Powdermill Branch Trail is the only trail in the Red River Gorge open to mountain bikes and horses, along with hikers. The trail occurs outside of the Red River Gorge Geological Area but passes through a scenic portion of the Daniel Boone National Forest. Note that there is no roadside parking or vehicle access to trailhead from Hatten Ridge Road. Park at the trailhead off of Forest Road 9A. Ride left along the creek until you can ford the creek and find a steep old logging road going up the hill. Hike-a-bike up this lower section until you can ride (a few dozen yards).

Once the trail gains a natural bench after the initial climb up from Indian Creek, it contours for a long time over a deep, narrow holler (Powdermill Branch) and crosses a couple of smaller drainages coming in from the right (north).

Continue the steady climb up Powdermill Branch through a beautiful boulder garden, and then a little valley before confronting the upper wall exit of the trail. There is a short hike-a-bike and then you can ride on out.

At the top end, you are on Hatton Ridge Road (Forest Road 165). You can ride along the road to the gate at Hatton Cemetery, where it becomes Menifee County Road #1228, which joins Spaas Creek Road.

DIFFICULTY NOTE: This trail is very steep on both ends with grades above 20%, narrow eroding section with lots of rock and creek crossing with no bridge or ford.

Begins: Indian Creek Road trailhead Difficulty: Moderate-Difficult
Ends: Hatten Ridge Road FS 165 Latitude: 37.86061
Length: 2.25 miles Longitude: -83.67429
Surface: Dirt Quad: Slade
County: Menifee Closest Town: Slade

Storing Your Food and Trash in Bear Country

Food and trash storage is mandatory, to reduce odors that attract bears. Unless cooking or eating, store your food inside a hardtop vehicle, the trunk of a car or a bear-resistant container. When camping in the backcountry hang your food at least 10 feet off the ground and four feet away from a tree.

Camp 300 feet AWAY from any road or trail.

Gladie Visitor Center
3451 Sky Bridge Road
Stanton, KY 40380
606-663-8100
Open 7 days a week March to November.

Directions
From the Mountain Parkway, take exit 33 at Slade. Turn left and then left again onto KY 11/15. After 1.4 miles, turn right onto KY 77. Follow 77 through Nada Tunnel, turning left onto a gravel road after crossing the river. Follow this road for approximately 3 miles before turning right onto Indian Creek Road. Follow this road across the bridge to where the road splits. Take the left fork of the road (9A) until you reach a pull-off near the trailhead.

Parking
Roadside pulloff
Open Dates
Trail is open all year.
Trail Fees
None.

Permit
All vehicles in the Indian Creek area north of KY 15 must display a recreation permit for camping between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Accessibility
This trail does not meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

Powdermill Branch Trail is closed to motorized vehicles.

Consumption of alcohol and open containers of alcohol are prohibited.

Camping and firebuilding in rock shelters is prohibited.

Camp 300 feet AWAY from any road or trail.
Powdermill Branch is a "multiple-use" trail. Mountain bikers, hikers and horseback riders all share this trail. If you extend your ride on a county road, you might encounter off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and regular vehicle traffic.