

Griffith Park Navigation Challenge 2026

Course Setter Notes

A lot of improvements have been made to the Griffith Park map since our last event 2 years ago. The map now has LIDAR based 10-meter contours which are more accurate than the previous 25-foot contours. Also, the trails and roads have all been correctly geo-referenced so the GPS tracks shown on MapRun will be more accurate. The map scale is still 1:15,000 for this event.

Some new areas of the park have been mapped which include the Crystal Springs Picnic Area east of the Merry-Go-Round, and the NE section of the park around the Autry Museum. A number of updates have also been made in the areas around the observatory.

On the map the man-made objects are mapped as follows.

○ - Typically, informational signs and monuments

X - Other man-made objects, See textual descriptions on cue sheet for exact meaning

The vegetation mapping in most areas is still not very accurate and should not be counted on for choosing routes.

This year we will be starting from the Mineral Wells picnic area instead of the Merry-Go-Round area. This allows us to explore the northern areas of the park where we have not gone in a number of years. Be aware that there is more horse traffic in this area so be sure to yield right of way to them if encountered on the trails.

When approaching controls make sure you look at the clue sheet to see where you need to be to get a successful MapRun punch. If the clue is something like "Intersection of re-entrant and trail" then MapRun should punch when you are on the trail. But if the clue is something like "Lower part of re-entrant" then you will most likely have to leave the trail and venture up the re-entrant a bit to get a punch. There should be no bushwhacking involved and usually there will be a small use-trail you can follow.

There have been several new fences added since our last event that block off areas going up the Mt Hollywood trail from the observatory to the Mt Hollywood summit. These have been added for safety and habitat restoration purposes. The new fences have been added to the map and appropriate out-of-bounds areas have been indicated.

The first fence is on the Mt Hollywood trail just north of the highway tunnel you cross over. This fence blocks off a steep section of rocks that was used to access a more direct route to the peak. The more direct route can still be accessed by continuing up the main trail for about 150 meters to a small trail on your right that can be used instead.

The second fence is just north of the 5-point intersection directly below the peak. It blocks off several trails that offered a more direct, but quite steep, route to the peak. This year there are no controls placed near the summit of Mt Hollywood so there should be no reason to use these blocked off trails.

The following map shows the areas affected by the new fences.

