

St. James Farm Orienteering Mapper/Field Checking/Course Setter Notes – April 2016

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC) site at St. James Farm is historically and artistically rich: a former Dairy Farm, Competitive Equestrian Site, and McCormick Family Estate. A good history of St. James Farm can be found at this link:

<http://illinoistimes.com/article-8703-the-farm-that-mccormick's-reaper-built.html>

Orienteering Map – Scale: 1:7500 (11x14) - 3 meter contour interval.

Mapping History Notes: – Small area – 1 sq km – with lots of cultural features: buildings, fences, park land with streams and ponds; 1/3 varied woods of gentle topography and vegetation density; 2/3 park land, farm buildings, well-groomed planted pine stands. Base map created in fall 2014 using Google Earth, DuPage County GIS as source material. Field Checking started in the Spring 2015; completed in April 2016. Cartography: OCAD. During the field checking phase the FPDDC expanded and improved the bike paths that pass through the preserve (not fully completed as of April 2016). A major watershed enhancement project was started and mostly completed on Spring Brook in the northern section of the preserve. And in conjunction with the path improvements, a section of the woods (classified as a “Class 4– McCormick Woods”) in the northwest section underwent major forest restoration. (Note: We were told in mid-March that we can only use this Class 4 woods area during November – March: Future meets should be scheduled during that time frame)

Notes for May 1, 2016:

For the May 1, 2016 Competition All Courses: 1) Due to recent construction, the area on the very north of the map (basically around and north of Spring Brook) is out-of-bounds for this event; and, 2) the woods and surrounding trails on the Northwest section, McCormick Woods, is out-of-bounds. No controls will be located within and no tempting route choice options will be available for these areas. The areas will be marked on event maps with a bold red boundary.

Controlled Starts for Red and Green Courses. At registration you will only be given a clue sheet. All maps have pre-printed courses, but will only be provided at a separate manned Red/Green Start area south of the registration shelter. Competitors will be provided with the map shortly before they start but can only look at the map after e-punching the Start.

Map Exchange on Red. Red will have a map exchange approximately two-thirds of the way through the course. Drop off the map you have been running on in the box provided, and pick up the Red Part 2 map that will already be in a map case. Scale for Part 2 will be the same – 1:7500 – but printed on a smaller sheet – 8.5x11. Part 1 Map Retrieval. If before Noon and you are leaving, Part 1 maps may have to be retrieved from the box where they were dropped – about 200 meters from the event shelter. After Noon, check at the finish computer area in the shelter for availability of Part 1 maps.

Fences: There are many fences in the southern part of the preserve that were historically used for equestrian competitions. All of the fences in this area are approximately 3'- 5' high: the older fences are wood, and the remainder have been modernized and are of less sturdy white plastic construction. **THE WOOD FENCES ARE MAPPED AS CROSSABLE; THE WHITE PLASTIC FENCES ARE MAPPED AS UNCROSSABLE. UNCROSSABLE FENCES CAN ONLY BE CROSSED AT GATES (EVEN IF CLOSED) AND FENCE OPENINGS MARKED ON THE MAP. ATTEMPTING TO CLIMB/CROSS AN “UNCROSSABLE” FENCE MAY DAMAGE IT!**

Trails. The preserve includes many clearly defined roads and trails of varying sizes that are mapped to normal orienteering standards: Minor roads, bike path (cart track) and small trails (footpath, small and indistinct).

Rides. During the competitive equestrian years, specifically for the 1.5 mile steeplechase circuit portion - there were a few trails cut through the woods in the central northeast section of the preserve that have deteriorated. These are marked as “Rides” on the map; these rides have a few small, but sometimes thick vegetation breaks, easy to see and

navigate as if it were a trail. There are fallen trees across some of the rides but they are passable. Mown trails are also mapped as a ride.

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Vegetation. Open woods can be pine stands or hardwood. The pines are mapped with distinct boundary dots on the map. Wooded areas mapped as light green can be moved through quickly, but may contain some patches of the thorny stuff. The medium green represents areas that vary greatly from walk to fight and should be avoided. Tight vertical green striped areas should be treated like the medium green – it will slow you down and could be painful.

Open Areas. Full yellow for mown field/lawns. Light yellow for rough open land – most of this is good open running. Open and Rough Open with Scattered Trees uses the standard screened yellow for each.

Out-of-Bounds. In addition to the areas noted above for the May 1st event,– **there are two areas in the farm building area marked as restricted areas with the vertical red lines: the on-site ranger residence, and a small section of woods deemed as sensitive – this wooded area may also have streamers around it.**

Significant Trees. Significant hardwood (leaf-bearing) trees are marked with a green circle. Significant pines (needle or evergreens) are marked with a green dot. Significant Fallen/Dead Trees (1 meter trunk diameter partial or fully upright with roots in the ground) are mapped using a green “X”. Rootstocks (Fallen tree root ball - 1.5 meter minimum) are mapped using a brown “X”.

Boulders. (.5 meter minimum; mapped with black dot) Boulder clusters, fields and stony ground are mapped using normal black symbol standards.

Depressions/Pits. Small, brown “U” symbol on the map most are 1 meter in depth and 2 meters in diameter. Larger depressions are mapped using the brown intermediate or full contour line with a hatch mark indicating the center lower part of the depression. Pits, can generally be the size of a depression, but with steeper sides, marked with a brown (earth) or black (stony) “V”.

Cemetery. There is a small horse and hound cemetery located in the center of the map clearly marked using the standard orienteering symbols.

Wet Areas. Most of the marsh areas are seasonal and crossable. There are a couple of ponds in the farm area mapped with normal standards. All streams are small and crossable. Spring Brook, out of bounds in 2016, has two bridges and is shallow for crossing. Dry ditches can be a minor erosion gully, some are rather shallow or manmade shallow cut. Bridge symbol is used where appropriate on the map - there is one in the 2016 usable section of the preserve. Culverts in drainage areas use the “V” symbol oriented in the direction of the water flow.