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Atlanta Motorsports Park: Me a skeptic?! I hope you have proof.

When I first heard of this "world class driving facility" located in Dawsonville, Georgia back in 2009, I was a little skeptical—and so was anyone that I mentioned it to. For years there were rumors of tracks just like it in the works, but they just never came to fruition, thus the skepticism. First of all, I had always heard and assumed that no county or city, or however it works, in Georgia would ever approve the zoning. Secondly, even if that wasn't true, I just couldn't believe anyone would be able to gather the capital it takes to get something like this going given the poor state of the economy. After all, what was being proposed was far above and beyond your average luxury item.



Well color me luxurious because here we are a year or so later and this rumored Atlanta Motorsports Park is actually coming together quite nicely. Not only is it coming together nicely, but also it looks like every amenity proposed to us on that day back in 2009 will actually be in place. That isn't to say that there weren't a gazillion roadblocks along the way. There was what seemed like monthly zoning and city planning meetings at the *Georgia Racing Hall of Fame*, which doubles as Dawsonville's City Hall, and these meetings were packed with neighbors opposed to the proposed track. Their complaints ranged from concerns about "city people" coming to their town and abusing their roads, which would cause an increase in road maintenance, to the noise the cars would produce.

Thanks to the tact, persistence and willingness to do whatever it takes to get this track zoned and built from Jeremy Porter, founder of AMP, the track earned the backing of city officials based on the projection that the track would surely bring in increased tourist revenue—while it just so happens that the City of Dawsonville had previously cited in their income plans that they wanted to focus on bringing in more tourist revenue. After all, the City of Dawsonville has strong roots in the beginnings of NASCAR, thus the already built and operational *Georgia Racing Hall of Fame/City Hall originally intended to increase tourism. He also was able to come up with failsafe plans to combat the noise concerns by hiring Hermann Tilke's famed Formula 1 team, Tilke Architects & Engineers, to design the facilities and road course.*

Atlanta Motorsports Park will feature a 2-mile road course with over 100 feet of elevation changes, and the fastest straight-a-way top speed in the Southeast, including two distinctive corners designed to pay homage to the breathtaking 'Eau Rouge' from Spa-Francochamps and the iconic 'Carousel' at Nürburgring, two of the most famous and exciting corners in all of motorsports. In addition to the featured 2-mile road course, Atlanta Motorsports Park will be comprised of an 8/10-mile karting track and skid pad. Maybe one of the most notable characteristics of the facility is that this motorsports country club is on track to be the first green, sustainable motorsports facility of its kind. Other country club-like amenities will include private on-site garage rentals, private clubhouse, member lounge, pool, tennis court, hiking trails, horseback riding, locker room, fitness center and premier restaurant.

Think you might get bored driving at one track for the rest of your life? Well have no fear! Members will also be able to enjoy reciprocal driving privileges at Calabogie Motorsports (Ontario), Circuit ICAR (Quebec), Miller Motorsports Park (Utah), New Jersey Motorsports Park (New Jersey), Palm Beach International Raceway (Florida), and Virginia International Raceway (Virginia).

Can we say totally badass? I hope you are with me when I say I am so excited that this track is going to be a reality. I had my doubts along the road to success, but I am no longer a skeptic—I am a believer! All hail the track Gods!

For general information, membership inquiries, or to schedule a construction site tour of Atlanta Motorsports Park, please visit www.AtlantaMotorsportsPark.net, or email membership@atlantamotorsportspark.net or call 678.455.3646

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