

we all need



PNA+

2022 Los Angeles Countywide Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1. What is the PNA+?

The PNA+ is a focused update to the 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA). It does not replace the 2016 PNA.

The PNA+ complements and offers information not previously included in the 2016 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.

The PNA+ serves as Los Angeles County's very own 30x30 plan that establishes a new paradigm for conservation that includes traditional efforts that involve the acquisition and protection of natural lands as well as proactive and strategic restoration of degraded lands, especially in communities where vulnerable populations and environmental burdens are concentrated.

2. What is 30x30?

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. The California Natural Resources Agency, for example, has developed the Pathways to 30x30 Strategy to accelerate the conservation of the state's lands and coastal waters.

3. Why does PNA+ take an expanded approach to 30x30 that includes restoring degraded lands?

The restoration of degraded lands is of great importance and a matter of environmental justice in L.A. County where numerous underserved communities are plagued with environmental burdens.

Degraded lands are often found in areas that have the most environmental burdens with respect to groundwater threat, hazardous waste, poor air quality, pollution burden, etc. These lands include properties

such as decommissioned landfills (e.g. Puente Hills), oil wells/fields, rail yards, and utility corridors. In L.A. County, many of the most environmentally burdened communities are also the most park poor per the 2016 PNA and the most climate-vulnerable per the County Climate Vulnerability Assessment.

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.

4. What does the PNA+ tell us about regional and rural recreation needs?

L.A. County has 1 million acres of regional recreation and conservation areas which account for 38% of the County's total land area. But there are challenges associated with access to these areas due to their 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.

The rural areas of L.A. County are home to a significant amount of parkland, but 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.

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. Lake swim beaches provide opportunities for water-based recreation for many residents living inland. DPR operates designated recreational swim beaches on lakes at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, and Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area.

FAQS

5. Why did the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) prepare the PNA+?

On March 5, 2019, the DPR Board of Supervisors passed a motion directing to complete a “Regional Recreation, Beaches, Rural Areas and Open Space Needs Assessment” in 2021. The project was delayed due to COVID-19 and associated impacts on DPR’s operations and priorities.

The PNA+ aligns L.A. County with federal and state 30x30 efforts and enables DPR and partners to tap into conservation, infrastructure, environmental remediation, and other funding opportunities offered by federal and state agencies and other grantors.

6. How was the public involved in the development of PNA+?

Like the 2016 PNA, the PNA+ involved extensive public engagement and outreach done with the support of community partners. DPR updated the Parks Needs Assessment website to include information about PNA+ and created accounts on social media (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram) to engage and inform the public about various aspects of the project, including 11 online workshops, online and paper surveys, and community partner outreach events.

Thousands of Los Angeles County residents completed surveys and participated in workshops and other outreach events as part of the process.

Translations of workshop and outreach materials were available in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Armenian. These four languages are the most common languages spoken by the linguistically isolated populations within L.A. County. Translations of materials, including surveys, into additional languages were done at the request of various community-based organizations/community partners.

DPR conducted focused outreach to Native American stakeholders. Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples assisted by conducting focus groups and developing a tribal needs survey to collect input from native and indigenous peoples in L.A. County. The United American Indian Involvement (UAIL) and the L.A. City/County Native American Indian Commission (NAIC) helped with the distribution of the survey via their websites, social media, and at events such as the American Indian Day at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area held on September 11, 2021.

7. Has the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the PNA+?

Yes, on December 6, 2022, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the PNA+ Final Report as the County’s 30x30 plan which focuses on: Environmental Conservation and Restoration; Regional Recreation; and Rural Recreation. The Board also directed DPR to work at the Federal, State, and local levels to incorporate the PNA+ into programs, legislation, policies, and funding opportunities.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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