

Plano Score-O 2023

May 6, 2023

Course Setter Notes

Start and Finish:

All courses start and finish near the Oak Point Pavilion, South of the Community Center at the North East parking lot.

Controls

There are 50 controls scattered across the 800 acres of Oak Point Park. **This year, all 50 controls are in Oak Point.** None in Bob Woodruff Park. In addition to the standard orange and white bags, there should be orange and yellow ribbons. One of the ribbons will be identified with NTOA.com, the event date, and the control number.

For this Score-O, the controls are worth various point values, depending on where they are located. Usually, the farther away, the higher the value. The control number on the map will match the last two digits of the control bag. The point value is determined by the **first digit of the map control (or second digit of the bag number)**. **So, bag 324 is map control 24, and is worth 20 points.** Your punch card will have 60 slots, so make sure you punch the correct edge of the card.

Terrain and Vegetation

The terrain varies from mowed fairways with ponds to tall grass prairies, to dark thicketed forests. The forest trails are nice, compacted clay when dry, or a slick, gooey, sticky mess when wet (so hope it's dry). All the green ground cover has grown in the last few weeks, so what used to be fairly open a month ago has become walls of three-foot-high grass with growing patches of poison ivy along the forest edges trails.

Water Features and Weather

Rowlett Creek runs North/South through the park and is uncrossable except at the three foot-bridges at the North, middle, and South ends of the park. There is no swimming in the pond, but you are welcome to bring your kayak, canoe, or paddleboard.

Out-of-Bounds

Do NOT cross over the perimeter roads.

The park is bounded by Jupiter on the North, Spring Creek on the West, Parker Road on the South, and Los Rios on the East.

Keep clear of the bird houses scattered around the parks.

Map

Special man-made items are represented by black O's or X's. A black 'O' can be a tall lamp post, bike repair station, or a prominent birdhouse on a post. A black 'X' may be a sign or kiosk, large piece of rusty debris, utility box, park bench, playground equipment, fireplace/pit, small monument, etc. Basically, any permanent miscellaneous man-made object.

You will be receiving one map, with all controls marked on the map, which you can visit in any order. Again, make sure the control number on the map, matches the control number on the punch card, and matches the last two digits on the control bag.

Hazards

Watch out for bikes on the paved trails and occasional runners on the larger forest trails. Watch out for poison ivy and green briars in the woods, marshy areas, and forest edges. The wild animals are usually napping during the day, so you probably won't see any of our raccoons, possums, armadillos, bobcats, and coyotes. However, you may hear some coyotes start howling if a low business jet flies over. And there are always the occasional snakes and hawks.

Summary

Location: Oak Point Park

Number of controls: Up to 50

Distance: About 10 km to get all 50 controls, depending on route selection. Not much climb.

Reminder: All courses start and finish near the Oak Point Pavilion, South of the Community Center at the North East parking lot.

- Frank Ray, course setter