

ILLINOIS

Do the Bears ride in the woods?



ILLINOIS RIDING AREAS

1. 2nd Wind at Maplehurst (815) 675-2776 +
2. Bloomington Normal (309) 828-6615*
3. Carthage Stadium (217) 932-2041*
4. Effingham Track (217) 932-2041*
5. Elizabethtown Ranger District (618) 287-2201
6. Galesburg MX (309) 344-1714*
7. Jonesboro Ranger District (618) 833-8576
8. Lincoln Trail Motorsports Park (217) 932-2041 +
9. Murphysboro Ranger District (618) 687-1731
10. Ogle County Motorsports Park (815) 234-2271 +
11. Paris (217) 463-4775*
12. Pleasure Riders (217) 446-4555*
13. Santa Fe Speedway (312) 839-1050*
14. Vienna Ranger District (618) 658-2111†

* motocross track
+ motocross track and trailriding
† National Forest Ranger District with off-road vehicle trail loop



ILLINOIS CLUBS

- Belleville Enduro Team, Belleville (618) 235-6666
- Big Wheel MC, E. St. Louis (618) 271-9106
- Bike Barn MC, Morrison (815) 778-3641
- Bloomington Normal MC, Bloomington (309) 828-7001
- Brothers of Soul MC, Aurora (312) 897-4595
- Brush Poppers MC, Morrison (815) 772-2753
- Buzzards MC, Kewanee (309) 853-8363
- Canton MC, Canton (309) 647-3069
- Central Illinois MC, Mattoon (217) 895-3355
- Coyote Springs Raceway, Grand Chain (618) 845-3581
- Dirt Riders, Decatur (217) 864-5465
- Galesburg MC, Galesburg (309) 344-1737
- Illinois Valley Enduro Riders, Marquette Hts. (309) 382-2555
- Kishwaukee Riders, Rockford (815) 654-3501
- Lamoine Ramblers, Macomb (309) 837-9436
- Maywood Mustangs, Franklin Park (312) 456-5812
- Mid-West Nat'l Enduro Riders, Sterling (615) 626-1293
- Motocross Retreat, Durand (815) 629-2588
- Motocross Competition Riders, Byron (815) 234-2271
- Paradise Hills MC, Decatur (217) 432-6521
- Peoria Dirt Riders, Peoria (309) 674-7860
- Peoria MC Aux., Peoria (309) 697-4981
- Peoria MC, Peoria (309) 674-1917
- Pleasure Riders MC, Danville (217) 446-4555
- Prairie State Riders, Sandwich (815) 796-8551
- Prophets MC, Prophetstown (815) 597-5252
- Rider MC, Chicago (312) 588-8946
- Rock River Riders MC, Rock Falls (815) 626-2147
- Salt Fork Dirt Riders, Danville (217) 448-4558
- Silver Rims MC, Davis (309) 462-3810
- Slo Pokes MC, Bloomington (312) 529-5579
- Southern II Dirt Riders (618) 997-3931
- Throttle Nutts, Sheffield (815) 454-2003
- Timber Trail Riders, Sugar Grove (312) 468-4645
- Tri City MC, Sherrard (309) 593-2810
- Vahokia Dirt Riders (217) 835-4579
- Variety Riders MC, Ottawa (815) 433-3554
- White Oak, Jerseyville (618) 498-4008

Riding opportunities in Illinois are limited, but the scene is changing for the better. The Shawnee National Forest's current ten-year plan includes options for more off-road motorcycle/ATV trails. We urge Illinois riders and dirt bikers everywhere to voice their approval for Illinois National Forest managers considering off-road vehicles in their plan. If you can offer more support, like volunteering to help in trail building and marking, let them know. Write to Chris Comstock, Recreation Staff Officer for the Shawnee National Forest, 901 S. Commercial St., Harrisburg, IL 62946 or phone his office at (618) 253-1043.

The more interest dirt bikers show, the larger and better the trail system will be. If we snooze, we'll lose potential trail land to some other interest group that steps up and claims it by showing an active interest. Illinois has a large, strong group of dirt bike clubs so the organization and the manpower are already in place. The potential for expanded riding opportunities is great.

Part of the challenge of Illinois riding used to be finding a place to ride. Fortunately, there are more trails in Illinois' future.

STATE REQUIREMENTS

You'll need a machine with full street-legal equipment to ride the roads in the ranger districts of Illinois' Shawnee National Forest. Why ride roads on a dirt bike? Because many of what are considered roads in national forests are frequently scenic and sometimes challenging routes deep into the woods. It's also against the law to ride off the road unless you're on a trail designated for your type of machine. If you're not sure whether or not you're looking at a road, see if it fits the National Forest Rangers' description: "Any obviously man-made, two-track route." Some are pretty rugged and many are scarcely more than tire ruts with a grass median.

If your bike doesn't have a headlight, tail/brake light, mirror, horn, muffler and brakes you'll have to add them to be street-legal. Road riders must also wear eye protection

to comply with Illinois law. You can get by without a mirror and basic lighting if you plan to travel only on off-road vehicle trails but your bike will need a spark arrester in addition to a muffler. Off-road riders must be at least ten years old to ride legally in Illinois and riders under 12 must be supervised. □