

A place to ride

ATV riders from throughout the Midwest are flocking to Fort Dodge for a chance to speed through the winding trails of the newly opened Gypsum City Off-Highway Vehicle Park.

The park has been converted from played-out gypsum mines located just outside of Fort Dodge and although it is quite new to the area, it is already attracting riders from across Iowa.

Webster County is one of only four counties in the state of Iowa to have an ATV park. The other three are located in southeast and northeast Iowa, making the Fort Dodge park the one to visit for riders in central and north central Iowa.

The expansive park, which is open to four-wheelers, dirt bikes and snowmobiles, will eventually span 1,500 acres and includes a parking lot, campground, clubhouse, climbing hill, conservation areas and a training area as well as ponds and trails throughout.

The destination-type park has seen a tremendous influx in the number of visiting riders, as well as in licensing and registration fees which are used to finance Iowa's ATV parks.

There is no fee to ride in the park, but all vehicles must be registered. The park, which will continue to expand for the next five years, is expected to become one of the largest in the Midwest.

