

Course Setter Notes
Gateway Park Score-O
2025

Welcome to Gateway Park in Fort Worth!

Courses

This event is a Score-O competition with long (3-hour) and short (1.5-hour) courses. Both course lengths share one map, one punch sheet, and one start time/location. All controls are at an intermediate or easier level. The park is large, and controls are widely spaced. Some route choices between controls may be more challenging. Punch the box that matches the control marker number. Controls can be visited and punched in any order.

The area south and east of the Trinity River is only accessible via the path along Bridge Street (north side) or across the dam (south side). Participants may cross at either location and return the same way or proceed to the other crossing. Crossing elsewhere is not permitted.

Water stops are available at the Trinity River crossings and at the central start/finish location.

Scoring

Runners receive points for each control they find, and those with the highest scores for the long and short courses receive medals.

For scoring, there are two types of points: 10-point controls (numbers 10-39) and 20-point controls (numbers 40-69). The 10-point control punch boxes are located at the top of the score card, while the 20-point controls are at the bottom. High-value controls are situated on the west side for 90-minute competitors; these are generally farther away or more difficult to access. Penalty points for late returns increase exponentially. A time-keeping device is recommended.

Map

The map scale is 1:7500 with a 2.5-meter contour interval. Most of the terrain is flat with some low-lying areas. The east side of the park has steep, rocky slopes. Dry watercourses and ditches may resemble paths. If there has been significant rainfall prior to the event, low spots may contain water or be muddy.

Frequently mown lawn-grass areas are relatively smooth. Other open areas can be uneven, and less frequently mown sections may have grass up to 6 feet high.

Hazards

Potential hazards include poison ivy, greenbriar thorns, and rusty barbed wire fences. Participants are advised to wear long pants and/or gaiters for leg protection. Local fauna includes reptiles; all wildlife should be left undisturbed. There are individuals camping within Gateway Park—avoid their campsites.

Cyclists

Both concrete and dirt trail systems are used by cyclists, who may travel quickly. Stay to the side of paths when possible, especially in groups or on narrow trails. Do not stand in bike paths when reading maps or cross without checking for bicycles.

Mountain bike trails maintained by FWMBA (Fort Worth Mountain Bike Association) are present. Be respectful and avoid obstructing trails. Remain alert for cyclists at all times.

Athletic Fields

Courses pass near soccer and baseball fields. Do not run through fields during games. The courses also include areas around the Disc Golf course. Watch for disc golfers as baskets are noted with a circle and x. The map may show some baskets that have been removed or added.

Roads and bridges

There are roads around and within the park, but do not cross major roads during the event. The Trinity River divides the park. The northern crossing is the concrete path along 1st Street; the dam in the southwest provides another crossing point. Only cross the river at these designated locations. Boating and fishing may occur near the dam.

Special features

Man-made features (marked with X or O) on the map and clue sheets may indicate signs, benches, picnic tables, poles, posts, guy wires, or concrete pads. Combined X and O symbols denote disc golf baskets.

Safety

Gateway Park comprises multiple sections, so safety bearings vary based on location. For clarification, consult a coach or attend the beginner clinic before starting.

All participants must check in at the finish, regardless of whether they are over time.

-- Sheila Doyle