Orienteering Course

Groundwork for potential plan

What is an orienteering course?

Orienteering courses are a system of markers placed throughout a natural or urban environment. These markers must be visited in order to officially complete the course. The participant is given a detailed map of the area that shows where these markers are (an example of this map is shown later in this presentation), and uses a compass to guide themselves through the course as quickly as possible. The next slide talks about competitive versus permanent orienteering courses.

Competitive vs. Permanent Orienteering Courses

In competitive orienteering courses, the markers have electronic tag systems that are attached to them. The competitor has a handheld device that is scanned by this system and recorded virtually, thus giving an exact and official timing.

For our purposes, a permanent course would be a better approach. Permanent courses have wooden or metal posts with a bright flag or sign on them designating them as markers. The orienteer on this course just needs to reach each marker and record it on their map.

What I plan to accomplish

The orienteering course that we construct needs to be approachable for people of all ages, while still offering a physical challenge in addition to the critical thinking skills required to complete any orienteering course. A multi-purpose kind of course, a course that allows for learning orienteering as well as casual racing, would be ideal.

Typical orienteering course map

Pictured is an orienteering map. This map shows the terrain and topography, as well as the approximate locations of each marker. The map for our course at Elver could be attached on the park's website, as well as stored at park facilities somewhere.
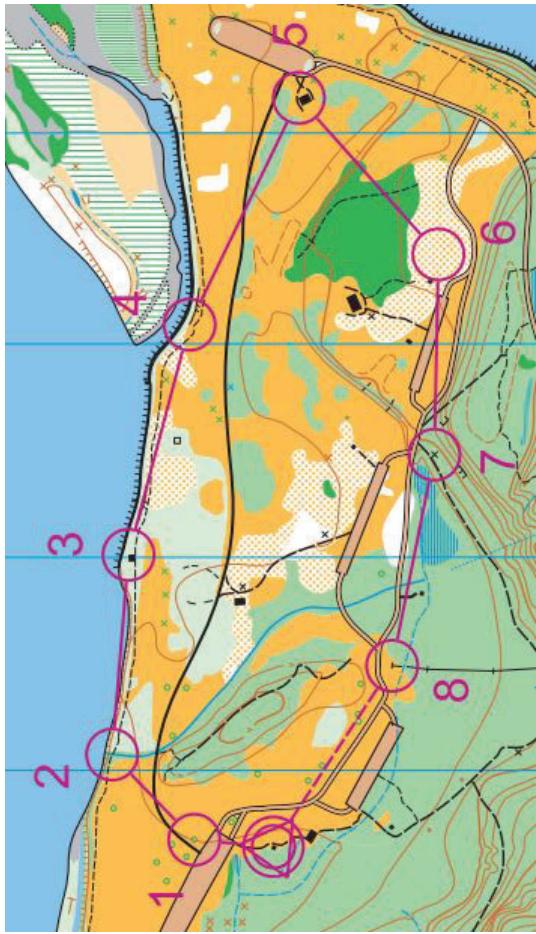
Markers

Pictured are two examples of permanent orienteering course markers. The bottom picture is a more typical marker, whereas the top is a marker for a technology-driven course that was actually constructed for an Eagle Scout project in Texas. These markers should be the main expense of the project, and will be placed at certain intervals along the course. Below, I have attached a link to the website that refers to the Eagle Scout project that the QR marker originated from. A technology-driven course is certainly an option.

https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMP4D6_Woodruf f_Park_Orienteering_Course_Plano_TX

Location at Elver

I defer to you for the best location, but ideally, it would be a non-open area, or at least an area that gives potential for some markers to be partially hidden. These markers can't fall along the same path, as that defeats the purpose of finding your own way. The area also needs to be a place where people are allowed to trod, if it is not on developed trail.
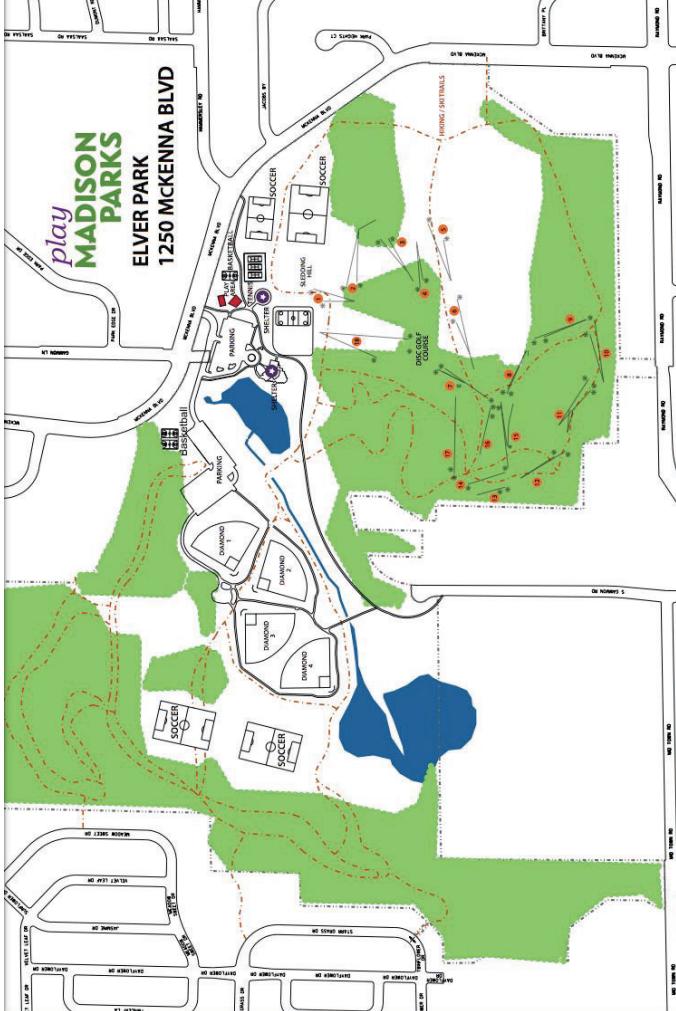
Information to the public

For this project, a page on the Elver Park website would be necessary to inform visitors about this course. Additionally, this page would be used as a station for a PDF of the course map, as well as general information and overview of orienteering. My broad idea is that I can provide all the information necessary to fill this page, and the Parks IT department could fill it in, but we can certainly discuss that at the tail end of this project.

Summary

I would love to get on the phone with you again to discuss and expand upon the ideas I brought forward here. If this project is something your department wants to take on, I'll start on my Eagle Scout committee proposal right away so we can officially get the ball rolling, because everything to this point has just been a surmising of your interest.