

Course Setter Notes
Gateway Park Score-O
Sept. 24, 2022

Welcome to Gateway Park in Fort Worth.

The 'New' Area

We are able to use the settlement pond area of the old water treatment plant again! The city has been busy pushing over the trees in the old ponds and a thick growth of weeds and cane has taken over the open areas. On the positive side, there are not that many thorns in there. The downside is the weeds are the type with numerous, little burrs. I recommend gaiters to protect your socks from being a solid mass of burrs.

The Map

The map will be at a scale of 1:7500 with a 2.5-meter contour interval.

Terrain

Most of the park is fairly flat with low-lying areas. The east side of the park does have steep, rocky slopes. The dry watercourses and ditches often look like paths. If there has been significant rain in the week prior to the event, many of these low spots may be full of water or very muddy.

The frequently mown lawn-grass areas are fairly smooth. Other open areas can be very uneven. The less frequently mown areas might reach 6 feet high.

Hazards

The woods contain some typical hazards for this region, including poison ivy, greenbriar thorns, and rusty barbed wire fences. All orienteers are encouraged to wear long pants and/or gaiters for leg protection. There is the normal assortment of reptiles, etc. Leave all of them alone as they are usually unfriendly. There are homeless people camping in Gateway Park. Please avoid them and their campgrounds as they might be unfriendly as well.

Cyclists

The concrete and dirt trail system is used by cyclists who often ride fast and can easily come upon you unexpectedly. To be safe, travel alongside the paths if possible, especially if in a group or on the narrower dirt trails. If you pause to read your map, DO NOT stand in the bike path. Don't wander across the bike path without looking for bicycle traffic.

Both areas now have complex mountain bike trails with 'features' built and maintained by FWMBBA (Fort Worth Mountain Bike Association). Please be respectful of any riders you see. Again, please don't block the trails, and be alert for fast bike riders.

Athletic Fields

The courses will go near some soccer fields and baseball fields. Please do not run through any fields where games are underway. Courses will be in and around the Disc Golf course. Golfers are throwing heavy, plastic disks so keep an eye out for them. Disc golf baskets are noted with a circle and x. Some baskets on the map have been removed and others have been added.

Road and Bridges

This is a city park, so there are roads around and through the park, but you should NOT cross any major roads while orienteering.

The Trinity River cuts across the park. The northern access is the concrete path along 1st Street. You can also cross the dam in the southwest part of the park. The Trinity is deep and fast, cross only at the bridge and the dam. There are no rowing events planned but be aware there might be boating and fishing activity on the dam.

There is concrete path construction occurring in the park. Controls have been placed to avoid the construction area.

Special Features

Special man-made features (represented by X or O) on the map and clue sheets can mean signs, benches, picnic tables, poles, posts, guy wires, concrete pads and the like. And X and O combined is a disc golf basket.

Safety

Gateway is in sections so safety bearing will heavily depend on your approximate location. If you do not understand safety bearings, please discuss this with your coach or attend the beginner clinic before setting out.

All runners must check in at finish even if they are over time!

Courses

This is a Score-O competition with a long (3 hr) and short (1.5 hr) course. There is one map, one punch sheet and one start time/location that is used for both length courses. All controls have the same value - 10 points. All controls are Intermediate or easier. The park is very large and the controls are spread out.

Some route choices between controls could be more difficult. Punch in the box with the number that matches the control marker. You may visit and punch the controls in any order. Penalty points for being late will grow exponentially. Be sure you bring a time-keeping device.

The area south and east of The Trinity River can only be accessed via the path along Bridge Street (north side) or the across the dam (south side). You can cross at either spot and return the same way or go all the way to the other crossing. **DO NOT CROSS AT ANY OTHER PLACE!** 20 controls are south and east of the Trinity. The main part of the park contains 41 controls.

There will be water stops at the Trinity River crossings and at the centrally located start/finish.

Please consider staying to pick up a few controls after the meet. Thanks, and have fun!

Sheila Doyle