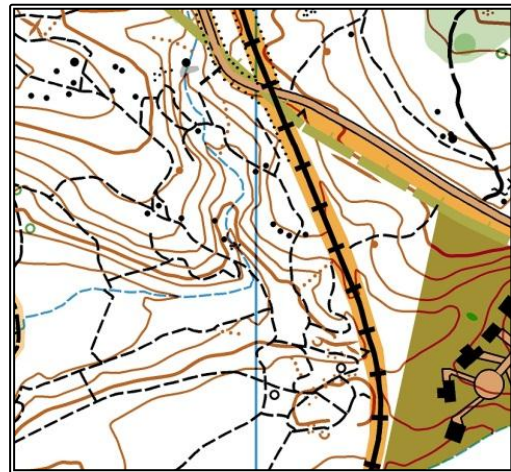


Orienteering in Carolina North Forest

Overview. Carolina North Forest (CNF) is located approximately two miles north of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill campus and one mile south of exit 266 of Interstate 40 in North Carolina. It is owned by the University and the State of North Carolina. Of its 947 acres, 643 are located within the town of Chapel Hill, and 304 are located within the adjacent town of Carrboro. A two lane road that services a local elementary, middle, and high school serves as a rough boundary between these two jurisdictions. The CNF map includes high detail of these elementary, middle and high school campuses, adding an additional 170 acres to the map, outside the forest boundary. Residential developments around the forest add an additional 364 unusable acres to the map. CNF is the most expansive green space in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, and is the third largest in Orange County, NC (behind Eno River SP and Duke Forest).

Map, terrain, and venue description. The predominant land cover in CNF is pine and mixed pine/hardwood forest. Much of the forest contains relatively new growth, as major tracts in it were farmed as recently as the 1970's. In most parts of the forest, there is little understory, and the woods are generally open and runnable. The terrain is relatively flat (contour interval is 2.5 m) with few hills that would trouble or seriously tire a fit orienteer. Critically, most of the map is covered with a complex network of single track bike trails, in addition to a much less extensive – though significant – network of gravel vehicle tracks. Very few places on the map are more than 150 meters from a trail. The CNF map thus seems most appropriate for middle distance events, meets in the summer time, or events that feature long trail-based courses. Advanced courses in CNF will generally need to cross the school road, as well as a rarely-used railroad track. There are four parking lots in the east-central (40 spaces), east (200), northeast (100), and west-central (120) portions of the map. The latter three of these lots are generally vacant on the weekends, and could be used for staging and registration for orienteering meets. Currently, night events are not allowed by forest management.



Above is a preliminary map snippet, subject to further alterations that will be incorporated as a result of future field checking.

History. A significant portion of the Chapel Hill side of the map centers on the historical footprint of the Horace Williams airport. (The current airport is mapped and is generally, but not necessarily off-limits, subject to negotiations with airport administration). Approximately 40 acres of the far eastern side of the map contain a now-defunct landfill that ceased operations in 1973. Several trails go through this area, although off-trail orienteering use here will probably be minimal. A nearby one-quarter acre portion of the far southeast corner of the map was used to dispose hazardous waste from the University's research activities. The source material from this site was removed in 2008, and on-going groundwater remediation continues. The map also contains the remnants of the John Castlebury grist mill, dating back to the middle of the 18th century. Signs of previous logging operations are also visible.

On the web.

Carolina North Forest: <https://carolinanorthforest.unc.edu/>

CN Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Carolina-North-Forest/179464238759273>