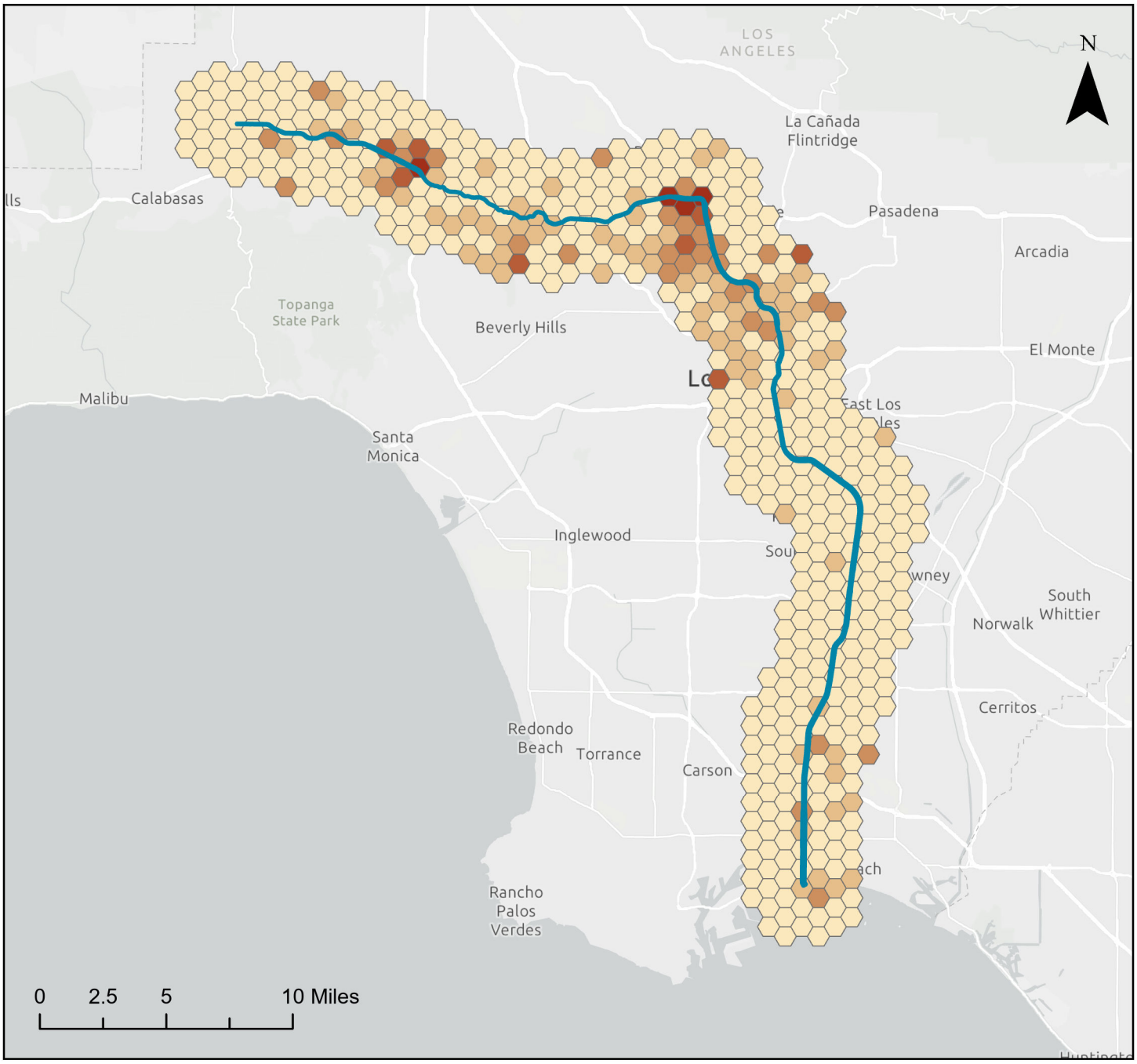
Biodiversity of the Los Angeles River



The Los Angeles River is a 51 mile river in Los Angeles County. Starting in the 1930s, the natural bed and bank of the river was replaced with a concrete channel in order to reduce flooding. Only 11 miles of the river are soft bottom (earthen bottom). iNaturalist is a project that encourages people to document the biodiversity around them. This map shows the number of iNaturalist observations from 2019 to 2021 that are within two miles of the LA River. The northern parts of the river have more observations than the southern parts of the river.

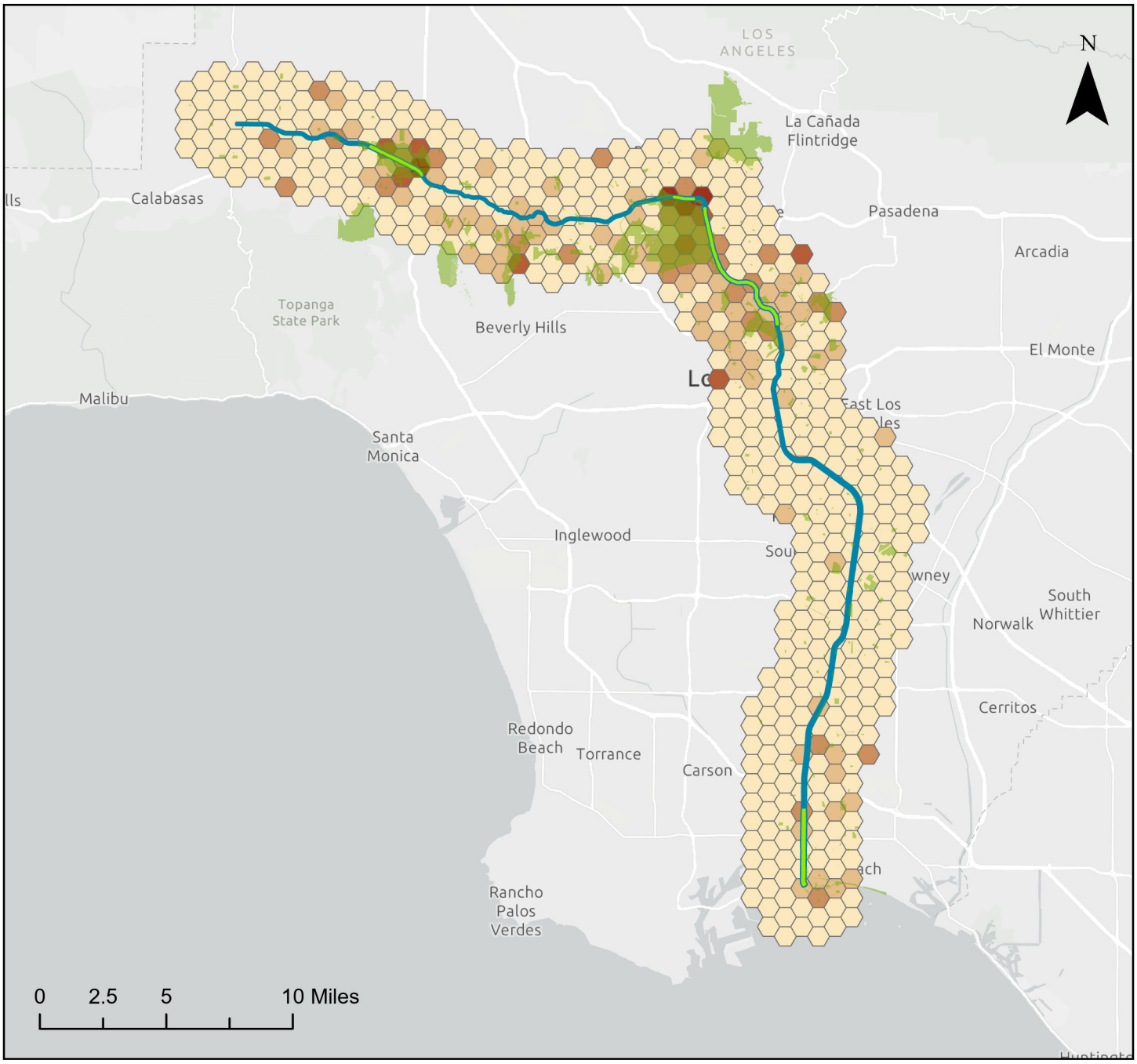
LA River

iNaturalist Observations

- 0 - 50
- 51 - 150
- 151 - 400
- 401 - 1200
- 1201 - 3274

Data sources: Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Los Angeles River Master Plan

Biodiversity of the Los Angeles River: Green spaces



There are various factors that can affect biodiversity. One factor is the environmental conditions - is there suitable habitat to support various species. This map compares iNaturalist data with the location of parks, open spaces, and soft bottom parts of the river. The Glendale Narrows and Sepulveda Basin have both soft bottom and green spaces, and have a high number of observations. The first three miles of the river in Long Beach has soft bottom, but lacks large swatches of green spaces. It has fewer observations than Glendale Narrows and Sepulveda Basin.

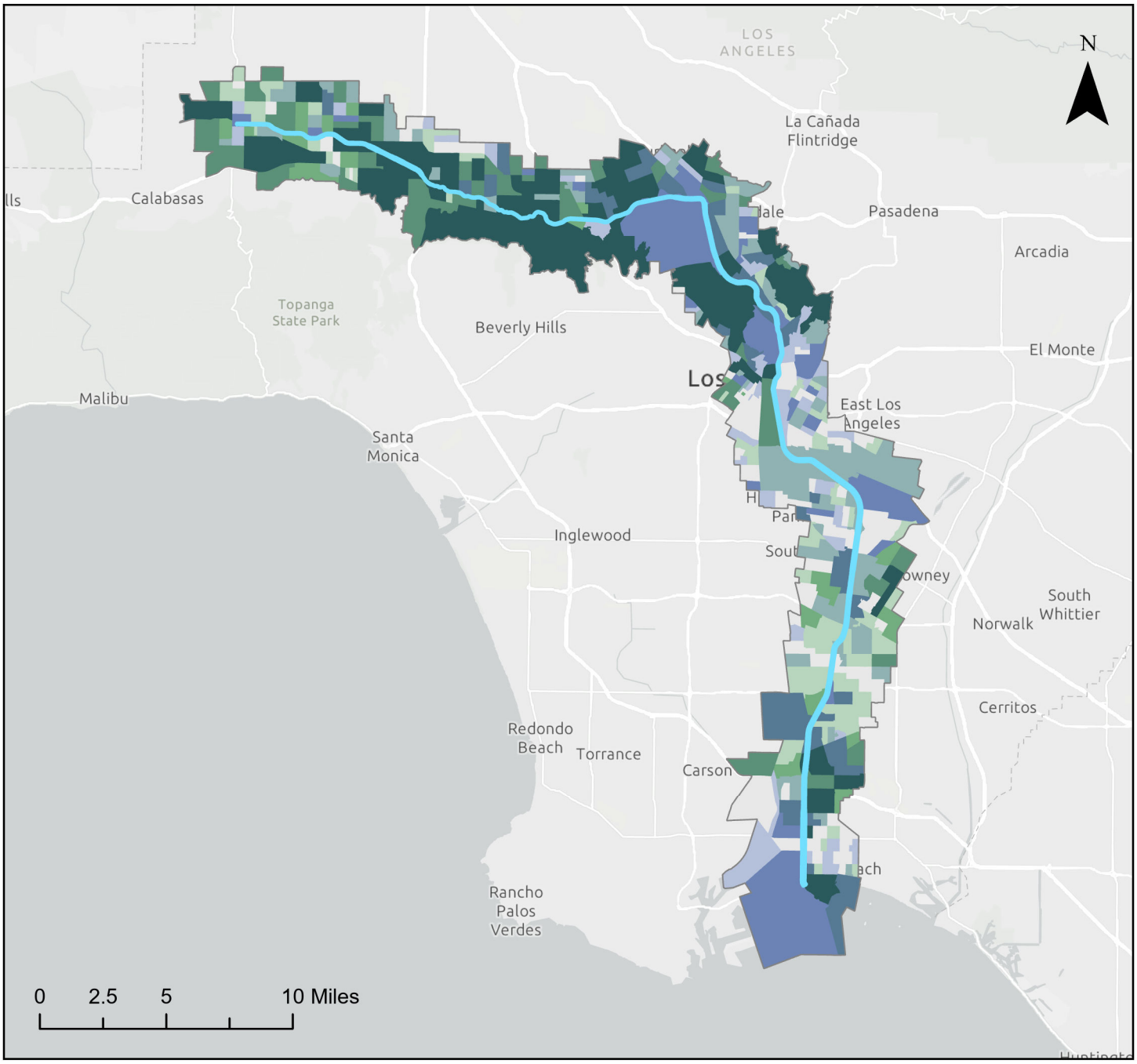
- LA River
- Soft Bottom
- Parks and Open Space

iNaturalist Observations

- 0 - 50
- 51 - 150
- 151 - 400
- 401 - 1200
- 1201 - 3274

Data sources: Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Los Angeles River Master Plan, County of Los Angels Open Data

Biodiversity of the Los Angeles River: Median Income



One issue with citizen science projects like iNatuarlist is that citizen scientists are generally older, wealthier, and more white than the general population. This map compares iNaturalist data with the median household income according to the 2020 Census. The map uses Census tracks within two miles of the river. The areas in dark green have high median income and high number of observations. There are more of these areas in the northern half of the river. The areas in grey have low income and low number of observations. There are more of these areas in the southern half of the river.

LA River

Census Tracks 2020

Median Household Income

iNaturalist Observations

High

Low

Low High

Data sources: Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Los Angeles River Master Plan, US Census