GYPSUM CITY OHV Park

2390 Mill Road, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

To the Gypsum City OHV Park, located southeast of the City of Fort Dodge, Iowa, the park serves as a destination for ATV enthusiasts from across Iowa and the Midwest. Gypsum City OHV Park is the largest OHV Park in Iowa and is located on 900 acres of land formerly mined for gypsum. The park offers over 60 miles of all-terrain trails, including a circle track, beginners track (119cc max), a circle track, dirt bike, and many more. The park is open by visiting the webpage www.iowadnr.gov/OHV or contacting the Webster County Conservation Board. For more information, contact: Webster County Conservation 1415 Nelson Avenue Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501 515-736-4255 www.mycountyparks.com/county/webster.aspx

WELCOME

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electricity only. Each site consists of a drive and the associated park office. There are 15 full-service sites, full service restroom with showers and laundry. The campground consists of a total of 33 camping sites, 15 full-service sites, full service restroom with showers and laundry. There is still opportunity for the park to grow in size as mining activity continues in the area.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Even though the entire property of the Gypsum City OHV Park was mined, a lot of time and money has been spent trying to restore the land to its previous condition. Some of the wildlife you can expect to see at the park includes white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, pheasants, beavers, reptiles and a variety of songbirds. Several fishing ponds throughout the park provide good fishing opportunities throughout the year. Anglers have been known to catch largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, and perch. The ponds also provide a great habitat for nesting Canada geese and a resting area for a variety of waterfowl in the spring and fall. Remember all state fishing laws apply including size and daily limits and there is no hunting within the park. Raspberry bushes and morel mushrooms are also found throughout the park.

PARK HISTORY

In 1852 geologist David Dale Owen uncovered large deposits of gypsum along the Des Moines River Valley in the Fort Dodge Area. This discovery would uncover one of the largest deposits of gypsum in the country. Since then people in the area have been utilizing this mineral to produce a variety of everyday products. Gypsum is a soft rock that when refined can be used to make plaster. Today, gypsum is often used to make drywall. Other products include toothpaste, chalk, and is also used as a soil conditioner to grow vegetables. When most of the Gypsum had been mined and processed, the mining companies restored the ground to its previous condition by planting trees and filling in voids. In 2006 a local rider club named “The Webster County Wheelers” partnered with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the local mining companies to provide a legal riding opportunity for enthusiasts. The initial area consisted of 220 acres and approximately 1.5 miles of trail in what is now Phase 1 of the park. In 2011 more land became available and the park was expanded to include Phases 2 and 3. During this time the park leadership role would change hands to the Webster County Conservation Board. Currently the park consists of almost 860 acres, over 60 miles of trail and a 33 site campground. There is still opportunity for the park to grow in size as mining activity continues in the area.

FACILITIES

The Gypsum City OHV Park has a variety of facilities located throughout the park. Current amenities at the park include an open shelter with picnic tables and grill, loading dock, men and women’s restroom, 1.5 mile MTB track, a beginners track (110cc max), a circle track, fishing ponds, and over 60 miles of trails accommodating ATV’s, Motorcycles and OHV’s.

CAMPING

The Gypsum City Campground is located within the park. The campground consists of a total of 33 camping sites, full-service restroom with showers and a park office. There are 15 full-service sites which include water, electricity and sewer hookup and 18 sites which include water and electricity only. Each site consists of a drive through camping pad, fire ring, and picnic table. There is also a dump station located within the campground. Firewood is available for purchase at posted times. The campground has several trail access points in which campers can access the park’s trails from the campground. Certain sites are reserveable, which campers can access the park’s trails from their sites.

RIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

OHV recreation is a great way to enjoy the outdoors but there is a risk and responsibilities to operating these machines. Some things to consider before you ride:

- All operators, no matter the age, should take a safety course and become familiar with your machine before riding.
- Be aware and courteous of other riders and wildlife.
- Know the rules of the park and obey all posted signs.
- Stay on posted trails.

SIGNAGE

Trailhead signs are located at the beginning of each trail and at intersections. These signs give the direction of travel, trail number, difficulty rating and which machines are allowed. The intersection ahead marks the beginning of an intersection which gives the operator time to slow down and check for cross traffic. Please note what types of machines are allowed on any particular trail. It is prohibited to take a machine that is not allowed on a trail. This is for your safety and to protect the integrity of the trail.

PARK RULES

- Operation of a machine while under the influence of alcohol or narcotics is prohibited.
- Operation in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner or at excessive speeds is prohibited.
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- Sound-level limits are enforced. Aftermarket products may not exceed 96 decibels.
- Consumption or possession of alcohol in the park, including the parking lot, is prohibited.
- Only in the campground is possession of alcohol allowed.
- Pets are not allowed in designated riding areas. They are permitted in parking areas and campground only.
- All operators over the age of 12 must carry a valid education certificate.
- ATV Operators under the age of 12 must be under direct supervision of an adult with a valid driver’s license.
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PARK CLOSURE

The soil composition of the park consists of primarily rock and clay from previous mining activities. Therefore, during periods of heavy rainfall or inclement weather, the park or certain phases of the park may be closed to prevent trail damage. You can check to see if the park is open by visiting the webpage www.iowadnr.gov/OHV/ OHV/closures. If you are planning on making a trip to the park or make reservations in the campground be sure to check the weather forecast in advance.

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REQUIRED TO RIDE

✓ IOWA DNR REGISTRATION
✓ SOUND 96db MAX
✓ ATV EDUCATION CERT. MANDATORY
✓ HELMETS