

Skelton Canyon Trail in North Ranch



Highlights

- Easy hike of only 2.2 miles, return.
- One of the segments of the 2026 Conejo Open Space Challenge (<https://cosf.org/challenge>)

Description

This is a broad singletrack trail that makes for an easy hike. The surface is gravel on a firm base with a moderate grade. There is no parking on Westlake Blvd. and very limited parking on Lakeview Canyon Rd. The best place to park is on Santiago St., across Westlake Blvd. from the trailhead.

Key Statistics

Popularity: Some possibility of encountering other hikers but mountain bikers are unlikely.

Parking: Free on Santiago Street.

Distance: 2.2 miles, out and back.

Cumulative Climbing and Descent: 470'

Tread Surface: Broad singletrack trail with loose gravel on top of a firm base, and possibly overgrown, especially in the spring.

Hazards: Little shade on the trails. Traffic on Westlake Blvd. to get to the trailhead.

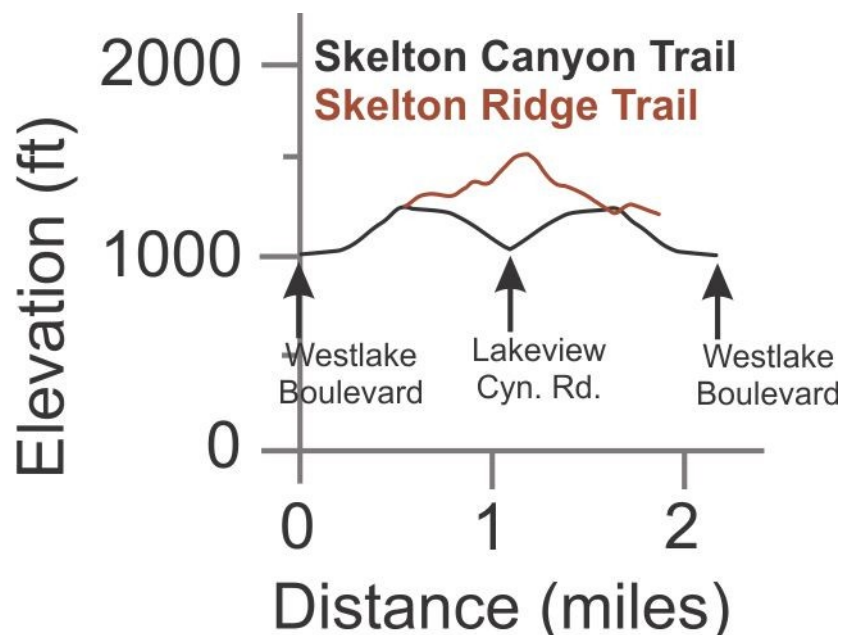
Facilities: None

Connections: To the Skelton Ridge social trail. This trail is difficult to follow because it is generally overgrown and gets little use.

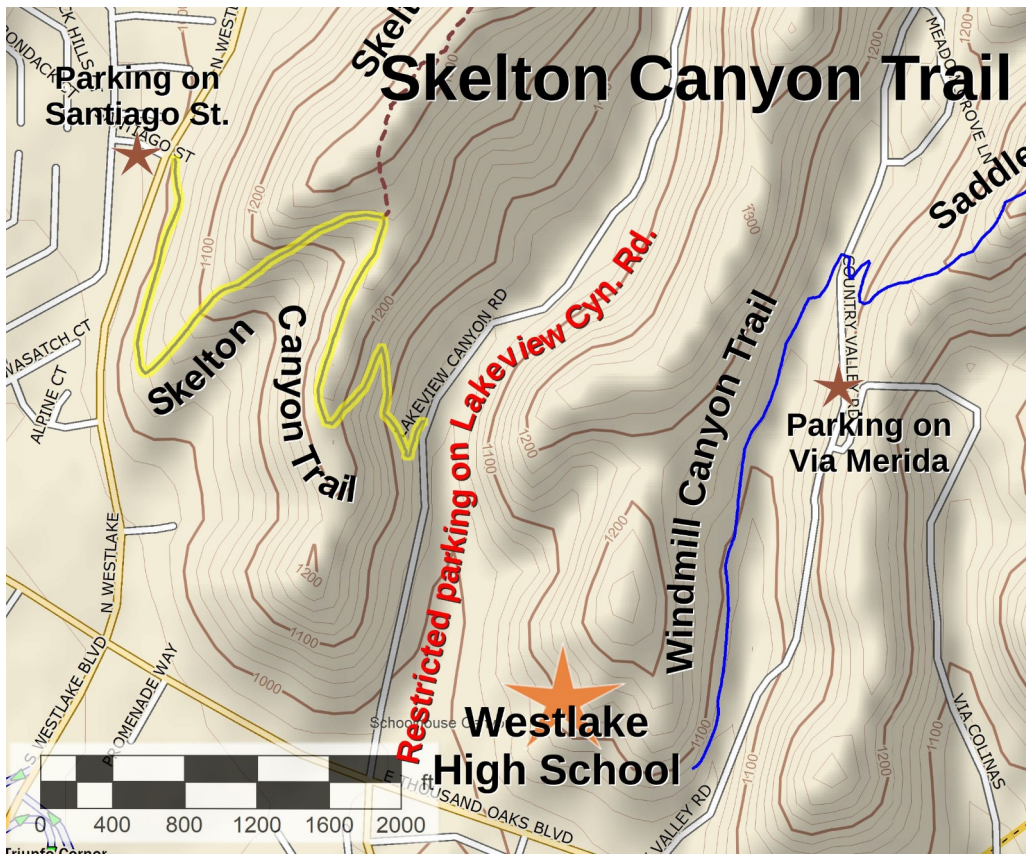
Driving Directions: From the 101 Freeway in Thousand Oaks, turn north on Westlake Blvd. Drive 1.1 miles to Hillcrest Drive (traffic light) and make a U-turn. Make the first right turn after 0.2 miles onto Santiago St. and park. The trailhead is on the other side of Westlake Blvd across from Santiago Street.

Map: <http://bit.ly/TPxrmF>

Elevation Profile (out and back for Skelton Cyn, just to the top for Skelton Ridge social trail):



Be careful of speeding traffic on Westlake Blvd. if you jaywalk across from Santiago Street!
There is a traffic light one block north at Hillcrest Drive. It's much safer to cross there.



Map courtesy of <https://www.venturacountytrails.org>

Updated December 3, 2025

Photos

