

Erwin Park 2025 Meet Director Notes

Welcome to Erwin Park DIY-O!

Erwin Park is a municipal park run by the City of McKinney. Park rules are posted on a sign near the entrance. This park has exceptionally little trash in it so please help keep it clean.

You may see a sign at the access road or one of the parking areas, saying that the trails are either “open” or “closed.” If it says “closed,” it does NOT mean the park is closed. You may still orienteer. It means that the trails are muddy and mountain bikers should not use the trails (they sometimes do anyway). Occasionally, portions of the park are closed on short notice for police training or other reasons. You can call the city parks department at 972-547-7480 to check the park status.

This part of McKinney is experiencing rapid growth. Major development has removed much of the vegetation adjacent to the park on the east side to prepare for a housing development. New openings, closures and detours are commonplace on the roads around the park. Consult your GPS for current best routes.

On the positive side, a new section of the park has opened on the southwest. It consists mostly of open meadows and old fences lined with trees and dense thickets. Bike trails already wind through it. We have not mapped most of it, but you are welcome to explore.

The Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association (DORBA) has a huge loop trail winding through nearly every part of the park. They are constantly adding, changing and improving it. When the trails are open there will be a lot of mountain bike traffic, especially on weekends with nice weather. Please be aware for your safety and theirs and don't obstruct the bike trails. Please step aside and be respectful. The north part of the park has several campsites; please avoid running through them if they are occupied.

Facilities

Restrooms with running water can be found near the Pecan Grove Pavilion in the central part of the park and Hilltop Pavilion in the northwest part of the northern loop road. Portable toilets are available at the parking area near the entrance across from the mountain bike “skills area.”

Natural hazards

Poison ivy is rampant this time of year, especially with all the rain we've had. If you're sensitive to it, be sure to treat your clothes like toxic waste afterwards! Change at the park and take soiled clothes home in a plastic bag. Wash your hands after handling them. The oils persist and can give you a rash for a surprisingly long time. Launder clothes right away in a separate load.

It's also buggy – use bug repellent and treat your pant legs and shoes to deter mosquitoes, chiggers and ticks.

Maps

You will need to print and bring your own map and clue sheet. Instructions are on the Erwin DIY-O event page. Because your home printer may not use waterproof ink and extremely durable paper, you might want to use a plastic zip-lock bag to protect your map in damp conditions.

Have fun and be safe out there!

Lisa Carr and Lon Newsom

Co-Chiefs