

Rock Ridge Trail

The Trail: There are three trailheads and one connector trail: The connector trail is from the Oak Park Community Center Trail just east of the Oak Park Community Center parking lot. The trail starts with an extremely steep section followed by other moderately steep sections after achieving the top of the ridge. The first trailhead extends to the northeast from Golden Eagle Drive. The second can be accessed from Golden Nugget Way. The final trailhead is on Lindero Canyon Road. Views from the trail are wonderful and a round trip for a hiker is roughly 3 miles.

Geology: Starting from the Oak Park Community Center the trail runs northwesterly along the top of the ridge. On the north side of the trail is sandstone, which is soft, friable to semi-coherent, massive to vaguely bedded. This formation is part of the Detrital Sediments of Lindero Canyon, and are of the late middle Miocene age, i.e., deposited circa 10 million years ago.

Plant Life: The entire area adjacent to the trail was burned over during the Woolsey Fire in 2018, and my survey was conducted on May 23, 2020. So, the plant life within the area of the trail was in the midst of “plant succession.” Plant life can be expected to change from year to year until it returns to a patchwork a coastal sage scrub and chaparral plant associations - the latter on more north-facing slopes.

Plant encountered were: California buckwheat, eastwood manzanita, coast live and valley oaks, purple, white and black sages, cliff aster, Mediterranean and black mustard, yellow star thistle, California everlasting, deerweed, bush mallow, horehound, wild oats, laurel sumac and sugar bush, California sage brush, bush sunflower, slender tarweed, red brome, giant rye, chaparral nolina, Braunton’s milk vetch, California peony, strigose lotus, curly dock, soap plant, poison oak, arroyo lupine, yellow clover, coast golden bush, purple nightshade, ripgut brome, blue elderberry, hare barley, gum plant, holly-leaved red berry, red-stem filaree, sawtooth golden bush, purple needle grass, bird’s beak, and California black walnut.

Animal Life: Animals that may be observe or the track thereof may be seen on the trail include: birds, such as turkey vulture, red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, great horned and barn owls, poor-wills, California quail, mourning dove, Anna’s humming - bird, common flicker, common crow and raven, California towhee, and white crowned and English sparrows; reptiles, such as southern Pacific rattlesnake, San Diego gopher snake, California king snake, and the Great Basin fence lizard; and mammals, such as various bats, brush rabbit, cottontail rabbit,

California ground squirrel, agile kangaroo rat, deer mice, dusky woodrat, gray fox, coyote, ringtail cat, southern California weasel, striped skunk, bobcat, mountain lion and mule deer.

While mountain lions are present in the hills around Simi Valley, encounters are unlikely, but you should always be alert. It is best that you do not hike alone, and that you keep small children close at hand. Rattlesnakes may be encountered — Stay on the trail and avoid them when they are encountered — Be observant and never try to handle them. Do not handle any wildlife, including bats, even if they appear to be injured or sick. Remember, you are visitors to their homes.

**Mike Kuhn,
Executive Chair,
Rancho Simi Trail Blazers**

*Please see **Trail Safety Tips** at this trail's main page for more info.*