

Tyler State Park

April 13, 2024

Course Setter Notes

Welcome

Welcome to Tyler State Park (TSP). Be prepared to run on some of the best terrain available to 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 well for most of the park.

An extensive control burn took place in December, on the southwest corner 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, 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 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 recommended 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.

If you are not physically ready for climbing the hills, consider dropping to a course level that is less demanding.

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 barbed 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 area, 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

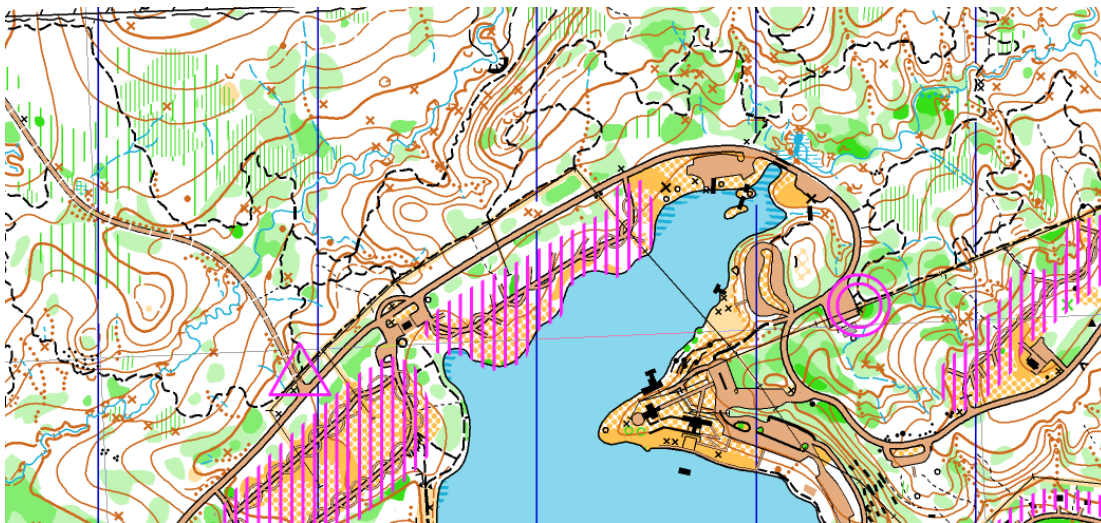
All camping areas, cabin areas, screened shelter areas, maintenance areas and the currently under-construction headquarters areas are marked as out-of-bounds. Do NOT enter these areas. Some course will use a road or a power line ride that goes near those areas. When using these linear features, please 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 shoreline trail to circle back to the NE corner of the lake.

Start & Finish

The inset below shows where the Start (triangle at the intersection of the Park road and old closed road) and Finish (double circles) areas are located. Finish is located near the meet headquarters at the Group Pavilion. The walk from the pavilion to the start is about 15 minutes.



Course Info

Course	Controls	Length K	Climb M
White-A	12	2.0	70
White-B	12	2.1	70
Yellow-A	13	2.6	90
Yellow-B	13	2.5	90
Orange	15	5.0	155
Brown	12	4.0	126
Green	14	4.8	168
Red	15	5.4	203

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

All courses are slightly shorter than normal to offset the amount of climb on the course. There is almost always a reasonable route choice that contours around if one chooses to do that.

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.

The orange course also includes a short, flagged route leading away from one of the controls. This will keep the runner from traversing through construction trash and other maintenance cast off.

All runners are encouraged to carry their own water.

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.

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 or blue ribbons that are in the woods that are NOT part of this orienteering event. Please ignore those and leave them undisturbed.

Course Setters: Carl and Shania Bridges

Run safe and navigate well!