

## **Westridge Fire Road (AKA Fire Road #25)**

***Finding the trailhead:*** Drive to the very top of Westridge Road and park on the street. [Note: Be careful, on Saturday and Sunday: from 7 AM to 3 PM, parking is not allowed in the last block.]

***Description:*** This fire road winds gently and steadily uphill about 4 miles along the east ridge of Sullivan Canyon to San Vicente Mountain Park and the Nike Radar Site and Mulholland Drive. But you don't need to go all the way to the top to enjoy this hike – the excellent views start almost immediately, so even the least ambitious hiker can catch some of the highlights. There are several options along the fire road, including steep, challenging, single-track trails on either side of the fire road that will take you along the spine of the ridge, providing sweeping views of the Westside and parts of the San Fernando Valley. Most of the single-tracks run parallel to Westridge fire road and reconnect with the road further up.

### ***Side Trails:***

After walking about four or five minutes from the start of the Westridge fire road, the road turns sharply to the right. On the west or canyon side of this curve, there is a very steep downward trail that goes down to the Sullivan Canyon Trail (described below). At the bottom, you can turn right and hike the Sullivan Canyon Trail or you can cross it and take a fairly steep uphill trail to Sullivan Ridge West (AKA Fire Road #26). Turn right at the top, and you can follow Sullivan Ridge West all the way to Mulholland. Also, you can go left, descend the fire road to the top of Amalfi, or take the single track on the left down to Sullivan Canyon.

After walking about six or seven minutes from the start of the Westridge fire road, you reach a broad open plateau. In front of you, on your right, there's a road that goes down toward a concrete flood control channel. Follow that road down, cross the meadow to your right, then follow the trail that goes uphill to your left. That trail goes up and around and rejoins the single track on the ridge above the main fire road. You can turn right on the ridge and extend your hike or turn left and return along the ridge and the fire road.

Just above the same plateau, on your right, is a single track that goes up to the ridge above the fire road. This single track trail continues parallel to the fire road. It rejoins the fire road and then diverts again three or four times as you proceed uphill toward the Nike site.

## **Sullivan Canyon Trail**

***Finding the trailhead:*** Turn west (left) from Westridge Road onto Bayliss Road. Turn left at Queensferry Road and park as close as you can to the gate, but without violating the posted parking regulations. Please be considerate of the neighbors. Walk around the side of the gate, proceed to the bottom of the paved road, turn right, and follow the trail uphill. To your left is a debris dam and there is no trail.

***Description:*** The walk from Queensferry Road down to the trail is steep, but after you descend the paved road and join the trail, the hike levels out and maintains a moderate grade. This trail weaves in and out of the canyon's creek bed, which can be bone dry or

a foot deep, depending on the season. The canyon floor's flora provides considerable shade, which can come in handy on hot summer days. About ½ mile from the beginning of the Sullivan Canyon trail, there are two side trails (described above in Paragraph 1)—the trail on the right goes up to the Westridge fire road; the one on the left goes up to Sullivan Ridge West. After about four miles, the Sullivan Canyon Trail reaches the end of the canyon and steeply ascends. Those who choose to make this climb will come to the Sullivan Ridge West fire road (#26) near the top of this ascent – turn right to go to Mulholland Drive, or turn left to follow Sullivan Ridge West. If you turn right on Mulholland, you can return on the Westridge fire road (a total of ten or eleven miles).

### **Gardenland Trail**

***Finding the trailhead:*** From Sunset Boulevard, follow Mandeville Canyon Road approximately four miles to Gardenland Road. Turn left onto Gardenland and park. Walk to the end of Gardenland Road, turn left and begin hiking the fire road.

***Description:*** This fire road includes a few steep sections, notably at the beginning of the hike, and consistently runs uphill. After hiking for a while you reach a fire road. Make a sharp right and follow the fire road, which joins Westridge Fire Road (Fire Road #25 – see above). Once on Westridge fire road, you can see the Nike Radar site farther up the road to your right.

### **Hollyhock Trail**

***Finding the trailhead:*** From Sunset Boulevard, follow Mandeville Canyon Road approximately four miles to Hollyhock Road. Hollyhock Road is on the east side of Mandeville Canyon Road, and is extremely short and therefore a challenge to find. Park on Mandeville Canyon Road at the Hollyhock Road street sign, and walk around the gate on Hollyhock Road to begin hiking the fire road.

***Description:*** This fire road winds up the east side of Mandeville Canyon, and eventually, joins Kenter fire road. Turn left on Kenter fire road for views of the Valley and to reach Mulholland Drive.

The Hollyhock and Gardenland trails can be done as a loop. Their entrances on Mandeville Canyon Road are a short walk from each other.