

**Course Setter Notes**  
**Gateway Park Score-O**  
**2023**

**Welcome to Gateway Park in Fort Worth!**

**NEW RULES!!!**

This year, the controls will have a range of points. The first digit on the control markers are all “1”, so that is being ignored. Only the last 2 numbers are used. The first is how many points and the second to tell them apart. Thus, “12” on the map and punch sheet is worth 10 points, “68” on the map and punch sheet is worth 60 points. Higher points are given to locations harder to navigate to or a farther distance. However, not all the high point controls are east of the river. There are 60 controls total, 20 are south and east of the Trinity.

**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 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 THE RIVER AT ANY OTHER PLACE!**

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

**The ‘New’ Area**

The area north of Fort Woof (dog park) is open. Not very interesting but we will be using it.

**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 FWMBA (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.

### **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!

Sheila Doyle  
Course setter