

Hall-O-Ween With Harry! 2022
Harry S. Moss Park
Sat., Oct. 15, 2022
Course Setter Notes

Hello to everyone out there in orienteering land! Yes, indeed, it's time once again for Halloween at Harry Moss! There'll be courses for all, so make plans to come on down. As with the previous years, our Halloween Special Friends will be back and looking forward to spooking you again. That means every course will be haunted.

The Courses

There will be eight courses as follows:

Course	Length (km)	Controls
White A	2.9	18
White B	2.9	18
Yellow A	3.5	12
Yellow B	3.5	12
Orange	5.3	18
Brown	4.3	13
Green	5.8	18
Red	6.8	19

All eight courses will use electronic punches. Each control will be marked by a standard orange and white orienteering marker and will have an accompanying electronic punch box. Because this is a small park, several controls are within 50 meters of each other. Be sure to check the control code number before punching the control.

The start and finish will be at the south end of Harry Moss near the intersection of Fair Oaks and Merriman Parkway, where we've had the start and finish in the past.

The Maps

The maps will be at a scale of 1:7500 with a 3-meter contour interval. It has been updated in the past two weeks to more accurately depict the trails and vegetation as they are.

Terrain

Most of the park is in the White Rock Creek floodplain and is therefore flat. There is some gentle sloping high ground in the northeast part of the park. The only steep slopes that could be encountered on the courses are a few water-carved gullies. As of this date, the week of the meet, the seasonal watercourses and seasonal marshes are dry. The dry watercourses and ditches often look like dirt trails. If there has been significant rain in the days prior to or during the day of the meet, then many of these low spots may be full of water or very muddy.

Some of the open areas, mostly along the paved White Rock Creek Trail are mowed often and look like a lawn. Other areas of the park are only mowed once a year and can have grass and other vegetation ranging from ankle to waist high and even head high. Since the vegetation can vary change year to year and whether or not it has been mowed, some of the vegetation as shown on the map may not agree with the vegetation as it exists at the time of the meet and may even partially conceal normally distinct trails.

Hazards

The woods contain some typical hazards for this region including poison ivy, greenbriar thorns, and a section or two of rusty barbed wire fences. The banks of White Rock Creek are high and steep in most places. All orienteers are encouraged to wear long pants and/or gaiters for leg protection. There is much poison ivy along the trails and in off-trail areas and can have climbed up into the vegetation where it can be chest high.

There are vines growing low across the trails and in areas off the trails that can be trip hazards. Another trip hazard in the mowed areas are short stalks protruding above the ground a few inches and can cause one to trip and then be a hazard if one falls on these stalks. Also, loose dead limbs and branches on the ground on and off the trails can make for difficult walking and poor footing in places.

Horses

There is a horse barn adjacent to the park and a horse training area in the park. These are marked out of bounds. You may also see horses along the trails. Please get off the trails and allow the horses to pass safely without spooking them. Horses can be very quiet and can surprise you when they get near if you don't see them first.

Cyclists

White Rock Creek Trail is used by cyclists who often ride fast and can easily come upon you unexpectedly, especially from behind. To be safe, travel alongside the paved path rather than on it, particularly if in a group. If you pause to read your map, DO NOT stand in the bike path.

Don't wander across the bike path without looking both ways for bicycle traffic as well as for joggers. Please note that cyclists can also ride the trails in the wooded area in the eastern part of the park. The Orange, Green, Red, but not Brown, courses will go through an area of complex mountain bike trails built and maintained by DORBA (Dallas Off Road Bicycle Association). Please be respectful of any riders you see. Again, don't block the trails and be alert for bike riders.

Dog Walkers

Harry Moss Park is used frequently by many dog walkers, so runners should expect to see them on the trails.

Athletic Fields

The Orange, Green, and Red courses will go near some soccer fields and baseball fields. Please do not run through any fields where games are underway.

Roads and Bridges

This is a city park, so there are roads around and through the park, but you should NOT cross any major road while orienteering. Walnut Hill is the largest road through the park and is elevated above the floodplain, so you can run the courses by going under the Walnut Hill bridges. The ground under these bridges is bare of vegetation and should be runnable unless there is heavy rain during the week before the event.

To get to the DORBA portion of their courses, runners on the Orange, Green, and Red courses will need to cross White Rock Creek using the bridge on Greenville Avenue. Stay on the east sidewalk of the bridge, and do not cross the traffic lanes. Be vigilant of road traffic, run single file, and be very careful if traffic is present.

Runners on these same courses when in the DORBA section will need to cross Walnut Hill by going under the Walnut Hill bridge on the DORBA trail or over Walnut Hill by using the paved bike trail on the western border of the DORBA area.

Special Features

Special man-made features are represented by an "X" or "O" on the map and clue sheets. An "X" can mean signs, benches, picnic tables, poles, posts, mountain bike ramps, guy wires, or traffic barrels. An "O" can designate a pipe or post several inches in diameter to a concrete cylinder several feet in diameter. These can protrude above the ground a foot or two to several

feet and sometimes with manhole covers on top. Runners can expect to encounter other special features designated by an "X" which are not the typical features found on an orienteering course. These are our Halloween Special Feature friends and afford runners the opportunity to explore some primo orienteering areas otherwise not useable due to lack of standard orienteering features in these areas. They are part of celebrating Halloween at Harry's!

Major Construction Areas

The city of Dallas is installing a new paved bike path similar to the existing paved path by our start area. This new section starts near our start area, runs northeast under the Walnut Hill bridge and then east to Arborside, the street that is the eastern boundary of Harry Moss Park. This construction does not represent a hazard to runners and will not affect runners transiting this area. (Beware of the steep ditch on the north side of the trail in one area.)

In closing, remember:

Orienteer with care

while you are out there.

For the Harry Moss evil spirits,

They are lurking everywhere!

Hope everyone has a safe and fun run, find the courses challenging but not overwhelming, and enjoy Hall-O-ween with Harry!

Wayne Chaffin and Stan Darnell, Course Setters