



Arctic Orienteering Club (AOC) Five Year Mapping Plan (2012-2016)

Revision 1, November 2012

Vision

Develop one new quality orienteering map every five years while maintaining and updating current map database at an adequate level for club activities.

Summary

The Arctic Orienteering Club Board of Directors (BOD) held a number of strategy discussions on mapping plans during the spring of 2012. This document summarizes these discussions and should serve as a guideline for current and future mapping vice-presidents.

This “live” document is intended as guidance from the BOD to the mapping VP and should be updated on an annual basis.

The document focuses on three areas: updates of existing maps, development of new maps, and getting experienced mappers to Anchorage.

This document was updated in November 2012 as per the 11/07/2012 AOC Board Meeting. Two changes have been made: 1) the Mirror Lake mapping effort was concluded in the summer of 2012, and 2) the Westchester Lagoon area was investigated and found unsuitable for a sprint-O area.

Update Existing Maps

The entire map database was reviewed and specific map updates were discussed. Appendix A summarizes the maps in the AOC map database and lists specific updates needed for each map.

The BOD discussed each update item separately to determine its priority, and whether it could be handled with local mapping resources or if a professional mapper would be required.

A poll was made to gauge the BOD ranking of the different maps and map updates. The polling was performed by giving each board member 3 votes to be used for map areas he/she would like to see prioritized for update. The table in Appendix A show how many votes each area received. This polling should be considered as a straw poll only.

After further discussion, the BOD high graded the map update list to three maps:

1. Mirror Lake
2. Far North Bicentennial Park (FNBP)
3. Storck Park.

Mirror Lake

Mirror Lake has the highest priority. This is a new map that requires much additional field checking before being complete. The Mirror Lake map update is a major project and requires the assistance of an outside, professional mapper.

This map was completed summer 2012 using mapper Kevin Teschendorf.

Far North Bicentennial Park (FNBP)

The FNBP map was discussed at length. The FNBP continues to be our primary venue (20% of all our events are on the FNBP map) even though vegetation growth and human developments have rendered this map sorely in need of updating. The BOD discussed two options for the FNBP map. The first option would be to start from scratch as the base map is about 20 years old. However, this could run \$20-40k. The second option would be to continue with minimal updates through club personnel efforts for the foreseeable future and spend the mapping budget on a different, perhaps new venue. The BOD favored the second option. However, this will require that the club has to keep up with human developments (trails, roads, subdivision developments, etc) using local resources.

Storck Park

The size of the usable Storck Park area is shrinking due to deadfall. And because of the more limited use of this map, the BOD felt that we should not perform any major update of this map at this time. Continued use of this map requires that the club keeps up the map with local resources; however, no significant updates should be required until single tracks trails are constructed.

Other important maps and map updates discussed at some length:

McHugh Creek: The map is currently 1:25,000. The board decided the map is not worth further investment at this time. Continue using local club resources to update and field check as necessary.

Kincaid: The Kincaid base map is well geo-referenced and the BOD proposed to use club members to update with new trails. All other items (updates to vegetation boundaries, etc) will be postponed.

UAA Sprint Map: The UAA Sprint map functions well in its current version. Even though adding more sprint map features could make the map even better, the BOD gave such updates a low priority. Continued use of this map will require that the club keeps updating the map with local resources.

All other maps are to be kept and updated with local club resources. To maintain the quality of the map database, the club should consider having internal mapping seminars so that more members are versed in making map updates.

New Map Areas

The BOD discussed ideas for new areas suitable for orienteering. While the main focus was on the Anchorage bowl (because it attracts more people), the BOD also looked for ideas for a few good areas out of town for weekend events.

Twenty areas were suggested for new maps as shown in Appendix B. This list was high graded to 6 areas:

- Pt. Woronzof
- Earthquake Park
- Westchester Lagoon
- Muldoon Park
- Bartlett High
- Ruth Arcand Park

All of these are sprint-O type areas and could potentially be developed with local resources. The BOD recommended that the list be further high graded to a couple of prospects and then progress these towards sprint maps.

The Westchester Lagoon area was investigated by Dan Bilman summer 2012 and was found unsuitable for Sprint-O purposes.

Getting Mappers to Anchorage

The club has had mixed success attracting good mapping personnel to Anchorage. The option of hiring non-US based mappers was discussed and discarded due to the difficulties in getting work permit for such a person.

The BOD recommended advertising for mappers in the following media:

- *Orienteering North America* (the OUSA federation magazine)
- Attackpoint
- Yahoo group for Orienteering Mapping and OCAD

To maintain our large and aging map database, the BOD also recommended arranging mapping seminars/courses to develop local resources (club members) in the science of mapping for the sport of orienteering.

Mapping Process

- BOD holds annual mapping strategy session (January-February) and sets priorities for current year.
- Mapping VP suggests budget (March) and advertises for mapper once budget is approved (April)
- Contract with mapper (May) and arrange transportation and lodging (May)

Summary and Recommendations

- Update this document annually
- Set mapping priorities early in year to allow Mapping VP to plan accordingly

Appendix A – Existing Maps

AOC List of Mapping Areas, Nov 2012

Map Area	Priority	Additional Comments	Update by Club, Mapper or None
Far North Bicentennial Park - 9 votes			
Update (or remove) creek crossings	H		Club
More details (features) needed	M/L		Mapper
New trails	H		Club
New infrastructure	H		Club
MLK drive	H		Club
Remove mapped trails that no longer exists	H		Mapper
Improve mapping of vegetation, down timber and swamp areas	M/H		Mapper
McHugh Creek - 6 votes			
Needs continued field checking	H		Club
More details (e.g. boulders)	H		Club
Map more of front range	M		Mapper
Storck Park - 3 votes			
Vegetation & deadfall mapping needed	H		Mapper
Wet area details	H		Mapper
Field check East & high portions of map	L		None
Single track trail development	H	Map when new trails have been put in	Club
Kincaid - 3 votes			
New trails	H		Club
Vegetation mapping	M	Usage dependent	None
Ski-O version, directional traffic indicated	M/L		None
Pia's (North/Main/South) - 1 vote			
Military developments	H	Access issues?	Mapper
Vegetation mapping (East and North areas)	M		Mapper
Contouring	L		Mapper
APU - 1 vote			
Remapping swaps			Mapper
New buildings and development		Need to keep up with new dev.	Club
Homeless camps		Changes every year	None
Sprint map version, larger scale			Mapper
UAA Sprint Map - 1 vote			
Keep up with continued construction	H		Club
Need more sprint details/features everywhere	M		None
Fossil Creek - 1 vote			
Smaller detail missing	M/L	Disagreement regarding best detail level	Mapper
Gravel pits are incorrect	H		Club
New trails	H		Club
Russian Jack - No votes			
Sprint map version	L		Mapper
Maintain quality as is	M		Club
Ski-O version	L		None
Toilet (bldg) removed - update map accordingly	H		Club
Crevasse-Moraine - No votes			
New trails	H		Club
Vegetation mapping needed	M		Mapper
Landfill expansion	H		Club
Elmendorf - No votes			
Needs field checking South end	L		None
Field checking Northern area	M/H		Mapper
New developments	H		Club
Vegetation mapping	M/H		Mapper
Concertina wire and other military stuff	H	Map whenever discovered	Club
Mirror Lake - 5 votes - COMPLETED SUMMER 2012			
Complete field checking	H		Mapper
Needs more detail	H		Mapper
Vegetation mapping needed	H		Mapper
Extend map to public land area	L		None

Appendix B – New Maps Areas

Area	Rank	Type of map
Ruth Arcand	High	Sprint
Earthquake park	High	Sprint
Point Woronzof	High	Sprint
Muldoon Park	High	Sprint
Bartlett	High	Sprint
Extend Mirror Lake	Med	Regular
Govt. Peak area	Low	Regular
Chugiak Ski Trails	Med	Regular
Cook Inlet Archer's bowl	Low	Regular
Elmendorf 6 Mile Lake	Med	Regular
Eklutna	Low	Regular
ERNC	Med	Regular
Bird Creek	Med	Regular
Filmont boy scout ranch	Low	Regular
Cuddy Park	Low	Sprint
Lost Lake	Low	Mountain
Hatcher Pass	Low	Mountain
Pt. McKenzie	Low	Regular
Turnagain	Low	Regular
Westchester Lagoon - UNSUITABLE	High	Sprint