

## North Ranch - Windmill Canyon Trail



### Highlights

- This easy route of only 1.6 miles with about 200' of climbing is very pretty, meandering through grassy meadows and groves of oak trees.
- Windmill Canyon Trail is one of the segments of the 2026 Conejo Open Space Challenge (<https://cosf.org/challenge>)

### Description

This is a really easy and pretty hike, suitable for beginners. There is no street parking at the south end near Westlake High School, so park near the north end on Via Colinas and walk north on Via Merida about 350 yards to the trailhead on the left side. You will have to go around a fence on Via Merida to get to the trailhead. From there, it's a simple out-and-back hike, turning around when you get to the high school.

### Key Statistics

**Distance:** 1.6 miles, out-and-back

**Cumulative Climbing and Descent:** 200'

**Parking:** Free on Via Colinas

**Popularity:** This trail is popular with people out for a stroll after work or walking their dog

**Tread Surface:** Hard packed trails of various widths. Some sections have minor ruts and/or possibly slippery loose sand on top.

**Hazards:** Nothing out of the ordinary for a trail.

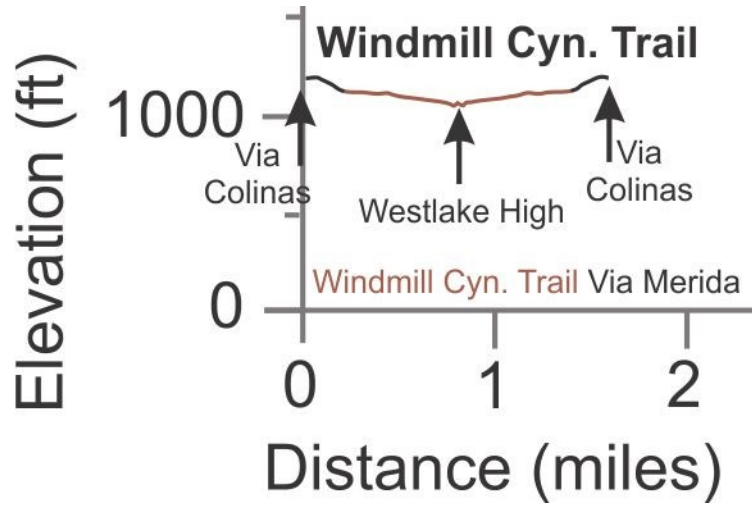
**Facilities:** None.

**Connections:** To Saddle Pass Trail, a steep and challenging trail that connects with other North Ranch area trails.

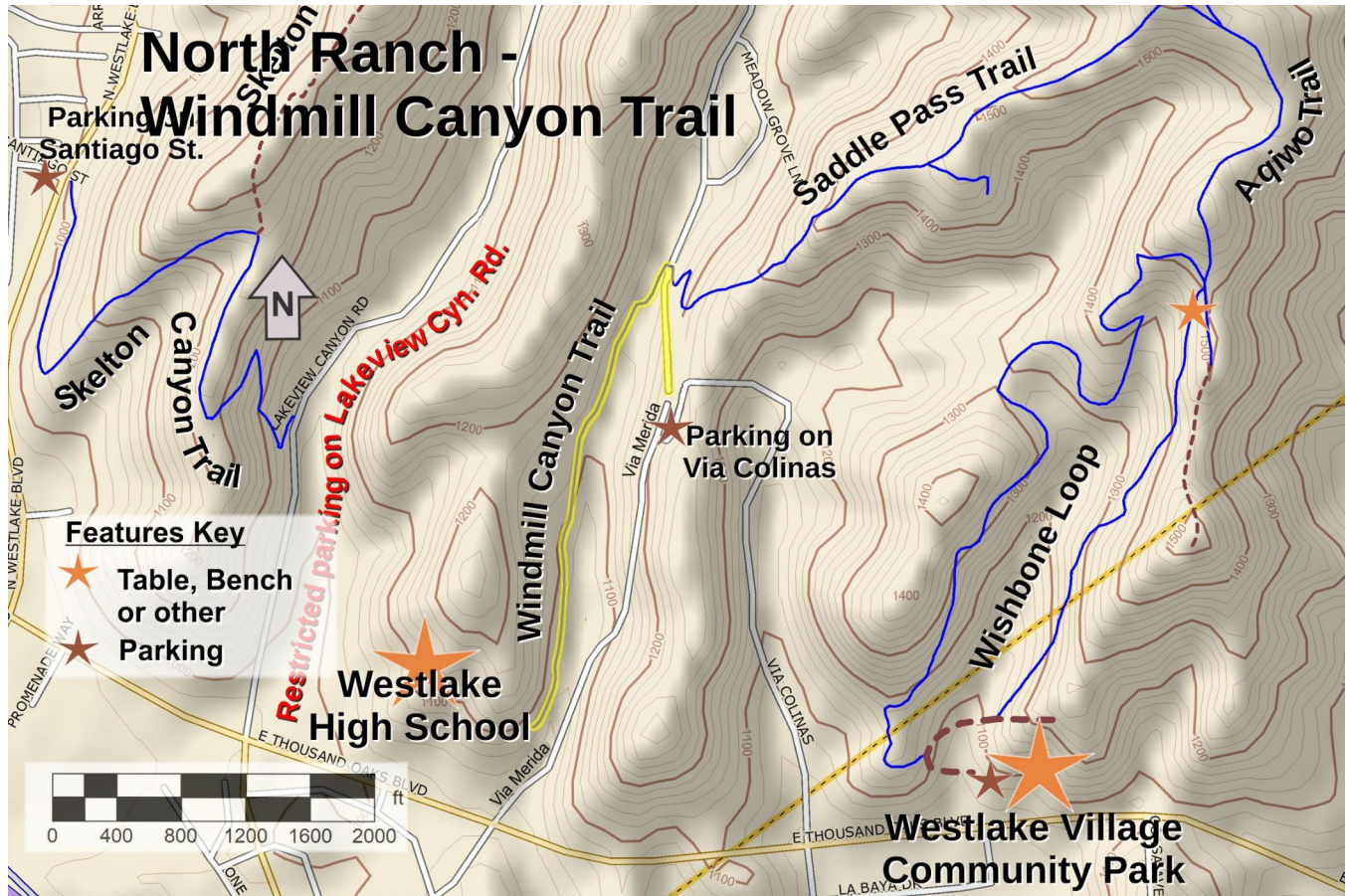
**Directions:** From the 101 Freeway in eastern Thousand Oaks, turn north on Westlake Blvd, then right onto Thousand Oaks Blvd. after 0.1 miles. Continue for only 0.6 miles before turning left onto Via Merida. Drive 0.5 miles, then turn right onto Via Colinas and park at the side of the street.

**Map:** <https://bit.ly/48hUqIZ>

**Elevation Profile** (Traveling clockwise around the loop)



**Route Map**



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

Updated February 21, 2026

## Photos

### Windmill Canyon Trail

