

# HAGERSTOWN BMX

*Offers family fun!*



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**Let the races begin!**

Since 1999, Hagerstown BMX has offered young athletes the opportunity to compete in the exciting sport of Bicycle Motocross. The city's track is located in the Fairgrounds Park complex, at Fairground Avenue and N. Cannon Avenue.

BMX, a sport invented by kids for kids, began in Southern California when young cyclists persuaded a park attendant to let them ride their bikes on dirt motorcycle trails. Word

spread, and riders were ready to race. Thus the American Bicycle Association (ABA) came into being. By 2011, USA BMX racing was established to ensure that the sport promoted fairness and provided fun family entertainment.

As with most sports, specialty equipment is required. BMX bicycles feature single gears and wheels that allow for quick acceleration and safe landings on the dirt tracks.

Because wheel sizes vary, riders should be fitted when selecting a bike and, ideally, try out several models and sizes. Protective gear is a must, including a helmet, goggles, gloves, protective pants, knee pads and specialty shoes.

“We’re one of the only tracks that offers riders free practice time once per week,” says Scott Cantner, who serves as the track’s media relations specialist. “We also provide bikes and safety equipment. It’s our way to give back to the community.”

The Hagerstown BMX racing season is weather-related and runs from March to November, with local races generally held twice weekly. The number of participants ranges from 30 – 50 per local race, 500 – 600 per regional event, and 500 – 1,000 for large-scale and national competitions.

Riders occupy eight lanes at the BMX starting gate. The ultimate goal in BMX racing is to ride the #1 plate — #1 in your district, state, region, national age group and nation. Riders are classified by age, gender, proficiency and the wheel size of their bikes.

“It’s an amazing environment for kids and their families,” says Dan Spedden, President of Visit Hagerstown & Washington County. “It’s very social and family-oriented, and an alternative to more traditional athletic events.”

City officials placed a bid for the Hagerstown Track to host the national championship BMX event in summer of 2023. “It’s a big event,” says Spedden. “People from all over the country will attend, and it elevates our profile as a BMX cycling community.” That profile will help the track attract future national and regional events.

To make this happen, the BMX track needed funds for extensive improvements. Repaved turns, surface improvements and higher banks allow cyclists to participate in Pro Series competition. Additional enhancements include lighting for night-time events, fencing, a public address system, bleachers for more seating, and handicapped accessibility.



**The Hagerstown, Maryland BMX Track is a very social and family-oriented sport for kids of all ages.**

“We’ve had a rapid response from the Community,” Spedden says. “We’re proud that the CVB is involved in supporting improvements to help around 1,000 athletes to compete.”

Given its strong support from the community, Hagerstown is on its way to becoming a “Hub City” for BMX racing.

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