ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM

The National Scenic Byways Program, established by Congress in 1991, recognizes historic, scenic, and culturally important roads, all of which promote economic development and tourism in communities around the U.S. There are more than 1,200 byways in all 50 states.

Missouri established the Missouri Byways Program in 1990. Over the span of three decades, the program has designated 11 scenic routes, all of which showcase the state’s exceptional cultural, historical, archaeological, natural, scenic, and recreational attributes. Under state statute 226.797 any county commission or the governing body of any municipality may nominate a road or highway as a scenic byway and must meet the approval of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission.

KEY POINTS

- Missouri is home to 11 scenic byways, including 1 All-American Road, 2 national scenic byways, and 8 state scenic byways.
- The travel industry directly employs 304,329 Missourians and generates $1.46 billion in state and local tax revenues, saving each Missouri household $611 in taxes annually.
- National Parks generated $419 million in total economic output in gateway communities in 2019, supporting 4,690 jobs and $141 million in labor income.
SCENIC BYWAYS IN MISSOURI

ALL-AMERICAN ROADS
1. MISSOURI HISTORIC ROUTE 66

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS
2. CROWLEY’S RIDGE PARKWAY
3. LITTLE DIXIE HIGHWAY OF THE GREAT RIVER ROAD

STATE SCENIC BYWAYS
4. BLOOMFIELD STARS AND STRIPES HISTORICAL/CULTURAL BYWAY
5. BLUE BUCK KNOB NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC BYWAY
6. CLIFF DRIVE
7. GLADE TOP NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC BYWAY
8. OLD TRAILS ROAD
9. OZARK MOUNTAIN HIGHROAD
10. OZARK MOUNTAIN PARKWAY
11. SHO-ME SANTA FE TRAILS
12. SPIRIT OF KANSAS CITY
13. SUGAR CAMP NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC BYWAY

All scenic byways exhibit one or more of six core intrinsic qualities — scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, or natural. For a road to be named a national scenic byway, it must first be designated a state, tribal, or federal agency scenic byway. Once achieving that, a road may apply for national scenic byway designation, but its intrinsic quality must be of regional significance. All-American Roads are the very best of the national scenic byways, demonstrating at least two intrinsic qualities of national significance.