



we all need
PARKS
PNA+



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT PLUS (PNA+)

Adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on December 6, 2022

Los Angeles County
Department of Parks and Recreation



2022 LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE PARKS NEEDS ASSESSMENT PLUS (PNA+)



Dear Residents of Los Angeles County,

I am so pleased to share with you the Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+), a national model for park equity and planning that has been shaped by the communities we serve. Parks, open spaces, recreation facilities, trails, and gardens are essential community infrastructure, but not all communities have access to these resources. Every Los Angeles County resident in every neighborhood deserves safe and accessible parks. To help make this a reality, the Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA) was adopted in July 2016 and comprehensively analyzes and quantifies the need for parks and recreational facilities in cities and unincorporated areas. Since its adoption, the PNA has been invaluable in advancing park equity and guiding funding allocation for parks and recreation across the County.

The 2016 PNA process was a groundbreaking initiative led and managed by the Los Angeles County Department Parks and Recreation (DPR). It has served as DPR's North Star, guiding its planning, resource allocation and decision-making. The PNA directly informed the development of Measure A which was approved by nearly 75% of voters in November 2016, is managed by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) and includes dedicated funding for Very High and High park need study areas.

Since 2016, DPR, other park agencies, and our partners have collectively tackled park inequities by creating new parks and improving existing parks across the county, especially in Very High and High park need communities. However, much work remains to be done. The 2022 Parks Needs Assessment (PNA+) is a new detailed study which reveals that in addition to the park needs identified in the PNA, the county also has unmet needs with respect to environmental conservation and restoration, regional recreation, and rural recreation.

The PNA+ identifies priority areas for environmental conservation and restoration which form the basis of a 30x30 strategy for Los Angeles County. The 30x30 initiative is a commitment to conserve at least 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030. Our strategy reimagines conservation to include both traditional efforts that involve the acquisition and protection of natural lands as well as the restoration of degraded lands, such as brownfields, landfills, and oil fields, especially in lower income communities of color where vulnerable populations and environmental burdens are concentrated. People of color account for 84% of the population living in priority areas for restoration, i.e., those areas with highest environmental burdens.

The PNA+ also identifies priority areas for regional recreation and rural recreation using various indicators of population vulnerability and other factors such as access to regional and rural recreation sites via different modes of travel, the availability of such facilities, and the amenities they offer. Many of the most vulnerable areas identified in the 2022 PNA+ are also the Very High and High park need areas in the 2016 PNA. PNA+ additionally identifies numerous rural communities in the Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley as areas with high population vulnerability.

DPR is committed to addressing the significant park and recreation needs documented in the 2016 PNA and the 2022 PNA+ in ways that produce tangible results, provide multiple benefits, and improve the quality of life for the residents we serve. But this is not easy to do and DPR cannot do it alone. Thus, the PNA+ is not only a study that supplements the PNA, it is also a reminder and call to action for DPR, RPOSD, and our many partners to urgently and intentionally address the park and recreation needs of the over ten million people who call L.A. County home, especially our most vulnerable residents.

Norma Edith García-Gonzalez, Director

County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation and
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 5, 2016, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) adopted the 2016 Countywide Parks Needs Assessment (PNA). On March 5, 2019, the BOS passed a motion directing the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to complete a “Regional Recreation, Beaches, Rural Areas and Open Space Needs Assessment” in 2021*. Further, the Board motion called for DPR to prepare a unified Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment that combines both assessments in 2025 with the support and cooperation of the Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD).

Consistent with the Board motion, this report:

- » Builds upon and updates the 2016 PNA with data, analyses, and metrics tailored to regional and rural parks and open spaces.
- » Identifies gaps, opportunities, and priority areas based upon a comprehensive process of data collection and analyses, and community engagement and outreach.
- » Uses metrics, data, and analyses to guide future planning and resource allocation.
- » Recommends approaches and strategies for multi-jurisdictional coordination, collaboration, and partnerships.

This report builds on the PNA by inventorying and analyzing the amenities and needs associated with the following types of public lands:

- » Regional Recreation Parks
- » Beaches and Lakes
- » Natural Areas and Open Spaces
- » Trails
- » Park Facilities and Amenities in Rural Areas

* Project was delayed due to COVID-19.

EXPANDING ON THE 2016 PARKS NEEDS ASSESSMENT



The 2022 PNA+ is Los Angeles County's 30x30* Plan which focuses on 1) Conservation and Restoration, 2) Regional Recreation, and 3) Rural Recreation. It builds upon and supplements the 2016 PNA with a wealth of data about regional and rural park facilities and needs as well as information to help guide future environmental conservation and restoration efforts.

Like the 2016 PNA, the PNA+ involved extensive data collection and analysis, GIS/mapping, coordination with park and trail managing agencies, and community outreach and engagement. This effort focuses on the most vulnerable residents living in park-poor, tree-poor urban and rural areas with limited access to local and regional parks and recreational facilities. The PNA+ includes both conservation and restoration, emphasizing restoration of degraded lands which is an issue of environmental justice in L.A. County where numerous vulnerable communities face undue burdens.

The PNA+ is an informational and aspirational document. Priority areas for environmental conservation and restoration are identified by overlaying and scoring based on existing publicly accessible data layers. The mapping and analysis conducted are not parcel-specific and are intended to provide countywide and region-wide perspectives on where environmental benefits and burdens are concentrated and where conservation and restoration efforts should be prioritized. As PNA+ is not a regulatory document, it will not result in additional requirements or changes to approved land use entitlements and permits. Furthermore, implementation of PNA+ will require further analyses and actions that are not within the purview of this document.

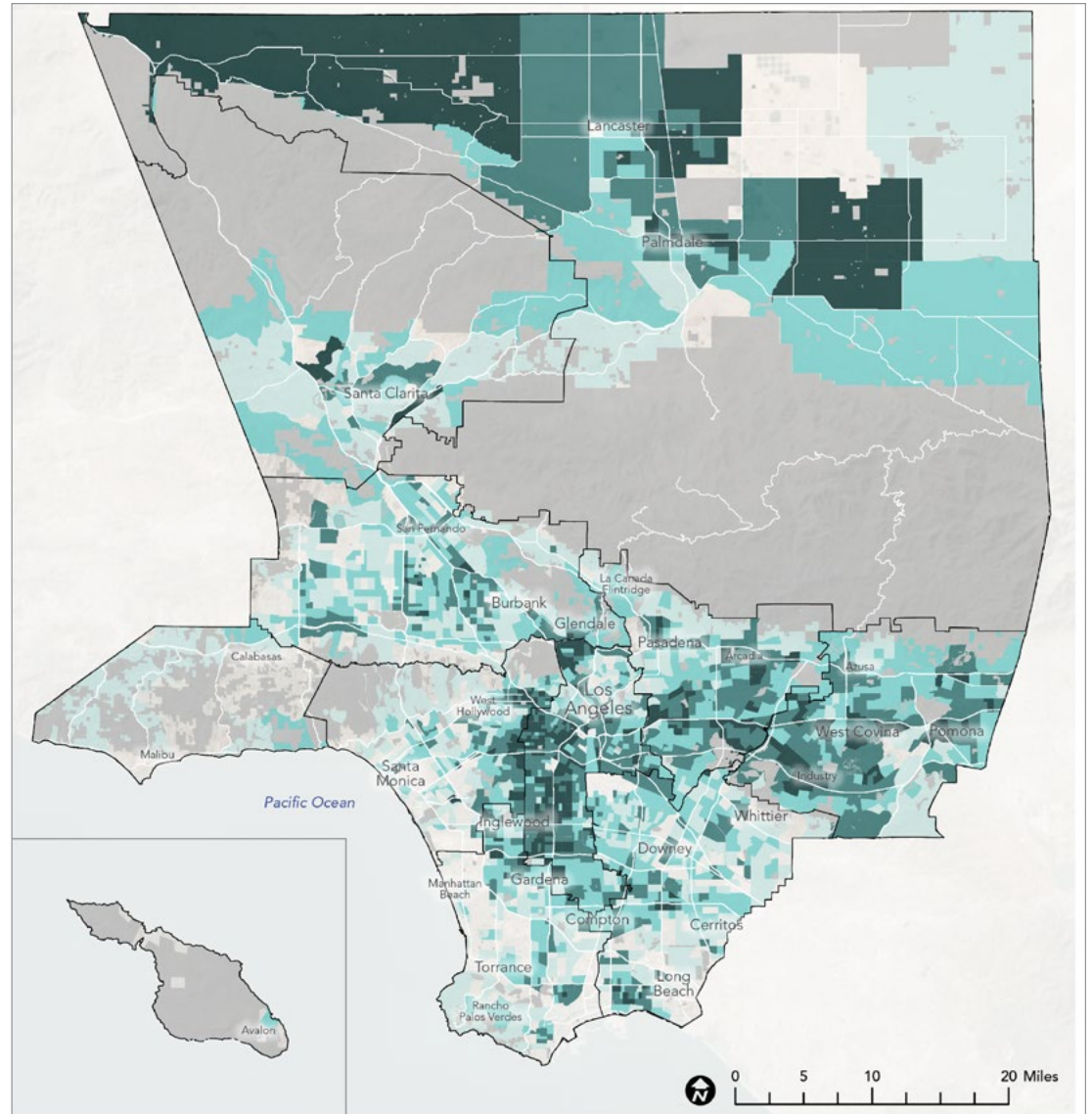
*30x30 refers to the goal of conserving 30 percent of lands and coastal waters by the year 2030 to fight climate change and advance biodiversity and conservation. Both the federal and state governments have committed to achieving this goal.

POPULATION VULNERABILITY

Population vulnerability is a focus of the PNA+ analysis to more broadly look at equity beyond population density to ensure that everyone has access to our beaches and lakes, open spaces and natural areas, regional parks, trails, and parks and recreational facilities in rural areas, regardless of race, social class, gender, disability status, or other characteristics.

While some areas of the County experience a single dimension of population vulnerability, in census tracts where multiple dimensions overlap, residents face compounding challenges. In these areas, multi-faceted approaches to reducing the barriers and increasing the benefits of access to parks and open space are critical to positively influencing the health and well-being of residents. In Los Angeles County, nearly 1.2 million people reside in areas that are experiencing a moderate or high level of vulnerability for all four of the dimensions identified in this analysis.

COMPOSITE POPULATION VULNERABILITY



Map source: California Healthy Places Index (HPI), 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory
 Note: See Technical Appendix for methodology, individual indicators, and additional sources.

Social Barriers Dimension:



- Prevalence of:
 - » Poverty
 - » Young Children
 - » Elderly
 - » Non-English Speaking Residents
 - » Single Parent Households
- » Unemployment
- » Majority-Minority Population

Transportation Barriers Dimension:



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

Health Vulnerability Dimension:



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

Dimensions of Population Vulnerability

Environmental Vulnerability Dimension:



- » Limited Park Access
- » Limited Tree Canopy
- » High % of Impervious Surface
- » High Excessive Heat Days
- » High Urban Heat Island Index Score

Legend

- Moderate to High Vulnerability for ONE Dimension
- Moderate to High Vulnerability for TWO Dimensions
- Moderate to High Vulnerability for THREE Dimensions
- Moderate to High Vulnerability for FOUR Dimensions
- Regional Site Inventory
- Regional Study Areas
- Los Angeles County
- Freeways/Highways

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

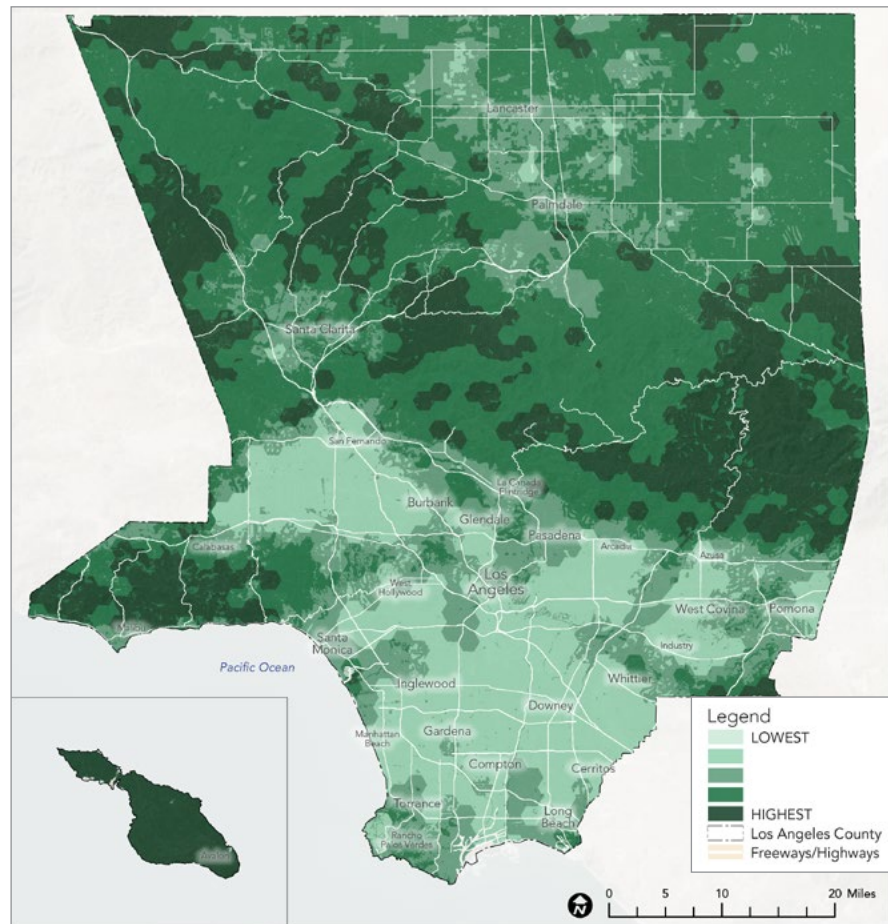
ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND BURDENS

Though Los Angeles County encompasses a range of diverse ecosystems from inland deserts to coastal wetlands, many areas of the County have been densely urbanized and modified for industrial and agricultural production. As a result, while some lands within the County are able to provide a wide spectrum

of critical environmental benefits, others bear the burdens of environmental degradation. By overlaying a series of ecosystem health and threat indicators, the PNA+ identifies areas of the County where these environmental benefits and burdens have accrued.

Examples of areas that offer the greatest environmental benefits include the San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Monica Mountains, and Santa Catalina Island. Areas that bear the greatest environmental burdens include numerous communities in Central LA, East LA, South LA, Southeast LA, the San Gabriel Valley, and the San Fernando Valley.

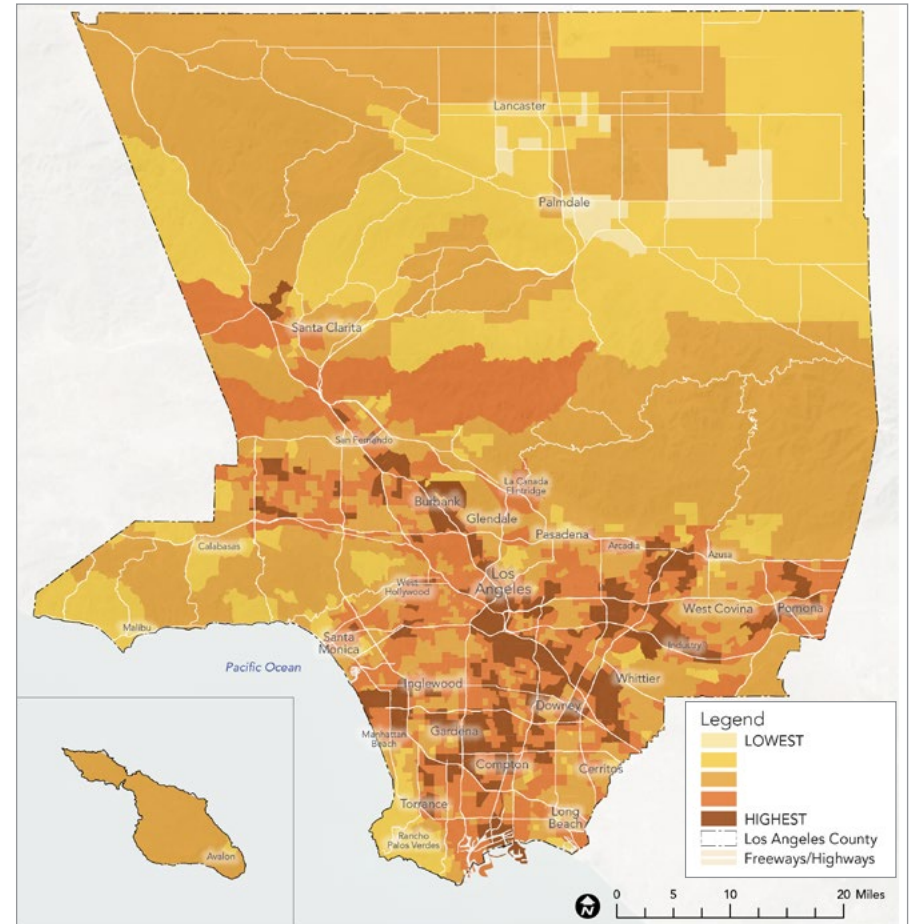
ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



Map source: CDFW ACE, 2021; USGS, 2021; COEHHA, 2021; CalFire FRAP 2015

Indicators of Environmental Benefits include: Species Diversity, Significant Habitat, Habitat Connectivity, Proximity to a Waterbody, Habitat Type

ENVIRONMENTAL BURDENS



Map source: CDFW ACE, 2021; USGS, 2021; COEHHA, 2021; CalFire FRAP 2015

Indicators of Environmental Burdens include: Groundwater Threat, Hazardous Waste, Drinking Water Quality, Air Quality (PM 2.5), Pollution Burden

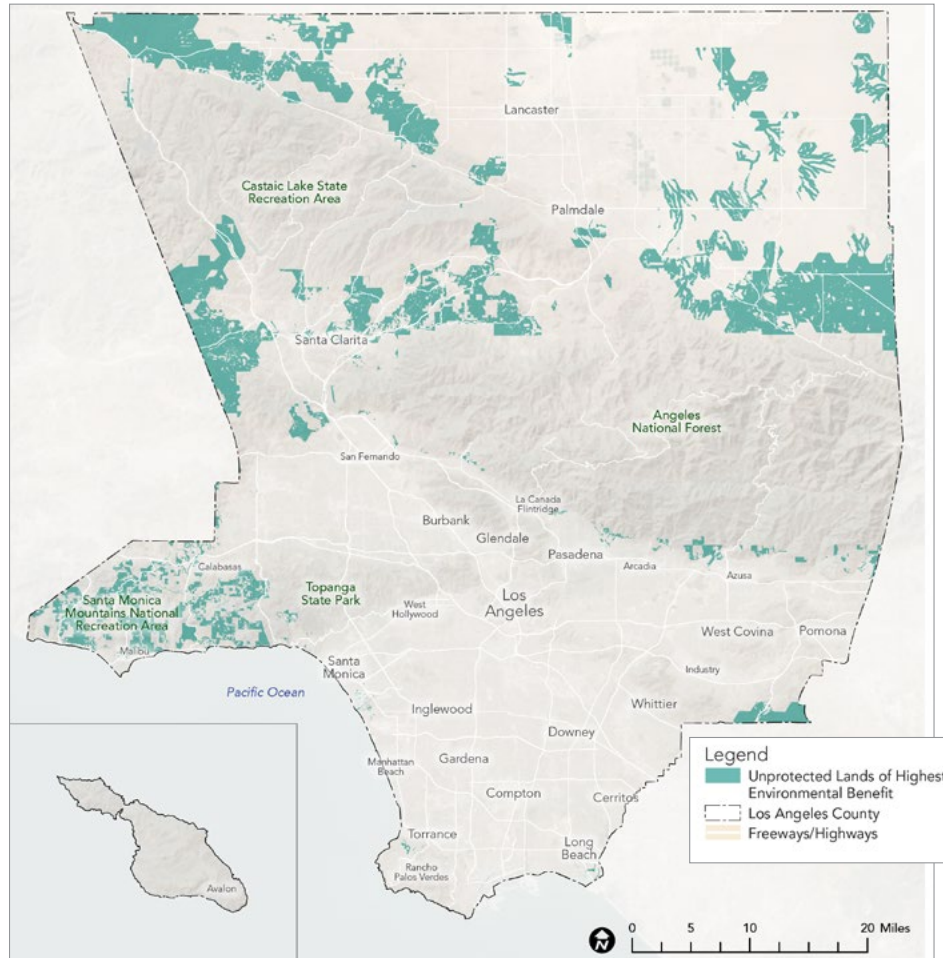
CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

Not only does the PNA+ identify priority areas for conservation, it also calls out priority areas for restoration. While there is certainly a need to conserve additional natural lands, the restoration of degraded lands is also of great importance

and a matter of environmental justice in Los Angeles County where numerous underserved communities are plagued with environmental burdens. These are the areas that have the most environmental burdens with respect to groundwater threat,

hazardous waste, poor air quality, pollution burden, etc. These priority restoration areas require additional investments to transform liabilities to community assets.

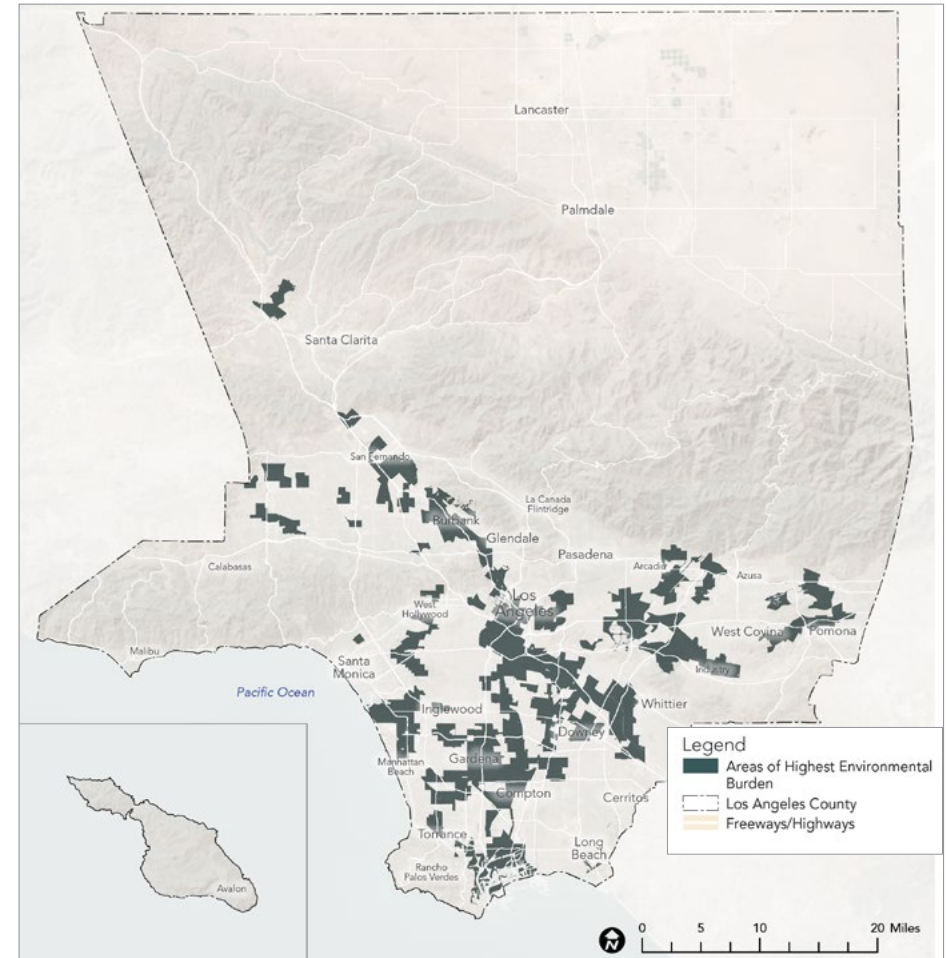
PRIORITY AREAS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



Map source: CDFW ACE, 2021; USGS, 2021; COEHHA, 2021; CalFire FRAP 2015

Indicators of Environmental Health include: Species Diversity, Significant Habitat, Habitat Connectivity, Proximity to a Waterbody, Habitat Type

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION



Map source: CDFW ACE, 2021; USGS, 2021; COEHHA, 2021; CalFire FRAP 2015

Indicators of Environmental Burdens include: Groundwater Threat, Hazardous Waste, Drinking Water Quality, Air Quality (PM 2.5), Pollution Burden

L.A. COUNTY'S 30X30 STRATEGY

The PNA+ identifies conservation and restoration priorities which form the basis for a 30x30 strategy for Los Angeles County. In this report, restoration is specifically speaking to the restoration of areas with high environmental burdens as identified in PNA+; this does not preclude the need for restoration on areas identified as having high environmental benefit or priority areas for environmental conservation.

Conservation: PNA+ identifies priority areas for environmental conservation and management based on indicators of species diversity, significant habitat, habitat connectivity and type and proximity to water bodies. Examples of these areas include portions of the Antelope Valley, Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor, San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Monica Mountains, and Santa Clarita Valley which are not currently owned and managed by public agencies and conservancies.

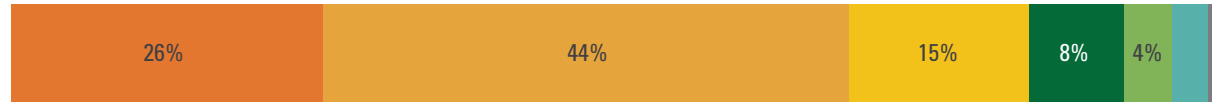
Restoration: The report also calls out priority areas for environmental restoration and enhancement. These are areas which have the most environmental burdens with respect to groundwater threat, hazardous waste, poor air and water quality and pollution burden. Examples include oil fields (such as Inglewood Oil Field in Baldwin Hills), brownfields, landfills (such as Puente Hills), and other degraded lands which may be converted to park and open space in the future.

Underserved and Overrepresented: Los Angeles County's Black, Brown, Indigenous, Asian-American and Pacific Islander populations are underserved by parks and overrepresented in areas where environmental burdens are concentrated. Specifically, people of color account for 84% of the population living in priority areas for restoration, i.e. those areas with highest environmental burdens; people of color account for 74% of L.A. County's population. Approximately 60% of residents living in priority areas for restoration are Hispanic/Latino; 44% of L.A. County residents are Hispanic/Latino.

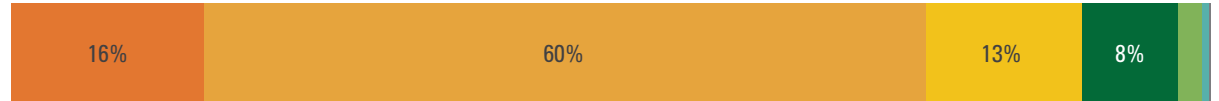
RACE AND ETHNICITY



COUNTYWIDE: 10,008,833 Residents



PRIORITY RESTORATION AREAS: 1,584,707 Residents



84% People of Color



REGIONAL RECREATION

The PNA+ inventories, maps, and analyzes the availability of and access to regional recreation facilities.

Availability of Regional Recreation Facilities: The regional sites inventory shows that Los Angeles County has about 1 million acres of regional recreation and conservation areas. These lands account for 38% of the County's total land area, but there are challenges associated with access to these areas given their location, distribution, and other factors such as the lack of public transit service. In particular, regional recreation and conservation areas account for less than 5% of lands in the Metro and Gateway Regional Study Areas.

Regional Recreation Priority Areas: PNA+ identifies regional recreation priority areas which are defined as areas with:

- » High levels of social and transportation barriers;
- » High levels of health and environmental vulnerability;
- » Low proximity to regional recreation sites; and
- » Low visitorship rates to regional recreation sites.

Given the specific barriers identified, these areas should be prioritized for interventions such as expanded public transit service to beaches, parks, and trails, and improved information-sharing about regional recreation facilities.

Regional Recreation Needs: Through the community engagement and outreach process for PNA+, L.A. County residents identified the following needs to enhance access to and experiences at regional recreation facilities: more shade, expanded transportation options, improved signage, greater access to information about parks and programs, improved ADA

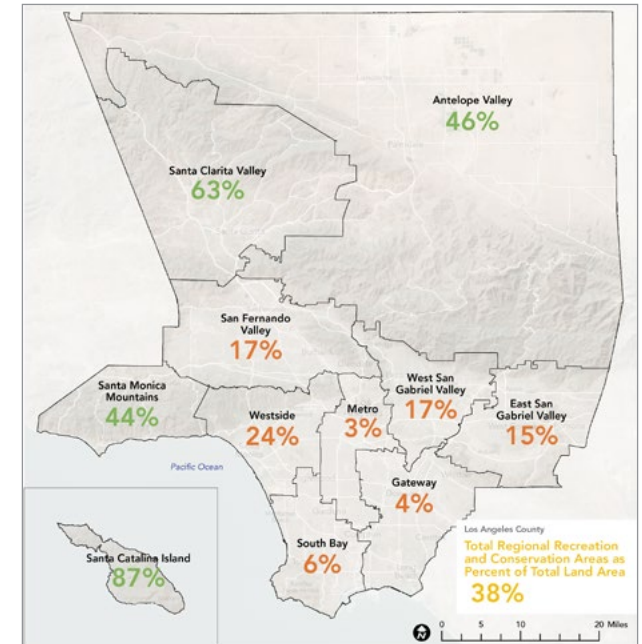
accessibility, better maintenance, additional staffing, increased parking, more water-related amenities like hydration stations, and safety improvements.

Regional Trails: PNA+ identifies over 3,300 miles of regional trails across L.A. County, which translates to about 0.33 miles of regional trail per 1,000 residents. This total trail mileage is more than previously estimated and reveals how significant trails are as a recreational resource. Trails are distributed unevenly across the County and trail mileage varies widely by Regional Study Areas, ranging from just 0.03 per 1,000 residents in the Metro Study Area to 39.83 per 1,000 residents in Santa Catalina Island. There are opportunities to create new trails and fill gaps in trails in both "trail-rich" and "trail-poor" areas.

Beaches: The ocean beaches that stretch along the 75-mile mainland coast of Los Angeles County are some of the most recognizable and popular destinations in the world. While these beaches provide unique recreational opportunities and serve a critical ecological role, they also face threats related to climate change and development, including sand erosion, sea level rise, and degraded water quality. Only about 100,000 Los Angeles County residents (1% of the population) live within walking distance of an ocean beach access point. The majority of ocean beach access points (71%) are not served by public transit.

Native and Tribal Access: As part of PNA+, DPR conducted focused outreach to engage Native Americans. Key needs identified by these stakeholders include having access to and privacy for Native peoples to use, enjoy, and practice traditional ceremonies on ancestral lands, and raising awareness and educating the public about tribal stewardship and the indigenous histories of the region.

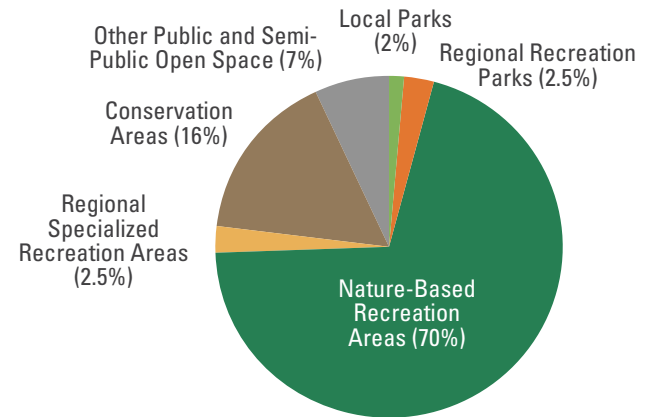
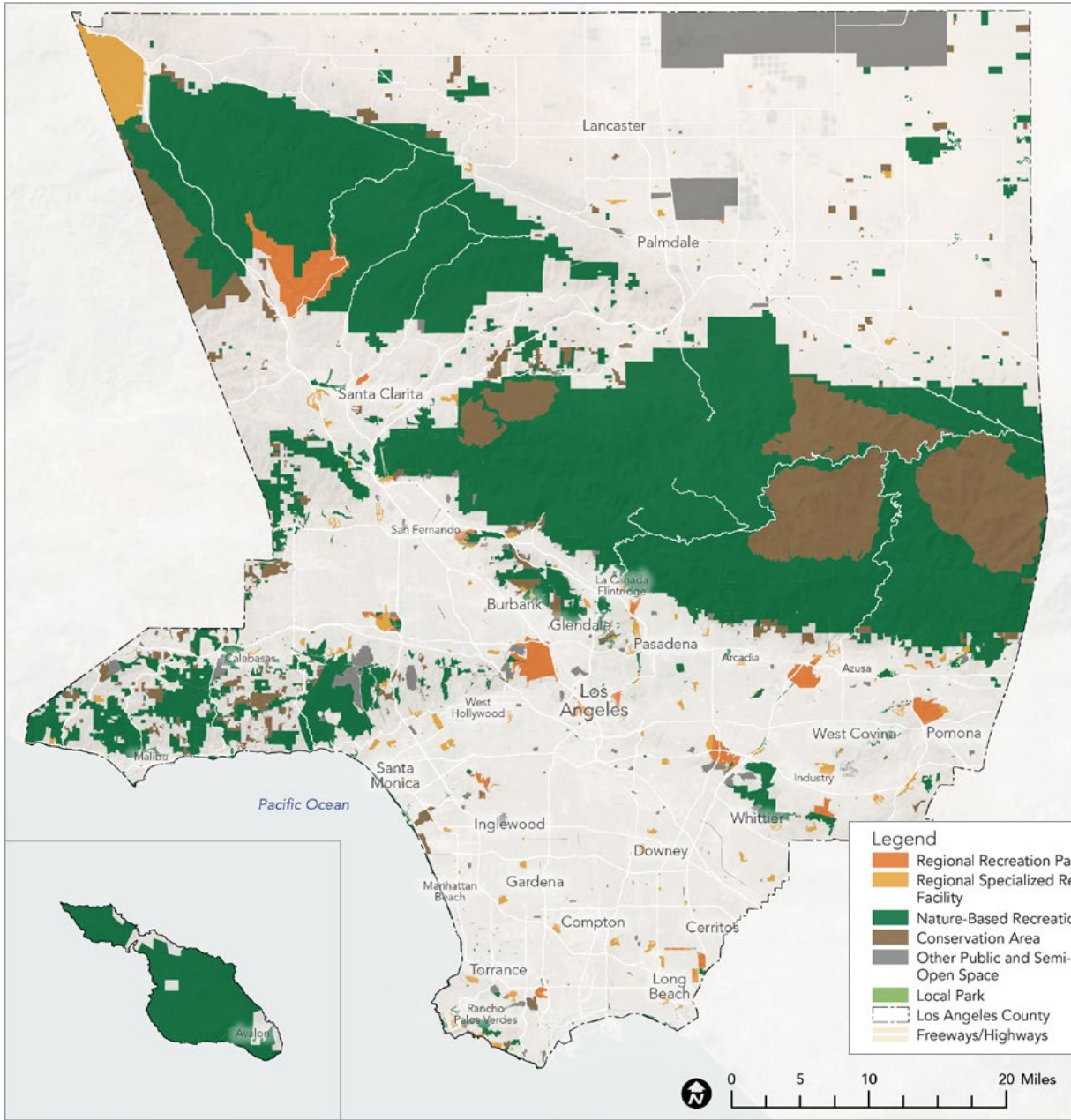
REGIONAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL LAND AREA




Map source: 2021 RRE Inventory



REGIONAL SITE INVENTORY



► Regional Recreation and Conservation Areas in LA County


38%
of LA County's
total land area


998,301
acres


99
acres per 1,000
County residents

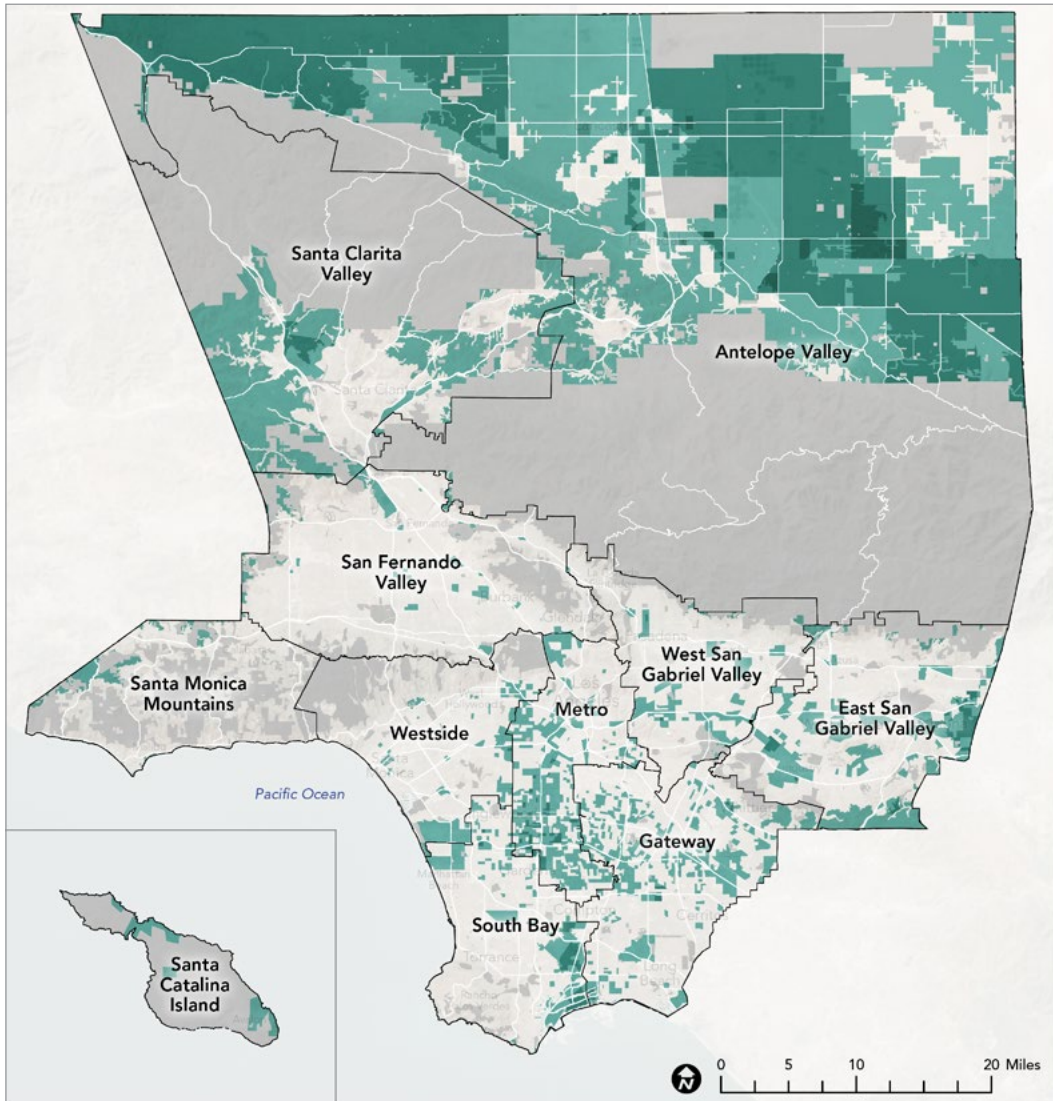
Map source: 2021 RRE Inventory

PRIORITY AREAS FOR INCREASING ACCESS TO REGIONAL RECREATION

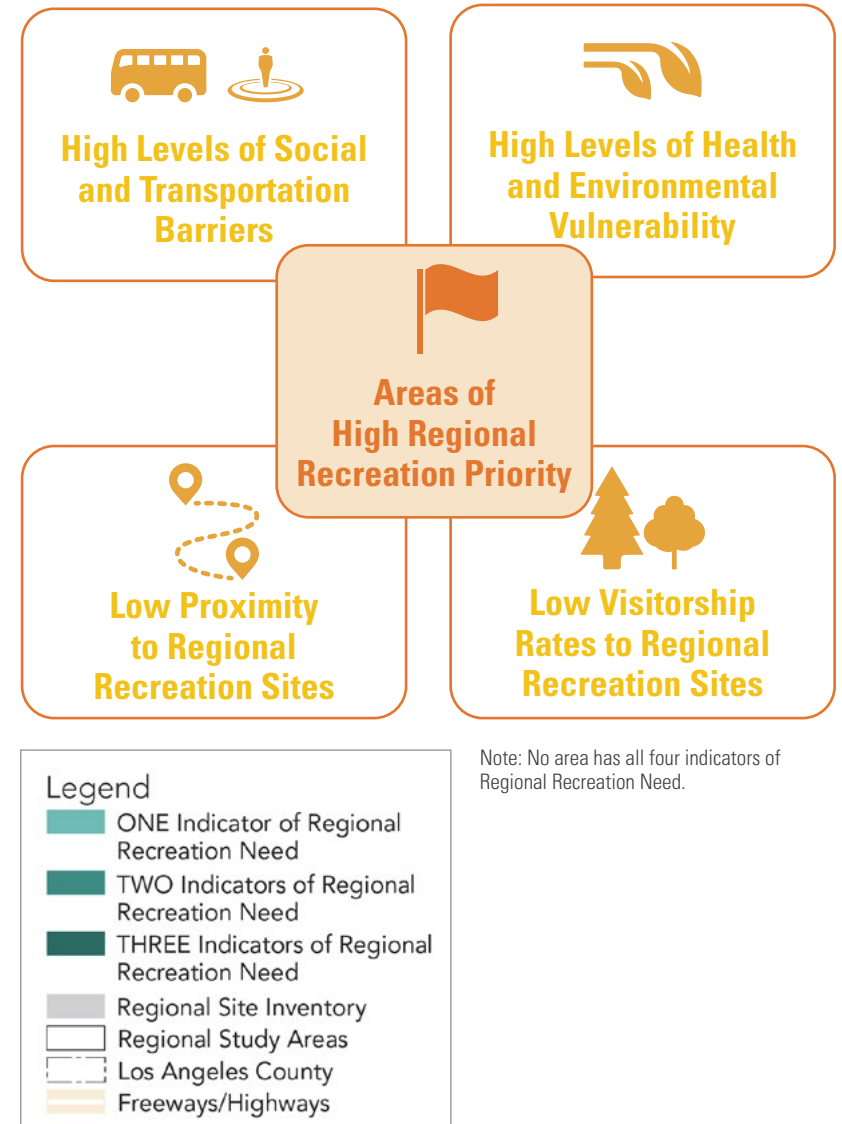
The PNA+ identifies regional recreation priority areas which are defined as areas with:

- » High levels of social and transportation barriers;
- » High levels of health and environmental vulnerability;
- » Low proximity to regional recreation sites; and
- » Low visitorship rates to regional recreation sites.

Strategies to address community-specific barriers to regional recreation should be prioritized for implementation in these areas. Examples include expanded public transit service to beaches, parks, and trails, and improved information-sharing about regional recreation facilities in the priority areas.



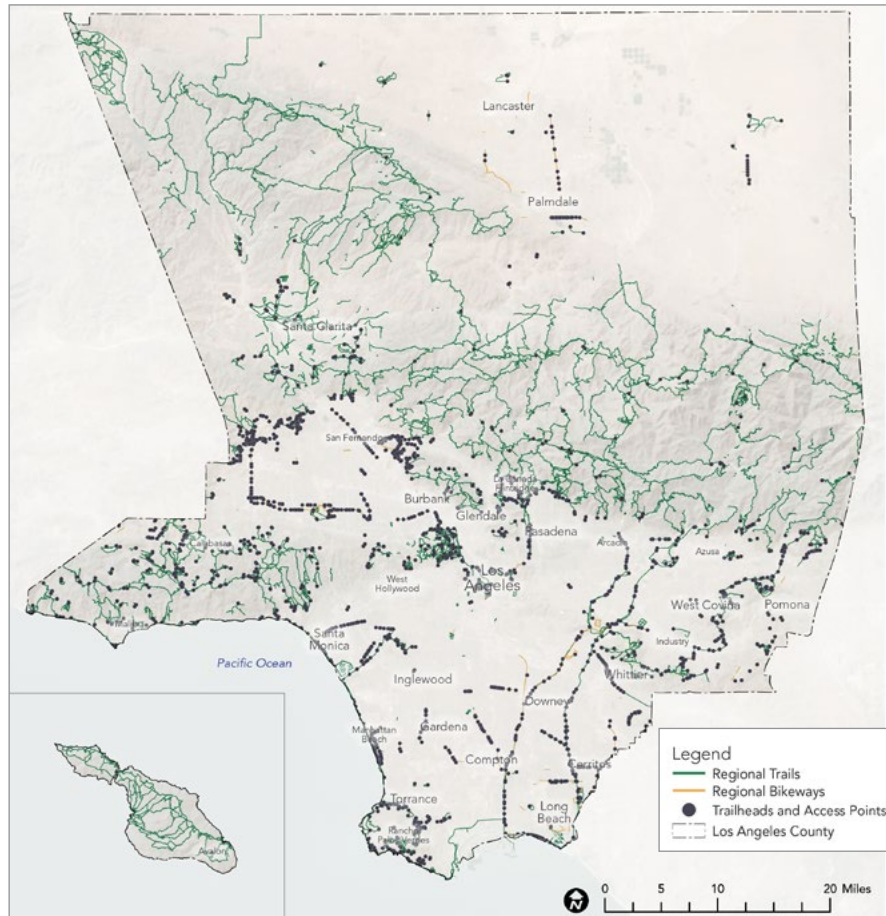
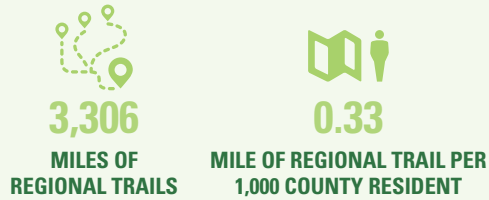
Map source: HPI, 2021; Unacast, 2021; ArcGIS StreetMap Premium, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory



REGIONAL TRAILS

The PNA+ identifies over 3,300 miles of regional trails across Los Angeles County, which translates to about 0.33 miles of regional trail per 1,000 residents. This total trail mileage is more than previously estimated and reveals how significant trails are as a recreational resource.

▶ Regional Trail Metrics



Map source: LAC DPR, 2021; 2021 RRE Inventory


OCEAN BEACHES


The ocean beaches that stretch along the 75-mile mainland coast of Los Angeles County are some of the most recognizable and popular destinations in the world. While these beaches provide unique recreational opportunities and serve a critical ecological role, they also face threats related to climate change and development, including sand erosion, sea level rise, and degraded water quality.


Only about 100,000 Los Angeles County residents (1% of the population) live within walking distance of an ocean beach access point. The majority of ocean beach access points (71%) are not served by public transit.



Map source: 2021 RRE Inventory

1% 
OF COUNTY RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE (0.5 MILES) OF A BEACH ACCESS POINT

7% 
OF COUNTY RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN CYCLING DISTANCE (2.5 MILES) OF A BEACH ACCESS POINT

13% 
OF COUNTY RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE (5 MILES) OF A BEACH ACCESS POINT

29% 
OF BEACH ACCESS POINTS ARE LOCATED WITHIN A HALF-MILE WALK OF A PUBLIC TRANSIT STOP

RURAL RECREATION

The PNA+ inventories, maps, and analyzes the availability of and access to rural recreation sites, including local parks, regional recreation parks, and nature-based recreation areas.

Rural Recreation: The rural sites inventory shows the rural areas of L.A. County are home to a significant amount of parkland, including about 1,100 acres of local parks, 12,700 acres of regional recreation parks, and 636,000 acres of nature-based recreation areas. While rural areas are relatively rich in parkland, they are lacking in certain amenities, especially water-based recreation facilities such as swimming pools and splash pads, as well as shaded seating, play areas, and walking trails. Also, no new local parks have been created in rural unincorporated areas since the completion of the 2016 PNA.

Rural Recreation Priority Areas: PNA+ identifies rural recreation priority areas which are defined as areas with:

- » High levels of social and transportation barriers;
- » High levels of health and environmental vulnerability;
- » Low proximity to rural recreation sites; and
- » Proximity to fewest recreational opportunity types

Given the community-specific barriers identified, these areas should be prioritized for interventions such as developing new local parks, improving, expanding or adding amenities to existing parks, increasing transportation options to parks, and collaborating across agencies and communities to serve shared needs.

Rural Recreation Needs: Through the community engagement and outreach process for PNA+, rural residents identified the following needs to enhance access to and experiences at rural recreation sites: more water-based recreation facilities like swimming pools and splash pads, more shade, more amenities in existing parks, expanded transportation options, improved signage, greater access to information about parks and programs, improved ADA accessibility, better maintenance, additional staffing, increased parking, more water-related amenities like hydration stations, and safety improvements.

Vulnerable Rural Communities: PNA+ analyzes and maps areas with high population vulnerability as measured by indicators in four dimensions:

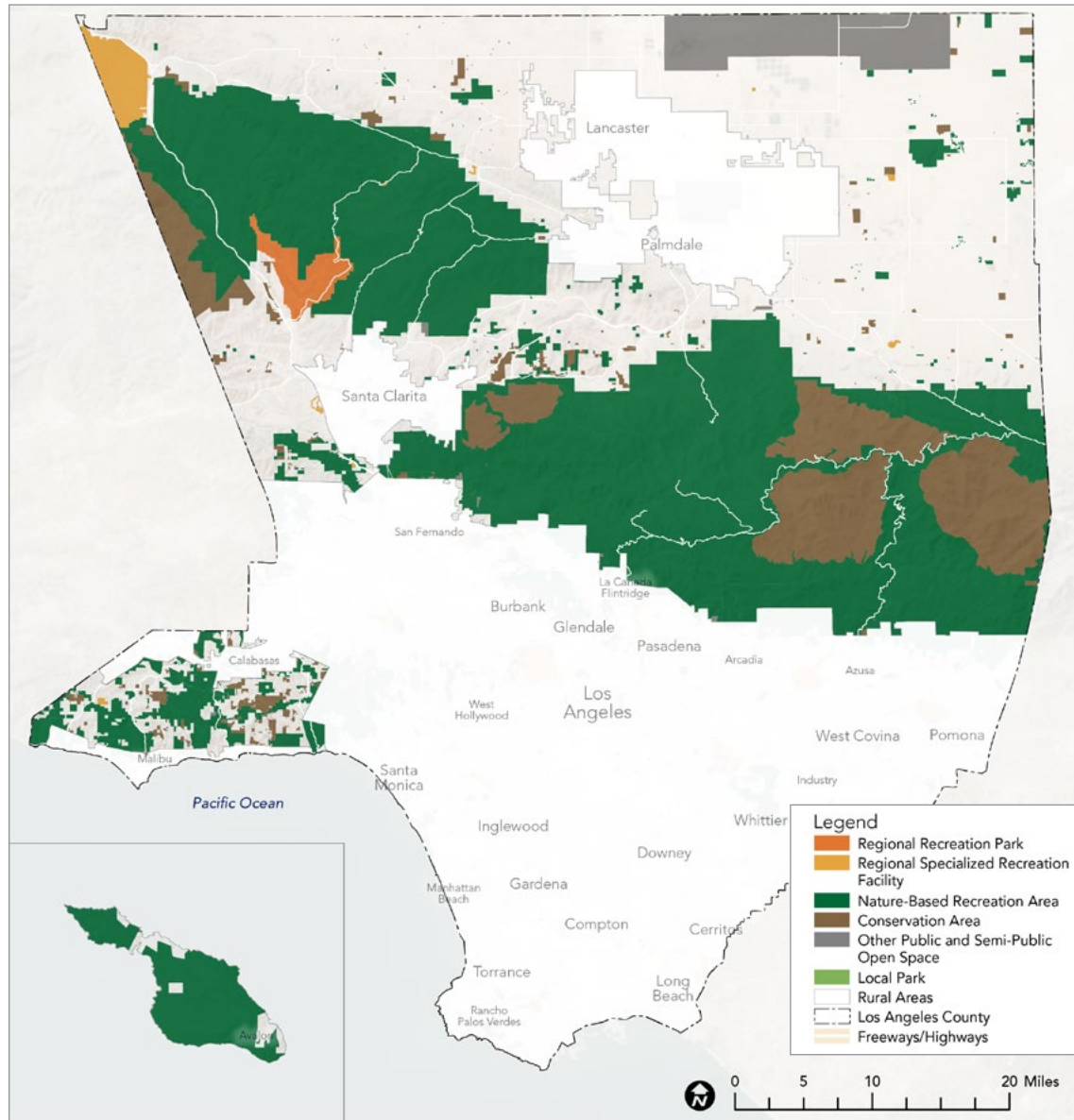
- » Social Barriers such as concentrations of poverty, minority populations, elderly
- » Health Vulnerability such as lower life expectancy, high level of pollution
- » Transportation Barriers such as limited access to automobile, limited access to public transit, higher number of pedestrian injuries
- » Environmental Vulnerability such as limited access to parks, lower tree canopy coverage, more excessive heat days

Many of the most vulnerable areas are also the very high and high park need areas identified in the 2016 PNA. PNA+ additionally identifies numerous rural communities in the Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley as areas with high population vulnerability.

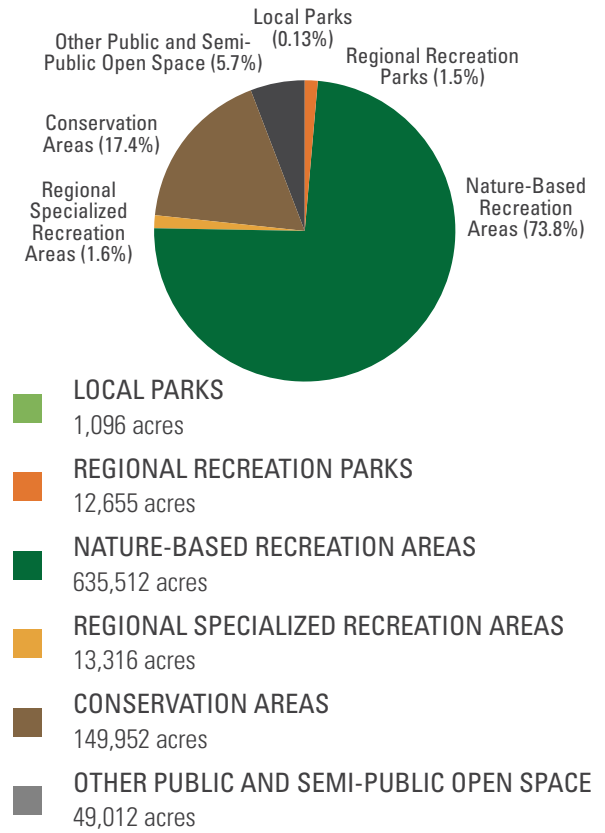


RURAL SITE INVENTORY

Rural areas of Los Angeles County are home to a significant amount of parkland, including approximately 1,100 acres of local parks, 12,700 acres of regional recreation parks, and 636,000 acres of nature-based recreation areas.



Map source: 2021 RRE Inventory



- LOCAL PARKS
1,096 acres
- REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS
12,655 acres
- NATURE-BASED RECREATION AREAS
635,512 acres
- REGIONAL SPECIALIZED RECREATION AREAS
13,316 acres
- CONSERVATION AREAS
149,952 acres
- OTHER PUBLIC AND SEMI-PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
49,012 acres

► *Recreation and Conservation Land within rural Los Angeles County*


56%
of total
land area

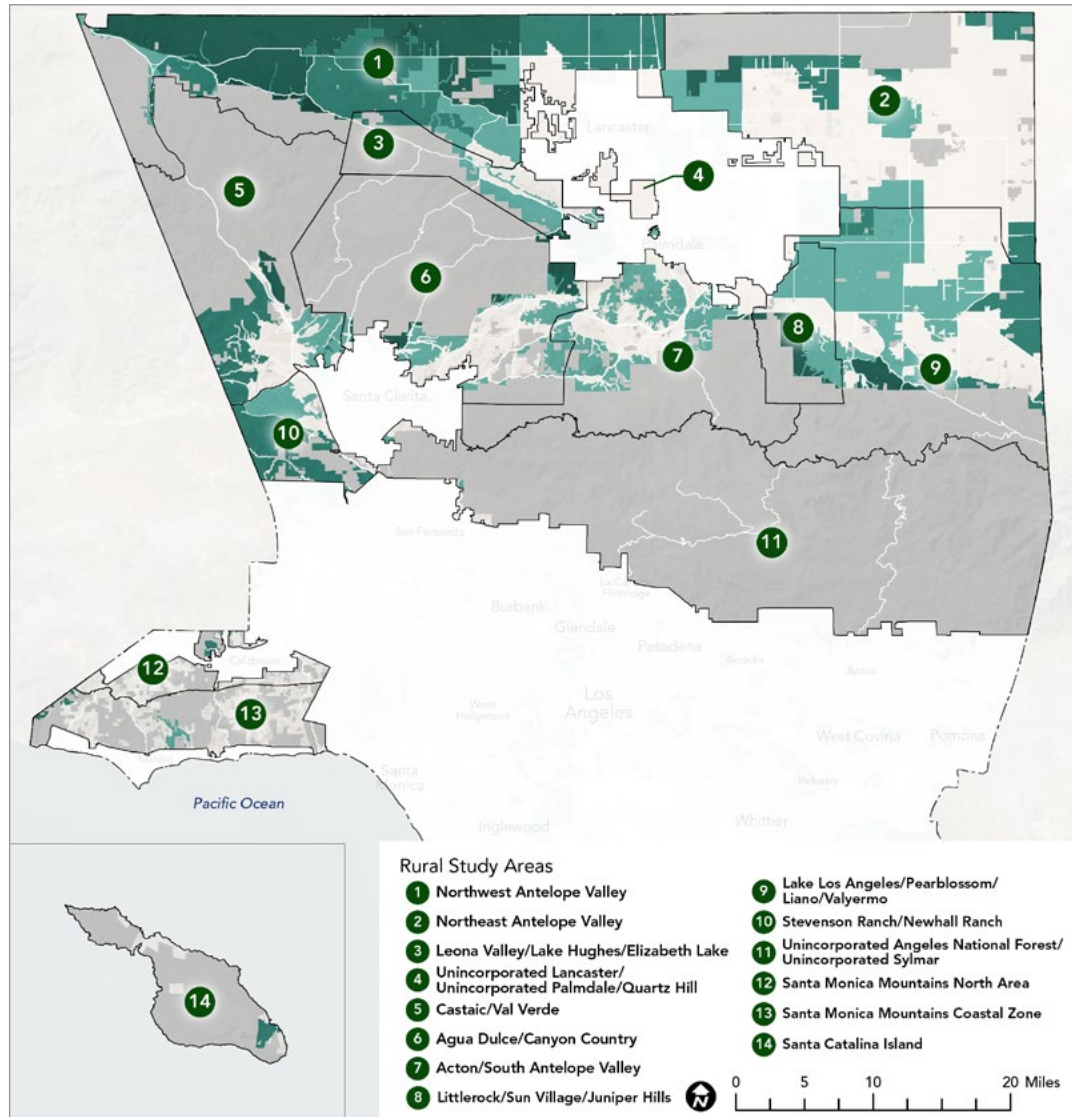

861,545
acres


5.3
acres per
resident

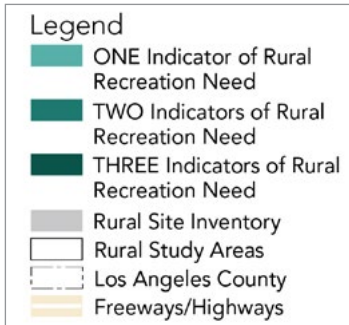
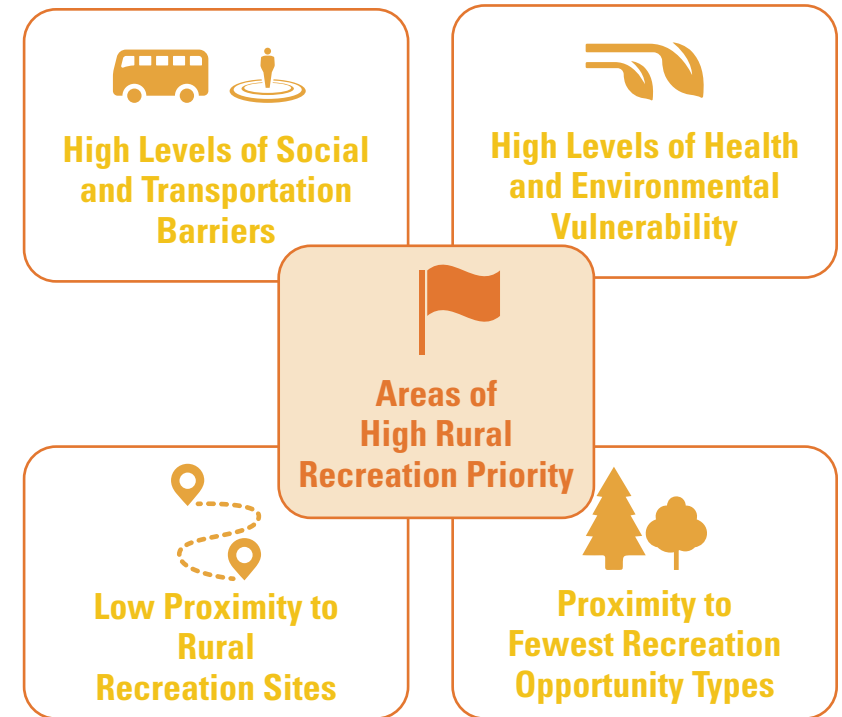
PRIORITY AREAS FOR INCREASING ACCESS TO RURAL RECREATION

The PNA+ identifies rural recreation priority areas which are defined as areas with: 1) high levels of social and transportation barriers; 2) high levels of health and environmental vulnerability; 3) low proximity to rural recreation sites; and/or 4) proximity to fewest recreational opportunity types.

Given the community-specific barriers identified, these areas should be prioritized for interventions such as developing new local parks, improving, expanding or adding amenities to existing parks, increasing transportation options to parks, and collaborating across agencies and communities to serve shared needs.

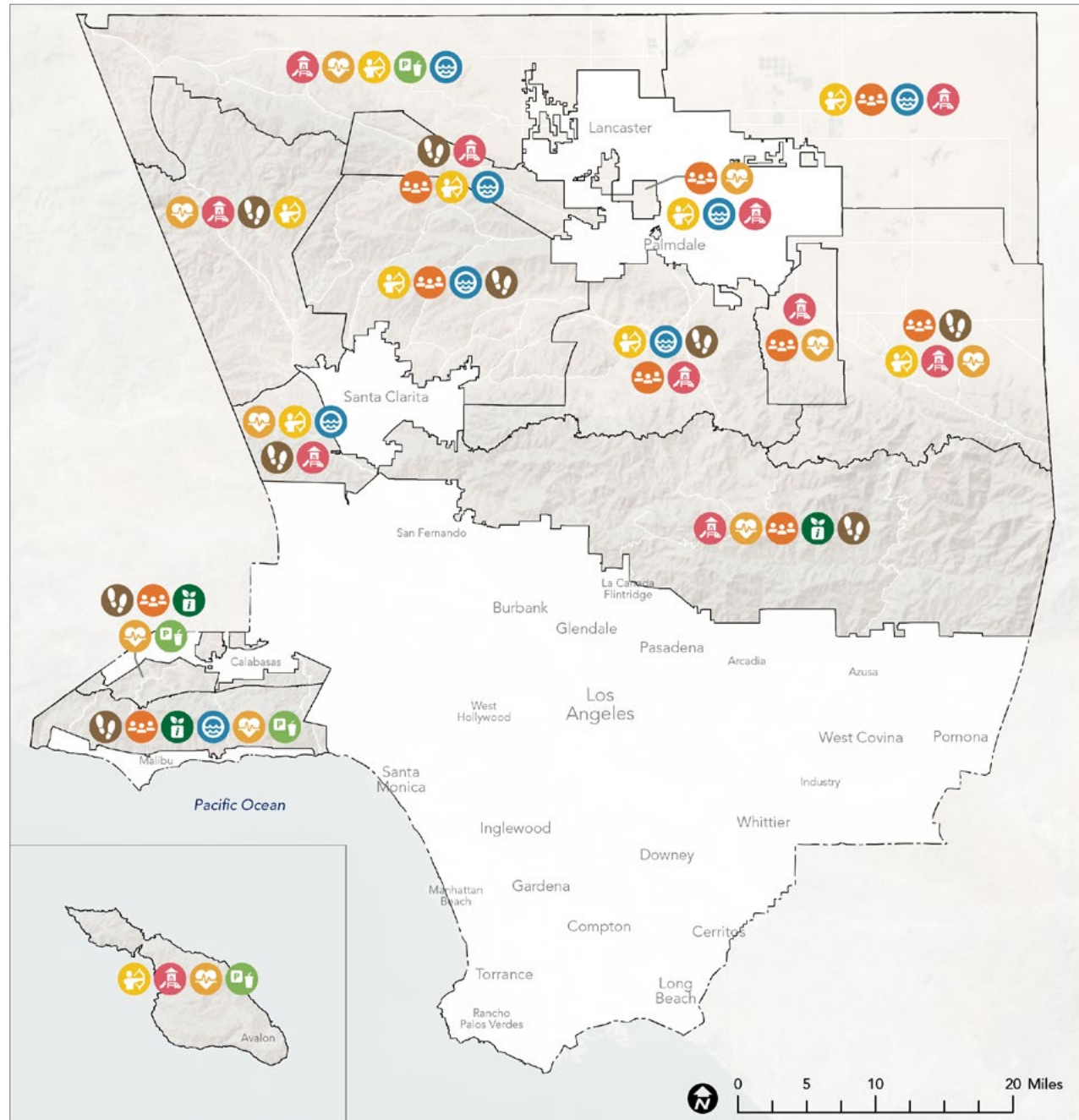


Map source: PNA, 2016; US Census, 2019; Esri, 2021; MIG, 2021; LAC GIS, 2021; USGS NHD, 2021



Note: No area has all four indicators of Rural Recreation Need.

RURAL PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES
















Map source: PNA, 2016

While rural areas are relatively rich in parkland, they are lacking in certain amenities, especially water-based recreation facilities such as swimming pools and splash pads, as well as shaded seating, play areas, and walking trails. Also, no new local parks have been created in rural unincorporated areas since the completion of the PNA in 2016.

Where there are overlaps in prioritized amenities between adjacent rural study areas, opportunities may exist to share and leverage resources to serve residents of multiple study areas with centralized facilities that address common needs.

Legend

-  Gathering Spaces
-  Sports Facilities
-  Experiential Learning Opportunities
-  Water-Based Recreation
-  Trails and Pathways
-  Overnight Accommodations
-  General Recreation
-  Health and Fitness
-  Support Facilities
-  Rural Study Areas
-  Rural Areas
-  Los Angeles County
-  Freeways/Highways

RURAL RECREATION: NEEDS

Through the community engagement process, Los Angeles County residents of rural areas identified the following key rural recreation needs and issues.

COMMUNITY NEEDS: FOR IMPROVING RURAL PARK ACCESS AND EXPERIENCES



TRANSIT OPTIONS

Improved and more frequent public transit service, carpools and shuttle options to parks.



INCREASED PARKING

Affordable parking options with ample space for horse trailers and electric car charging stations.



MORE SHADE

Shaded seating, play areas and walking trails, and shaded greenbelts between and around parks.



ACCESS TO WATER

More hydration stations for people and animals, and additional water facilities and features like pools and splash pads to keep residents cool in hot months and provide swimming lessons.



ENHANCED SAFETY MEASURES

Improved lighting at parks, more desert walking paths, and better maintenance of trailheads.



BETTER ACCESS TO INFORMATION

More information about events at local parks, mini-transit (like Metro Micro) to parks and walking and hiking opportunities at wildlife sanctuaries. More publicity about community workshops and other opportunities to provide feedback.



ENHANCED SIGNAGE

Signage maintained and provided in multiple languages, as well as additional interpretive and wildlife identification signage needed along trails.



ADA ACCESSIBILITY

Trails and parks with better access for wheelchair users and people with disabilities, and playground equipment that is accessible.



NATIVE AMERICAN AND TRIBAL ACCESS

Privacy for ancestral practice, and land access for gatherings and events.



MORE CULTURAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

More community events like art shows and concerts.



IMPROVED MAINTENANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Better upkeep of restroom facilities, improved lighting on streets and paths, and trash and vegetation overgrowth removal in parks and on trails.



ENHANCED TRAILS AND TRAIL SAFETY

Protected and safe bike trails to connect users to parks, and resolution of conflicts between trail to ensure trails are safe for horses, riders and other users.



MORE FACILITIES FOR EQUESTRIAN USE

A staging area for horses and trailers at trailheads with trees, water, and picnic tables, and a place to host horse shows and equestrian events.



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

More park activities and programs available to all ages.



EXPANDED RECREATION FACILITIES

More tennis and pickleball courts, and swimming facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

DPR is committed to addressing the significant park and recreation needs identified in the 2016 PNA and the 2022 PNA+ in ways that produce measurable results, provide multiple benefits, and improve the quality of life for the residents it serves. But this is not easy to do and DPR cannot do it alone. To address the identified needs, DPR and its partners, including other park agencies, community-based organizations, funders, and volunteers, must take the following next steps which are organized into six broad categories:

FUNDING PRIORITIES

- » Work at the Federal, State, and local levels to incorporate LA County's PNA+ (30x30 framework) into programs, legislation, policies, and funding opportunities.
- » Work with the State of California and other grantors to update scoring tools and methodologies for parks-related grant programs to address the conservation and restoration, regional, and rural needs identified in the PNA+, specifically looking at racial equity and population vulnerability metrics.
- » Initiate new funding mechanisms to expand restoration of degraded lands for park use. PNA+ calls out environmental restoration priority areas which have the most environmental burdens with respect to groundwater threat, hazardous waste, poor air and water quality and pollution burden. Examples include oil fields, brownfields, landfills, and other degraded lands which may be converted to park and open space. These areas are most often located in lower income communities of color.

- » Evaluate existing funding mechanisms such as Quimby and create new funding tools such as park impact fees to fund the development, improvement, operation, and maintenance of parks, especially in very high and high need areas identified in the PNA and priority areas identified in the PNA+.
- » Coordinate with the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) to integrate findings from the PNA+ Final Report into the Measure A grant-making process and update the Grant Administration Manual to inform prioritization and selection of projects for competitive grants, including expanding the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) to include High Priority Areas for Rural Recreation.

PARK, TRAIL AND OPEN SPACE PROVISION

- » Update DPR's parkland acquisition strategy based on findings of the PNA+ Final Report. Specifically, the PNA+ identifies and maps areas that should be prioritized for both conservation as well as restoration opportunities. The updated countywide strategy needs to prioritize land acquisition in very high and high park need areas identified in the PNA as well as priority areas for environmental conservation and restoration identified in the PNA+.
- » Implement additional multi-benefit park projects that concurrently address the climate crisis, enable more residents to get outdoors to experience and enjoy nature, as well as protect and enhance biodiversity in the county. Development of additional multi-

benefit park projects will help to implement plans like the OurCounty Sustainability Plan, the General Plan, Community Parks and Recreation Plans, and advance initiatives such as WHAM, which supports projects that simultaneously address stormwater management (Measure W), affordable housing (Measure H), park (Measure A), and transportation (Measure M) needs.

- » Implement priority trail projects as identified in adopted trail plans. The County has adopted various trail plans which identify priority trail projects to be implemented. Given the growing popularity of trails and the many benefits they offer, there is a need as well as opportunities to create new trails and fill gaps in trails in both "trail-rich" and "trail-poor" areas.
- » Develop and implement solutions, such as partnerships with other organizations and sharing/pool of Measure A funds for multiple study areas, to address the unique park and recreation needs of rural unincorporated communities, especially those identified as high priority rural recreation areas in the PNA+ Final Report.



COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION

- » Establish a regular convening with partner agencies to coordinate and collaborate on regional parkland initiatives, including the acquisition of land for park purposes, and implement the recommendations of the PNA+ Final Report.
- » Expand the quarterly meetings of countywide trail managers taskforce to coordinate interagency trail connectivity, practices and policies, signage, network, and trail related needs identified in the PNA+ Final Report.
- » Update the Los Angeles County General Plan and other County plans to incorporate findings and recommendations of the 2016 PNA and 2022 PNA+ Final Reports. DPR will coordinate with the Department of Regional Planning to update the General Plan, including the Parks and Recreation Element and the Conservation and Natural Resources Element, Area Plans, and other plans to incorporate analyses, mapping, and recommendations from the PNA, PNA+, and other recent park and trail planning efforts.



ACCESS AND INFORMATION

- » Expand public transit to parks, open space, trails, and beaches. DPR and other park agencies should partner with Metro and other transit providers to implement the Transit to Parks Strategic Plan and related projects to enable more residents to more easily and conveniently access the full range of parks and recreational options in Los Angeles County. Expanded transit to parks services should be prioritized for very high and high park need areas identified in the 2016 PNA as well as priority areas for regional recreation and rural recreation identified in the 2022 PNA+ Final Report.
- » Formalize partnerships with Native American tribes and groups to pursue opportunities for acknowledgement and stewardship of land. As part of various County planning processes, including those for the OurCounty Sustainability Plan and the PNA+, Native American residents and stakeholders identified numerous barriers to accessing County-owned land for cultural, religious, and traditional practices such as harvesting and gathering on ancestral lands. DPR and partner agencies should continue to collaborate with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (NAIC) and Native American tribes, indigenous-led organizations, and other indigenous stakeholders to remove barriers to the observance of cultural, religious, and traditional practices and explore partnerships for the co-management of lands.

- » Update and expand the Trails LA County website and app to additionally serve as a hub and an empowerment tool from which to advance equity and expand access to the regional trail system. DPR will coordinate and collaborate with partner agencies to continually update and expand the Trails LA County website and app to include information on additional trails. In addition, the website and app should serve as a resource hub and an empowerment tool from which to address a whole host of initiatives related to equity and access to our trail systems including enhanced language and accessibility and culturally relevant educational themes.
- » Provide historically inclusive, eco-literate, and multilingual interpretive signage at parks, including natural areas and nature centers. As part of the community engagement and outreach process for PNA+, some residents reported that the lack of signage, maps, and other information displays and materials in languages besides English discouraged them from visiting certain parks and trails. Some also shared the desire for more historical and environmental information at parks. To address these needs, DPR and partner agencies should provide historically inclusive, eco-literate, and multilingual interpretive signage at parks, including natural areas and nature centers.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- » Prioritize community engagement for programs, services, and park development. DPR will continue to prioritize community engagement for programs, services, and park development to ensure that the communities it serves are engaged and involved. Community-based organizations are trusted by residents and have played a vital role in community engagement and outreach in the development of the PNA, PNA+, OurCounty Sustainability Plan, and numerous other County plans, especially in under-resourced communities. DPR will continue to collaborate and coordinate with community-based organizations for community engagement and outreach for park planning and development efforts, including involving them early and often in processes, and providing them with financial, technical, and other support.
- » Expand opportunities for community engagement. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, community meetings have primarily been online for the past two plus years. While not ideal, virtual engagement does offer certain benefits, including making it easier for some members of the public to participate in meetings from the comfort of their homes without traveling, arranging for childcare, etc. However, not all community members have access to the internet or know how to use smart phones. DPR and partner agencies should expand their approach to community engagement to include in-person, analog and virtual options for the public to be informed and get involved in processes for parks and recreation plans, policies, projects, and programs.



CAPACITY BUILDING

- » Create career pathways, including training and workforce development opportunities, for jobs in nature education, resource protection, conservation, and outdoor access related fields. Parks contribute to the creation of a variety of employment opportunities. To grow and strengthen the parks and recreation workforce, there is a need to increase access to parks career pathways for young people, especially young people of color/Black and Brown young people. This can be accomplished by providing job training skills, mentorship, and/or career exposure, especially for Black and Brown youth from very high and high park need areas identified in the PNA, and Black and Brown and other vulnerable communities identified in PNA+.
- » Prioritize recruiting volunteers for core programming, such as out-of-school and sports programming, in very high and high park need areas identified in the PNA and priority areas for restoration, regional recreation, and rural recreation identified in the PNA+. Volunteers play a critical role in parks and recreation, with many already serving at parks and still more members of the public expressing a desire to serve. DPR and partner agencies should expand the recruitment and participation of volunteers to help address a variety of needs at parks, natural areas, trails, beaches, and other recreational facilities, including education, programming, and maintenance.

