

## UPPER FREEHOLD HISTORIC FARMLAND BYWAY EXAMPLE

Upper Freehold Township formed a special subcommittee in 2003 to help establish a state scenic byway in Western Monmouth County. The Upper Freehold Vision and Scenic Roadway Committee was given the mission to prepare a New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Scenic Byway Nomination Package; a requirement for state scenic byway designation.

Early in the process, local byway officials representing both Upper Freehold and Allentown Borough reached out to the Monmouth County Planning Board for help with the project. The Planning Board was able to help guide the local byway committee through an extensive NJDOT nomination process as well as provide GIS mapping services and assistance with preparing the final nomination package.

In 2006, the NJDOT designated the Upper Freehold Historic Farmland Byway as the state's fifth scenic byway. A national scenic byway discretionary grant for \$115,880 was awarded to the Upper Freehold Historic Farmland Scenic Byway to develop a Corridor Management Plan for byway implementation. The 24-mile byway circuit meanders along local and county roadways showcasing the areas important historic, cultural, scenic and natural qualities.



Wahford Mill, Upper Freehold, Cindy Bloom-Cronin, NJDOT

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## MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## INTRODUCTION TO SCENIC BYWAYS

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Monmouth County, NJ Source: Courtesy of MCPB



Allentown, NJ Source: Courtesy of MCPB

## **WHAT ARE SCENIC BYWAYS?**

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A scenic byway is a transportation corridor (public road, street, highway or other travel way) of regionally outstanding intrinsic qualities such as scenic, natural, recreational, cultural, historic or archaeological significance. Each corridor acts as a representation of the uniqueness and diversity of the area and uses intrinsic qualities to create a unified theme to tell a story about its heritage, unique characteristics and beauty.

**\*Scenic byway designation is discretionary and not legislatively required.**

## **INTRINSIC QUALITIES**

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Scenic byways must include at least one of the following intrinsic qualities:

**Cultural** - evidence and expressions of the customs or traditions of a distinct group of people.

**Historic** - physical elements of natural or manmade landscape that are of historic significance that educate the viewer and stir an appreciation for the past.

**Archaeological** - physical evidence of historic or prehistoric human life or activity visible and capable of being inventoried and interpreted.

**Natural** - features in the visual environment in a relatively undisturbed state.

**Recreational** - involves outdoor recreational activities directly associated with and dependent upon natural and cultural elements of the corridor's landscape.

**Scenic** - heightened visual experience comes from natural and manmade elements of the visual environment.

## **WHY HAVE SCENIC BYWAYS?**

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To increase tourism or agri-tourism.

To conserve intrinsic qualities of the byway corridor resources that reflects community character.

To have a comprehensive or enhanced travel experience for visitors.

To manage growth or promote preservation.

## **BENEFITS OF DESIGNATION**

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Eligible for national scenic byway discretionary grants for plan implementation.

Promotion, pride, preservation and the development of partnerships.  
Marketing of scenic byways and route destination areas.

Increased tourism along the byways and its communities.

Regional & state recognition of byway.

State provided technical assistance in the scenic byway process.

NJDOT provided Scenic Byway Marker Signs to orient travelers.

Positive economic impact on byway corridors and communities.

Create unique visitor travel experience that tells a story "one drive at a time."

Increased regional cooperation among byway communities.

Member of existing byway networks.

Planning and protection for managed growth and conservation along byway routes.

## **TYPES OF SCENIC BYWAYS**

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**State Scenic Byway** designated road must have regional significant characteristics of at least one (1) intrinsic quality. (Five are currently in New Jersey)

**National Scenic Byway\*** designated road must possess characteristics of regional significance with at least one (1) intrinsic quality. Scenic byway must be state designated first.

**All-American Roads\*** designated road must contain characteristics of national significance in at least two (2) intrinsic qualities and be considered a destination unto itself as the primary reason for trip. Byway road must be state designated first.

**\* Local, county, or state roadways may be eligible for inclusion as part of a designated scenic byway.**

## **SCENIC BYWAY SUCCESSES**

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**As of 2006, there are 99 National Scenic Byways, 27 All-American Roads and 18 multi-state byways in 44 states.**

**5 state designated scenic byways in New Jersey** include:

1. Upper Freehold Historic Farmland Scenic Byway
2. Delaware River Scenic Byway
3. Millstone Valley Scenic Byway
4. Palisades Interstate Parkway
5. Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail

**National Scenic Byway Program has provided over \$275 million** for 2,181 state and national designated projects in 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.