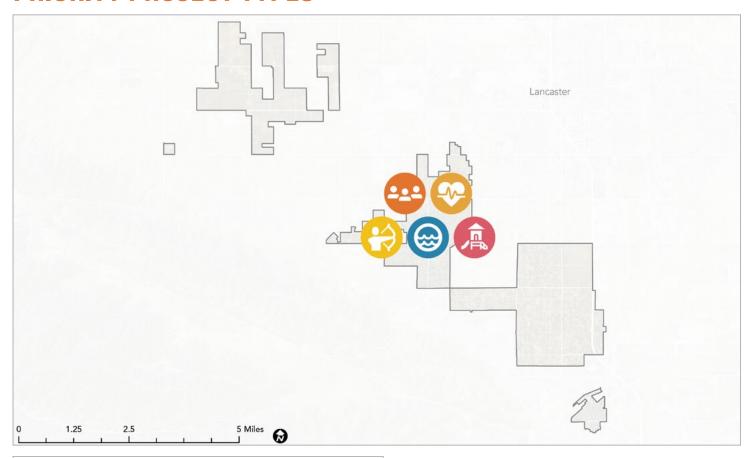




Map source: HPI, 2021; ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory



PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES



PRIORITY PROJECTS

- » Improvements at George Lane Park:
 - » New Picnic Shelters
 - » New Fitness Zones
 - » Repair of General Infrastructure
- » Splash Pad
- » Playgrounds
- » Soccer Complex
- » Tennis Court
- » Fitness Zone
- » Picnic Shelters



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.