

Cooper River Park Spectator's Guide

(Compliments of Coach Joe Sullivan)



As you look at the picture here, to the right side of the Cuthbert/North Park Drive intersection, there is parking allowed on the street as long as there are no signs stating "No Parking" near where you park. The lots on the opposite side of the street from the river are private and should not be used (unless you pay their asking rate or want your car towed).

"B" is where the boat trailers park. Parents or spectators really should not be down there as there is a lot of traffic with boats moving to and from the docks, so it can get really congested very quickly. It is more a safety concern so no one gets hit in the head with riggers or boats swinging around to get in line or whatever else they need to do.

"C" is just to the right of the finish line. If you look at the bottom left of the "C," there is a little white mark. That is the finish line tower. To the left of the finish line are the bleachers, and then to the left of the bleachers is where the team tents are set up. The closer the tent can be to the bleachers the closer you will be to the course. As you can see in the picture, the river is quite wide approaching the finish line, and the bank is curving away from the course as you move away from the finish line to the left.

To the left of the team tent area (left of the "C") is the lot where food trailers usually get parked. "Park Blvd" is identified right next to the lot. This is the first of the public lots.

"D" is a good spot to watch from for a close-up view, but you won't be able to tell who wins in close races. The point closest to the course is about the halfway mark on the 1,500-meter course. The oval just above the "D" is a running track, and the blueish area is a playground. Just above the playground is another of the public parking lots. The Lobster Trap Restaurant is there as well. Directly across the river from the "D" is the Cooper Yacht Club.

The Island ("E") is a good walk from the tents, and sometimes people used to go to the end nearest the finish line to watch, but there are a lot of high bushes and other growth that, unless it has been cut down, will obstruct your view. 500 meters to go is just off the Island toward the "D".

"F" marks a drainage area right next to the boat house ("A"). In between "F" and "D," where "N Park Dr" is identified, is the third public lot.

"A" is the boathouse and is about 250 meters into the race. There are small parking lots on either side of the boathouse, but they generally get closed off for officials and volunteers.

Across the river from the "F" you can see a parking lot which has a public boat launch ramp. The ramp is at the left side of the lot and just to right side of the ramp is the 1,000-meter pole.

Moving toward the start line from that lot, you can see where S. Park Dr. gets very close to the water directly across from the boathouse. That is another point where you can get a good view of the race, especially of the start, and, as they race past there, you will be right next to lane 6.

Moving to the left on the picture, the start line is right where "S Park Dr" is first identified on the left end of the picture. If you look at the river just above "Park," the larger tree marks the 1,500-meter start line. The warm-up area is above the start line and not really seen in the picture.

Parking is generally allowed on the street anywhere unless specifically marked by "No Parking" signs or where the curb is painted yellow, generally found around the boathouse area.