

## Lakewood SW - Mapper Notes

Rich Gaylord - April 2012 rev – April 2015 (*noted in bold/italic*)

Strongly suggest that anyone planning on orienteering using the Lakewood SW to take the time to read these notes prior to participating in the event. The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD), and CAOC, in general reminds everyone that the preserve is open to all, please respect the space of others using the preserve while you are enjoying your orienteering experience.

The intent of these notes is to provide details on (1) the specific mapping standards that are unique to the Lakewood SW orienteering map; (2) mapping standards that vary accepted orienteering mapping standards; and (3) cautions that are also unique to orienteering at Lakewood.

**Rootstocks** - As a result of approx. 2 meter standard used there are few rootstocks - brown "X" - that are mapped. There are exceptions to this standard but they are few. Of course as the experienced orienteer knows: rootstocks are dynamic in that they come with storms and go away with old age.

**Fallen Trees** - Green "x" are for large significant damaged or dead trees where the roots may, or may not, still be in the ground.

**Boulders** - The standard here is .75 meter with very few exceptions.

**Pits** - Stone pits: - black "v" - can be an open dry well or a small ruin of a building foundation below grade. Earth pits: - brown "v" - are generally sharp sided hole that have been dug and in many cases are next to a small knoll of the earth from digging the hole. Water pits: - blue "v" - are dug for what appears to be watering holes in the horse trail areas.

**Depressions** - Small depressions - brown "u" - are around 3 meters in diameter and .75 meters or more in depth; can be manmade or natural. Large Depressions - brown contour lines with brown hatch marks indicating the downward land formed by the depression - are for larger depression areas that can be manmade or natural.

**Forests:** Evergreen (Pine) Plantations: There are several evergreen plantations or stands throughout the preserve. As an aide to run ability the orienteering map shows the row alignment for the most of the plantations. There are also some large sections of woods that are pines without evidence of row plantation these are noted with the dotted - ..... - significant vegetation boundary. Deciduous (leafing) Trees: Most of the forested areas are deciduous. Run ability is generally very good. The light green is still good. The medium green may at times be good; however overall the area marked will be difficult/slow. The dark green, well, just avoid. Significant Individual Living Trees: green circles, "o", are significant individual live trees that are distinct from other trees in the general area. Most of these are evergreens. When the symbol represents a deciduous tree it is significant in its size - 1.5 meter diameter on trunk -, or large and unusual in shape, e.g., a dual trunk:

**Open Areas:** Open/Open with Scattered Trees: Are around shelters, buildings and picnic areas mostly located on the northern sections of the map where the run ability is excellent. Rough Open/Rough Open with Scattered Trees: Typically the rough open areas: good run ability in spring less so in fall due to the summer growth of grasses.

**Cultivated Fields:** In the center of the map are a few connected large sections of open preserve land separated by narrow forest stands that is leased annually for cultivation. Usage of the cultivated area, that is, running through or control placement within, will be a meet-to-meet determination. Early spring and late fall will probably not cause any restrictions but Course Setters should make inquire on the status on the usage of the area. Mud and corn stalks left after harvesting can slow running considerably: when dry and lacking stalks run ability is good. When the area is restricted, the maps should be produced showing the area as out-of-bounds - overprinted with red vertical parallel lines; if not marked as out-of-bounds on the map the fields can be crossed. **April 2015 – The cultivated field is crossable. It is now mapped as rough open.**

**Trails:** Rides/Mowed Trails: The mapping symbol for a ride - black elongated narrow dashes - is also used for trails through open areas that are mowed periodically for usage: these are very noticeable and excellent running trails. A mown "ride" that connects to a trail - worn evidence on the ground of the trail - is noted with the appropriate sized trail symbol.

**Junk:** A black "X" can be a manmade feature: for example a bench, a birdhouse or even a statue of an elephant. A black "X" is also the symbol for junk. Junk can be a single piece - an oil barrel, an old car, - or it can be used to represent a pile of junk: There are a few gullies that are full of junk that are represented by multiple Xs that are basically uncrossable.

**Wet Areas:** The seasonal marshes - symbol: blue alternating rows of short dashes - during dry times will show evidence of holding water during wet seasons: Generally the dry area will be a mostly bare ground, and slightly lower than surround area.

**Horse Trail Areas:** The area south of Ivanhoe Road is an areas primarily maintained for equestrian usage. Runners and walkers are free to share these areas as well. However, bikes are not allowed on the trails south of Ivanhoe. With very few exceptions, the trails in the area are large, well maintained with excellent run ability. Also the trails along Ivanhoe and into the fields on the west of the map north of Ivanhoe are used by equestrians.

**CAUTION:** The LCFPD has expressed concern about a competing orienteer startling a horse that could cause an accident/injury to rider, horse, or orienteer. Most of our experienced runners have participated in other areas with equestrian riders: Palos, Deer Grove, to name a couple. Nonetheless, we should all be cautions. Be alert to the possibility of inadvertently startling horses as you run along trails or through woods while crossing trails with horses present: slow down if necessary until you ensure the horse and rider are aware of your presence. Furthermore, we strongly suggested that orienteers not have their dog accompany them as they compete.

**Fences: CAUTION:** Many former farms and individual large homesteads lands are incorporated to create the Lakewood Preserve. When field checking special attention was made to the mapping of fences. Especially the ruined fences as they are not always easy to see and may even be on the ground. Other than the split rail fences that are maintained by the LCFPD, most of the other crossable fences do have at least one strand of rusted barbed wire. There are many fences -uncrossable/crossable/ruined - on the map. Especially Orange, Green and Red runners as you plan and run your route from point-to-point be aware of where the fences are located.

**Uncrossable:** This symbol is used to where fences separate an out-of-bounds area from the orienteering area. It is also used when a fence is considered dangerous due to the fence construction: four feet or higher and with barbed wire or other barbs on top. **Crossable:** Used for the split rail fences or horse tie-ups, or for still intact wire fences that border former farm stead. **Ruined:** Located long the bounders of fields, or former farm stead and paralleling some trails. In the very south of the map just north of Milton Road the former fields/farm stead boundaries are blurred as the woods have taken over.

**Bat Shelter:** Adjacent to Shelter E, the shelter we will be using for the April and November meets this year, is a shelter that is not accessible to persons; however, that is one of the highlights of Lakewood. There is a large sign at the site that offers background on the "Bat Shelter".

**CAUTION (From the LCFPD website):** You'll notice there is a second "picnic shelter" in this area that has been fenced off to public use - it now serves as a nursery roost for a colony of Little Brown Bats. Since bats sleep during the day and only emerge at dusk, chances are good you won't be lucky enough to see one during your picnic.

If you do encounter a bat on the floor of the shelter or on the ground, please **do not approach or touch it**. It is most likely a baby bat learning to fly and its mother will rescue it. A small percentage of bats do carry rabies. Do not allow children to play unattended near the bat shelter. As with all wild animals, do not ever attempt to approach, feed or touch them - for your safety and theirs. The bats are accustomed to having people around their resting spot and will not bother you. Please do the same for them.

**Roads:** Use **CAUTION** when crossing any road. Roads - solid black line or black parallel lines with brown filling - that are located around the buildings and shelters in the north section of the map can be crossed safely. Ivanhoe Road that splits the north from the south sections of the map has limited traffic but does have a 35 mile speed limit. ***For those Green/Red runners crossing Route 176 not at a tunnel the traffic can be moderately heavy for very short periods of time and the speed limit is 45 mph.***