

Tyler State Park

Welcome

Welcome to Tyler State Park (TSP). Be prepared to run on some of the best terrain used by the NTOA club.

Terrain

The map of Tyler State Park had extensive updates in 2022. This means the vegetation in the field and the vegetation on the map matches the very well for most of the park.

An extensive control burn took place 2 weeks ago, on the east side of the park. Much of the vegetation is thinner than marked on the map. The green leafy parts are gone but many of the thicker vines and the thorny vines are still there. The burn area looks open and runnable and most of it is, but some of the areas will have enough remaining vegetation to slow down running.

The recently burned area will be encountered by the Orange, Brown, Green and Red course runners.

If the rain forecasted for the days just prior to the event are heavy, then many of the seasonal streams and small ditches may have water and be easier to see. If the rain is significant enough runners will see where water run-off rivulets have disturbed the leaves. These are NOT normally seen and are not deep enough to be map as ditches or seasonal stream. Don't let these fool you.

Climb, Climb, Climb

The TSP terrain is has the most elevation change of all the venues used by NTOA. There are significantly sized re-entrants, ridges, valleys and gullies.

When choosing routes in this park, it is recommend that you **pay close attention to the contours** and consider route choices they may contour around instead of simply ignoring the elevation change. If one chooses to run straight at every control, be prepared for some excessive climb

Hazards

Vegetation: Green Briar, Poison Ivy, Honey Locust (thorns) grow in this park. Gaiters or some other form of leg protection is recommended.

Fauna: TSP is home to the normal range of Texas critters, including snakes, spiders, Armadillos, squirrels, deer and such. These may be encountered but not likely. In the past, there were a few feral hogs in the park, but no sign of those were seen this year by the course setters.

Man-Made: There are some barb wire fences and a few other man made hazards. All known ones are marked on the map. There is one area on the West side of the park where lots of tins cans, broken bottles and other trash is hidden in the tall grass. The Orange and Red course go relatively close to this

are but no good route choices go through this area. This area is marked as restricted on the map. Do not enter this area.

Out-of-Bounds

All camping areas, cabin areas, screened shelter areas, maintenance areas and the currently under-construction headquarters areas are marked as out-of-bounds. Do NOT enter these areas. Some course will use a road or a power line ride that goes near those areas. When using these linear features, please be courteous of any campers you encounter.

Safety Bearing

TSP is surrounded by a fence. Runners should not cross any fences. Safety bearing is generally to go downhill to the lake and then use the shore line trail to circle back to the NE corner of the lake.

Start/Finish/Download/Headquarters

The details about these locations are covered in the Meet Directors notes.

Course Info

Course	Controls	Length	Climb
White	11	2.01	72
Yellow-A	12	3.08	85
Yellow-B	13	3.02	93
Orange	18	6.3	159
Brown	14	4.82	159
Green	18	5.92	231
Red	20	6.73	249

All courses tend to be slightly more difficult than normally experienced at city parks since this terrain is a little more rugged.

The white course includes a very short flagged route leading away from one of the controls. This will lead the runner to change from one trail to another. The flagged route is only about 100 feet long.

There will be one water stop on each course at approximately the mid-point of the course. They are indicated by the cup symbol on the map. All runners are encouraged to carry their own water.

Visibility is good at this time of year at TSP. You will be able to see controls that are not on your course. Be sure to check your control codes before punching.

You may encounter some orange ribbons in the woods that are NOT part of this orienteering event. Please ignore those and leave them undisturbed.

Course Setters: Carl and Sheree' Bridges

Run safe and navigate well!