

North Ranch - Lindero Creek Trail



Highlights

- Easy decomposed granite path around North Ranch Playfield.
- Beautiful trail with a majestic oak canopy alongside the creek
- Little elevation change
- Pitch dark and spooky tunnel under Kanan Road
- One of the segments of the 2026 [Conejo Open Space Challenge](#)

Description

This short but beautiful trail is a hidden gem near the northeast corner of Thousand Oaks. There are two parts – in the south it is a decomposed granite (DG) path on the south and east side of the North Ranch Playfield. Crossing Bowfield St., it becomes a traditional trail that snakes through a beautiful stand of oak trees alongside Lindero Creek, crossing it a few times. Continuing north, it crosses Lakeview Canyon Rd., then goes through a tunnel under Kanan Rd. This tunnel is pitch black and is dangerous to traverse without a light because the surface is very uneven and could be full of debris and water.

Key Statistics

Popularity: You are unlikely to encounter any other trail users except on the DG playfield path

Parking: Free at the North Ranch Playfield off of Bowfield Street.

Distance: 0.9 miles one way

Cumulative Climbing and Descent: 130' out and back

Tread Surface: DG for 300 yards at the south end; the rest is hard packed dirt and leaf litter

Hazards: Leaf litter can be slippery; the pitch dark tunnel has a very uneven tread. There could be poison oak alongside the trail

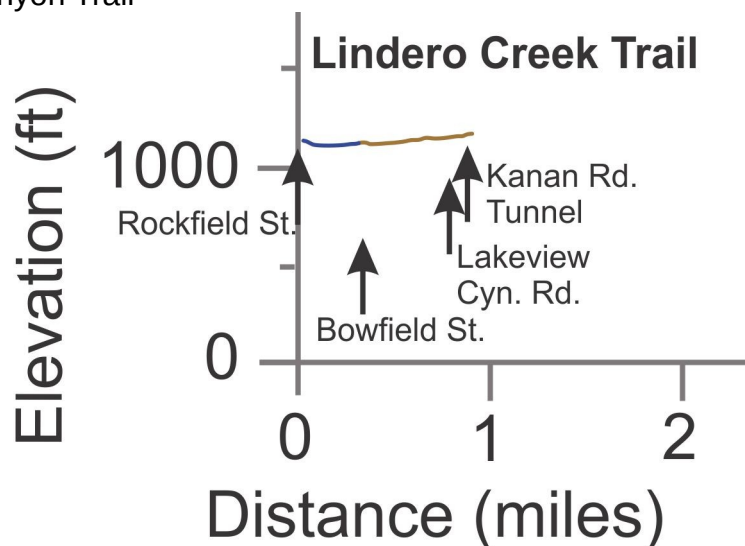
Facilities: Bathrooms and picnic tables at the playfield

Connections: Bowfield Trail and Lindero Canyon Trail

Driving Directions: Park in the free lot at North Ranch Playfield. From the 101 Freeway in Westlake Village, turn north onto Lindero Canyon Road. Drive 2.5 miles, turn left onto Bowfield St., go left after 2 blocks onto Rockfield St., then immediately turn left into the parking lot.

Map: <https://bit.ly/3pSTbE1>

Elevation Profile, blue is the DG path around the playing fields, brown is the trail proper.





Updated December 3, 2025

Photos



