**What is Orienteering?**
Orienteering is a land navigation sport using a map and compass; primarily the information on the map. Orienteering can be done while walking or running or a combination of the two.

**How difficult is this course?**
This is a beginner’s course. The course is located on the Flint Trail. A few course locations are a short distance off the trail. Visiting a location off the trail gives the opportunity to improve navigation skills. This course may have more locations than you can visit during your time in the nature preserve. The course can be traveled in alphabetical order or any other order you select.

**The map.**
Course layout is shown on a topographical map. A topographical map shows information on the contour of the land and other features such as trails and streams. The contour lines of the land are depicted by contour lines. Most of this course can be completed without knowledge of contours. Pay attention to the trails.

**Description of the course.**
To reach the beginning of the course, go to the parking lot in the back of the Preserve near the bridge. From the parking lot take the Flint Trail that starts from the Hays information signs. The first location, or control, is located near Beaver Dam Run about 350 meters from the starting point. Two orienteering terms used are “control” and “reentrant.” A control is a place near a terrain feature where the marker is positioned. The markers are 30 inches tall with an orange and white sign located on the side and a stenciled letter located on the top. A reentrant is a small area in a field or sloping hollow.

**Control letter – Feature – Placement**
A – Beaver Dam Run – North side
B – Pump House – South side
C – Bridge – Northeast side
D – Old Cattle Pond – East side
E – Bar Lake – Southeast side
F – Hays Preserve Trail/Flint Trail – North side

More information on orienteering:
United States Orienteering Federation
P.O. Box 144, Forest Park, GA 30298
www.us.orienteering.org

This course was designed and installed by Connor Ginn and Boy Scout Troop 466 Huntsville, AL for his Eagle Scout service project.