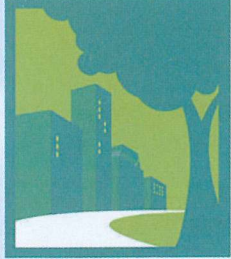
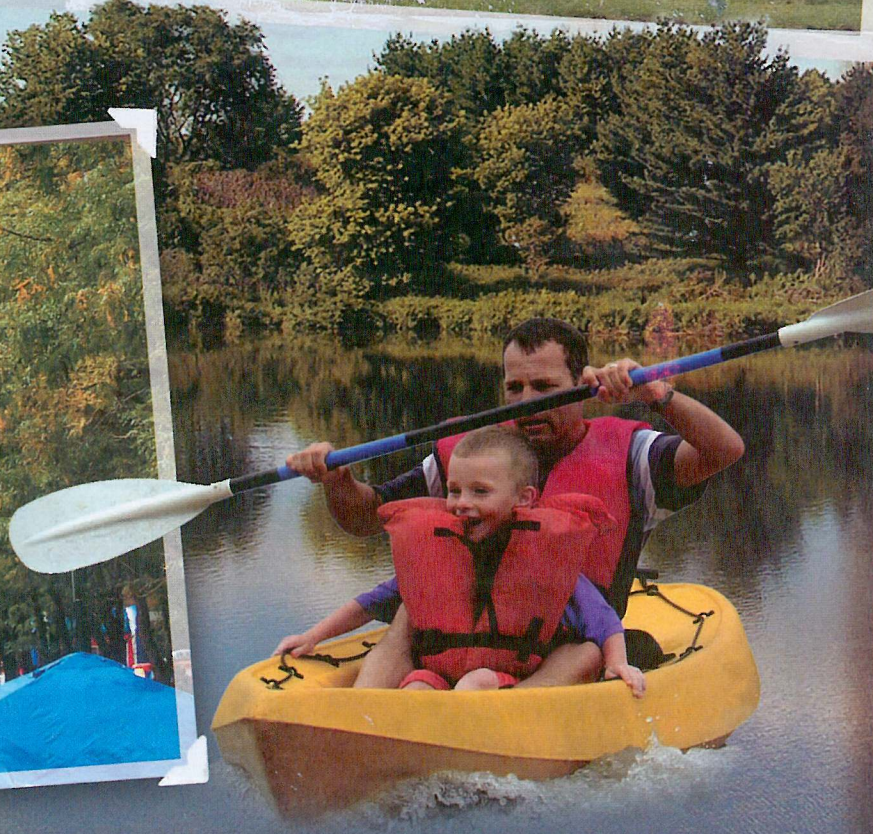


All About Fort Dodge

I O W A



GREAT
PLACES



Mayor's Welcome



Matt Bemrich
Mayor, City of Fort Dodge

I would like to take a moment of your time to introduce you to Fort Dodge, Iowa - a community that is swelling with pride. We are located 3.5 hours south of Minneapolis/St. Paul, 6 hours west of Chicago, and 1.5 hours north of Des Moines. We have a population of 26,000 people that have a work ethic second to none in the nation.

Our education system is ranked among the highest in America. We have two high schools as well as a Community College. Our high school students play sports in a beautiful brick stadium - probably the best in the nation. We were awarded the "All America City" title by the National Civic League for the year 2001.

We have a brand new \$5 million dollar public library and one of a very few public art museums in Iowa. We have beautiful parks that are not dangerous. We have a very low crime rate. You will not go to bed at night and be afraid.

We step out of our homes at any time of day and breathe some of the best and purest air you can imagine. We have the blackest, richest soil on earth - you can grow your own vegetables and fruits. We have pure, clean water that really does come from artesian wells.

Some of the largest trucking companies in America are based in Fort Dodge; therefore, we can offer the best transportation possible. We have a regional airport with connections to anywhere in the country. We are home to a large regional medical center that offers a full range of health care services. We are home to some of the richest gypsum deposits in the world and have four gypsum manufacturing plants located here. We are home to Fort Dodge Animal Health - a world class research and production facility of animal health care products.

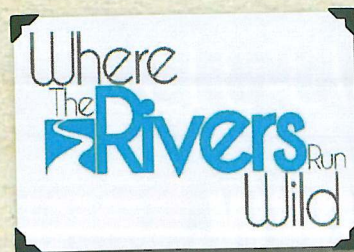
We offer our citizens a wide range of recreational activities for all ages. We have a concrete bandshell in one of our parks where you can enjoy free summer concerts on Sunday night by the Karl King Band. We have Dragon Boat Festivals, Skydiving events, Softball Tournaments at the State's finest sports complex, Frontier Days at our replicated Fort Museum, Chili Feeds, Octoberfest on Main Street, and Apple Fest at our local community orchard. A picturesque nature trail meanders through the City. We have five golf courses, a skateboard park, tennis courts and soccer fields.

I have showcased some of our many community highlights herein, but I really saved the best for last. That is, our citizens. Their work ethic is without question one of the best in the nation. Their commitment to family values is outstanding. Fort Dodge has many churches of various faiths and they are well attended. You will find the friendliest people and the best hospitality to be had anywhere right here in friendly Fort Dodge.

And so, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our community!

Matt Bemrich

Sincerely,
Matt Bemrich
Mayor of Fort Dodge



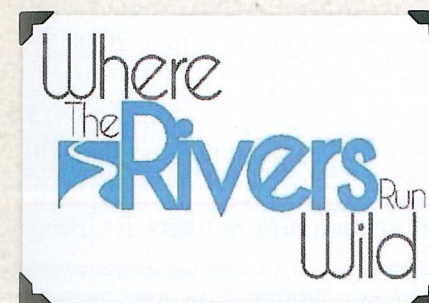
Webster County

Named as an Iowa Great Place

I O W A



GREAT PLACES



State Water Trails
(the Des Moines River and Lizard Creek)

Webster County named as an Iowa Great Place Webster and Hamilton Counties, "Where the Rivers Run Wild", has been named an Iowa Great Place by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs for 2010. This is the first time 2 counties have been named as a regional "Iowa Great Place".

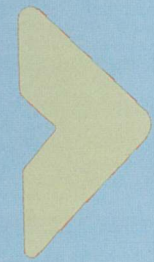
The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has identified that both counties possess a sense of place that values historical roots while embracing a shared vision which welcomes, includes and involves both natives and newcomers and promotes itself as a great place.

Webster and Hamilton counties promote and encourage social collaboration formal and informal, with an equal opportunity for all people to participate. An Iowa Great Place must contain a balanced, growing, transformative mix of rewarding jobs and sustaining capital, and display a shared attitude of optimism that welcomes new ideas, based on a diverse and inclusive cultural mosaic.

So what makes Fort Dodge a great place? There are excellent schools and progressive community college that is nationally recognized, a new, multi-pool aquatic center, a scenic trails system the includes approximately 70 miles for biking and hiking, The Blanden Art Museum, a world class museum, exceptional musical and cultural groups that include the Fort Dodge Symphony, the Karl King Band, Harmony Brigades, the Choral Society, Lizard Creek Blues Society, Shellabration and the Hawkeye Theatre; recreational venues include the Gypsum Mill OHV Park that will cover 1,000 square miles, Mineral City Speedway, Kennedy and Brushy Parks, numerous golf courses, State Water Trails (the Des Moines River and Lizard Creek) and the Fort Museum. Fort Dodge also serves as a regional retail and dining center for northwest Iowa. There is always something to do!

As Fort Dodge and all of Webster County move successfully and ambitiously into the future, we invite you to kick off your shoes, climb in the boat and join us on our journey. Our journey Where the Rivers Run Wild and we have an Iowa Great Place to visit and live.

Agriculture



*The whole family at Nelson Family Farms is busy during harvest season. Here they harvest soy beans just south of Fort Dodge.
Photo by Kim Helmick*



Iowa ranks first in corn, hog and egg production nationally.

Corn, Soybeans, Grains Livestock

Situated in the Heart of the Most Fertile Soil in the World, Webster County's Rich Soil Really Produces.

With some of the richest soil in the world, Webster County is home to 932 farms with 417,019 acres in production according to the 2002 Census of Agriculture. The total market value of agricultural products sold for Webster County was \$153,972,000. Agriculture has a big impact on life in Fort Dodge, including several farm management firms, research farm facilities, and corn processing and renewable energy industries. Local schools incorporate agricultural issues into their curriculum. A variety of annual agriculture events showcase advances being made in our part of the state. Source: USDA, NASS, 2002 Census of Agriculture.

