

Wistful Vista Trail

The Trails: The trail complex rises from eight trailheads in residential areas to open space ridge lines. From the north two on the south side of Kanan Road; two west of Oak Hills Drive; one west on Burano Ct.; two south of off Bayport Way and Rockfield Street; one from Indian Springs Park. Overall, this includes 3.2 miles of trails. Some trail segments are quite steep and may prove challenging for some hikers.

Geology: The bedrock geology is of the Monterey Formation (locally referred to as the Modelo Formation), which is of marine origin and of middle and late Miocene age (roughly 16 to 5.3 million years in age). From the Kanan Road trailhead the bedrock is made up of white weathering thinly bedded, platy, brittle siliceous shale to soft, punky shale devoid of sandstone. In some sections this has resulted in some small chunky pieces of bedrock which can be difficult to walk on steep sloping ground.

Plant Life: Much of the vegetation is made up of ruderal grasslands with herbaceous species that is typical of a landscape that has resulted from the 2018 wildfire. Some of the area contains greater transitioning from a grassland to a coastal sage scrub plant association. No riparian species were noted. The plant survey was conducted on June 12, 2020. Plants as encountered included valley oak, coast live oak, toyon, wild oats, sow thistle, black and Mediterranean mustards, gum plant, Italian thistle, curly dock, narrow-leaved milkweed, purple needle grass, downy navarreta, slender tarweed, coast and sawtooth golden bushes, farewell-to-spring, horehound, cliff aster, little horseweed, wild cucumber, purple sage, California sagebrush, yellow star thistle, California black walnut, California buckwheat, deerweed, giant rye, bush mallow, California pepper (native to Peru), sugar bush (probably planted), common sunflower, wand buckwheat, coyote brush, chaparral yucca, white clover, red brome, and blue elderberry.

Animal Life: Animals that may be seen, or the tracks of which, may be encountered include: Birds, such as turkey vulture, barn and great horned owls, red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, California quail, mourning doves, Anna's hummingbird, common crow and common raven, California towhee, and white-crowned and English sparrows; reptiles, such as southern Pacific rattlesnake, San Diego gopher snake, California king snake, and Great Basin fence lizard; and mammals, such as brush rabbit and desert cottontail, agile kangaroo rat, deer mice, California ground squirrel, gray fox, coyote, bobcat, mule deer and mountain lions.

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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.*

