



NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Transportation

NC Scenic Byways Program

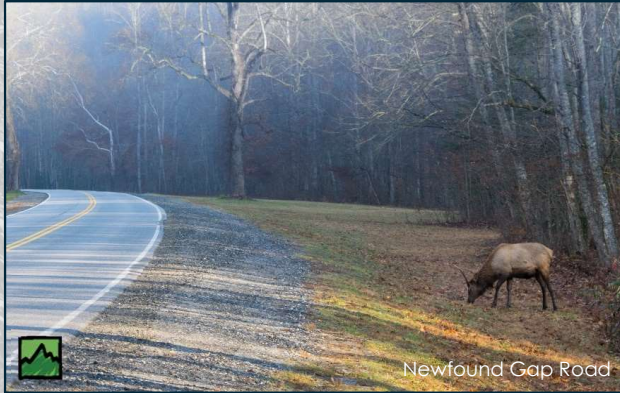


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July 17, 2024



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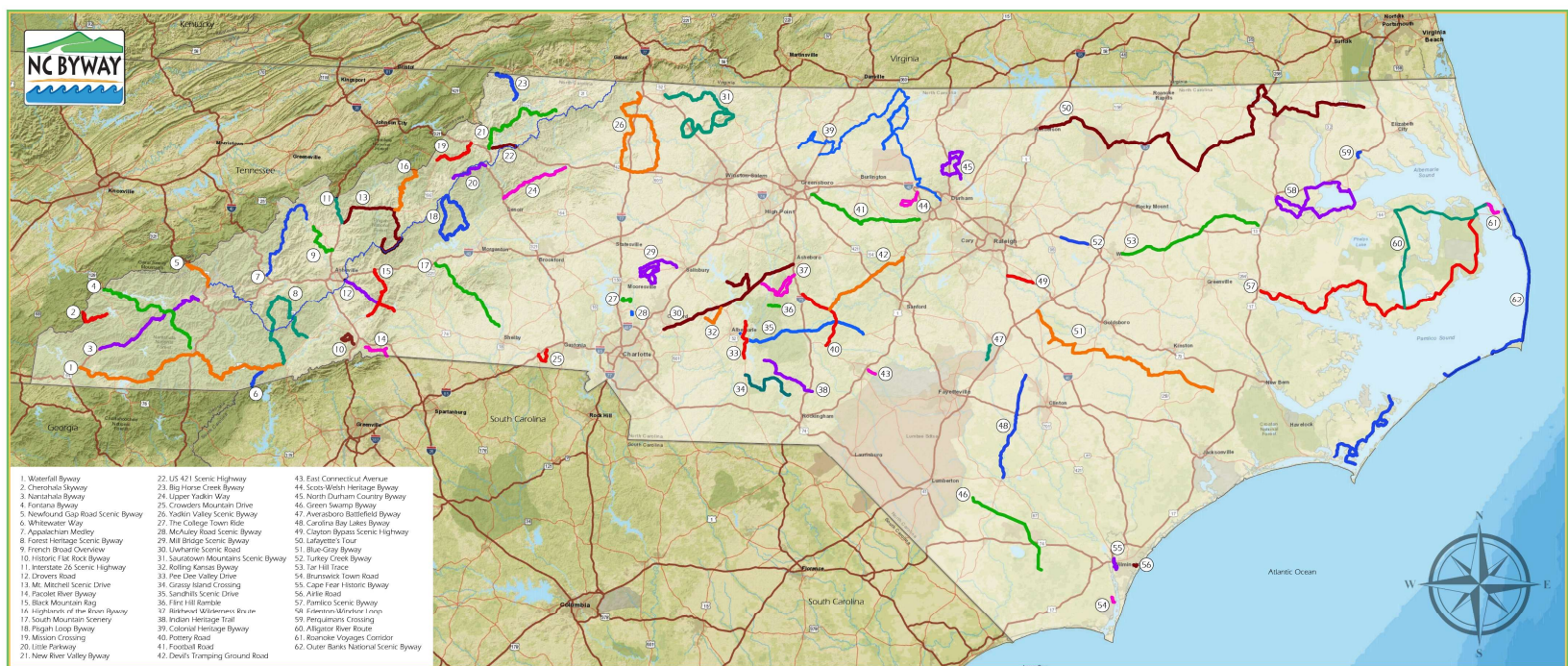
- Proponent Requirements
- Designation Criteria
- Process Summary

Highlighted NC Byways:

- Forest Heritage Scenic Byway (Mountain Region Byway)
- Pottery Road (Piedmont Region Byway)
- Cape Fear Historic Byway (Coastal Region Byway)

NC SCENIC BYWAYS OVERVIEW

- In 1988, Division of Highways proposed a scenic byway system
- The Landscape Unit established the program
- In 1990, the NC Scenic Byway Program was officially approved, and 31 byways were designated
- In 1993, funding for signage and booklets was approved
- 62 NC Scenic Byways; Routes vary in length from 1.5 to 171 miles
- 3 –National Scenic Byways; 2-All-American Roads



Designation Process



DESIGNATION PROCESS

Byway Proponent Requirements:

- Cannot be an individual
- Must be Nonprofit 501 (c)(3) Organization or
- Local Municipality/Government Entity

Criteria for Designation of a Route:

- Protect and preserve natural beauty and scenery
- Road with legal public access
- Minimum consecutive length of one mile
- Little to no developed areas
- Intrinsic qualities: significant natural or aesthetic features
- Evidence of strong local support

* Routes within or near existing protected areas such as National Forests or Federal or State Parks shall be given preference



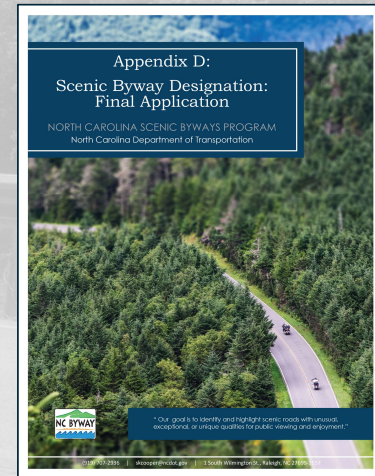
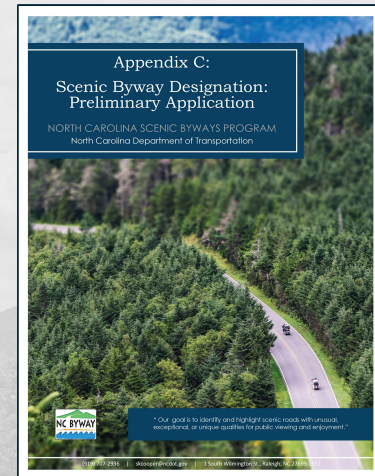
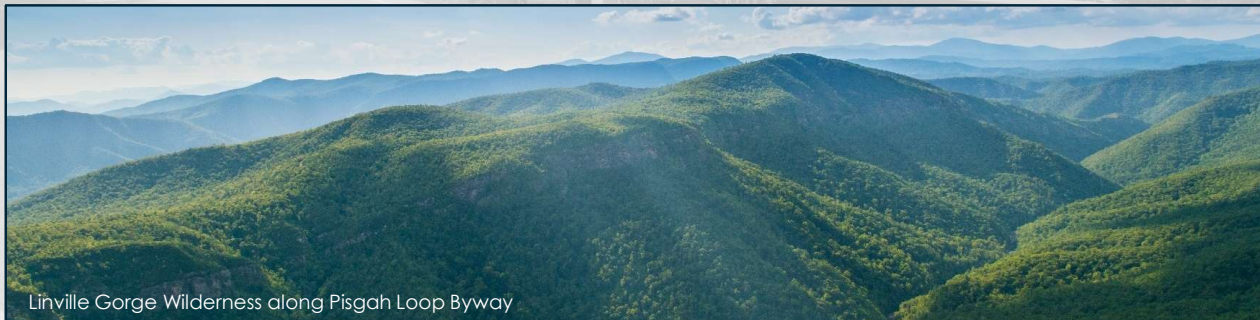
VISUAL INVENTORY ASSESSMENT GUIDE

<p>Land Forms</p> <p>Mountains / Hills / Ridges / Summit Monadnock / Cove / Valley / Gorge Cliff / Bluff / Rock Outcropping Ravine / Basin Rolling Hills / Plain / Flatland Coast / Carolina Bay / Beach Barrier Island / Cape</p>	<p>Location of Elements</p> <p>Outer Banks Coastal Plain Piedmont Plateau Appalachian Mountains</p>
<p>Water</p> <p>Lakes / Ponds Rivers / Streams / Creeks / Branches Sounds / Bay / Inlet / Ocean Waterfalls / Rapids Marshes / Wetlands / Swamps Drainage Canals – Ditches</p>	<p>Significance</p> <p>Distinctiveness Intactness Relevance Frequency</p>
<p>Vegetation</p> <p>Managed / Natural Indigenous / Introduced Pine Woods / Hardwood Woods Mixed Pine and Hardwood Woods Forest / Orchard / Pasture / Meadow Agricultural Fields / Gardens</p>	<p>Character of Elements</p> <p>Scale / Proportion / Dominance Diversity / Continuity Order / Harmony Color / Contrast Positive Effect / Adverse Effect / Neutral Effect Natural / Managed</p>
	<p>Pattern</p> <p>Line Color Texture Rhythm Foreground / Middle Ground / Background</p>
<p>Cultural</p> <p>Urban / Suburban Village / Community Town / Town Center / City Commercial / Industrial / Institutional Residential / Farms / Farmland Historic / Archeological Features Tower / Structure / Cemetery / Fence / Wall Bridge / Dam / Dock / Pier Airport / Railroad / Ferry Bicycle Route / Greenway / Trail / Path Recreation / Golf Course / Tourist Attraction Local-State-National Park / State-US Forest</p>	<p>Visual Threats</p> <p>Landfills Junk Cars Billboard Signs Sign Clutter Utility Line Clutter Blighted Property / Vacated Properties Forestry Clear Cuts Invasive Vegetation</p>

DESIGNATION PROCESS

Designation Process Summary:

- Notify NC Scenic Byway staff of interest & obtain a Preliminary application
- The Preliminary application is reviewed by the Scenic Byway Program
- Rejected or added to the Study List
- Final Application package is provided to the proponent
- Final Application due to the NC Scenic Byway Program by August 31st
- Scenic Byway Program must:
 - Review application by December 31st
 - Prepare report for the March Board of Transportation meeting
 - Make a recommendation to the BOT for approval or rejection
 - BOT will evaluate the application and make a decision
 - Scenic Byway Program will send out an official letter of designation/rejection
 - Scenic Byway Program and NCDOT will provide byway signage



DESIGNATION PROCESS



How is a Designation beneficial?

- Promotes the intrinsic qualities of the region
- Encourage resource preservation
- Encourages tourism & economic growth
- Opportunity for federal byway grants
- Protects corridors from new outdoor advertising
- Provides potential for national recognition

<https://www.commerce.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2024/05/21/nc-extends-its-growth-spurt-visitor-spending-rises-no-5-us-visitation#:~:text=North%20Carolina%20tourism%20facts%3A,record%20%2434.6%20billion%20in%202023.>

What are some of the limitations?

- Shall not interfere with operation/ maintenance of public utilities or facilities
- Does not require modifications of local land use regulations
- Does not prevent future roadway or commercial development/expansion
- Does not require removal of existing outdoor advertising

*Byways or sections of routes can be dedesignated if new roadways or commercial developments significantly alter the experience of the route.



Pisgah Covered Bridge along Birkhead Wilderness Route



1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse along Edenton Windsor Loop



HIGHLIGHTED NC BYWAYS

Forest Heritage Scenic Byway

Counties: Haywood, Jackson, and Transylvania

Byway Distance: 64.4 miles

Drive Time: 1 hr 50 min

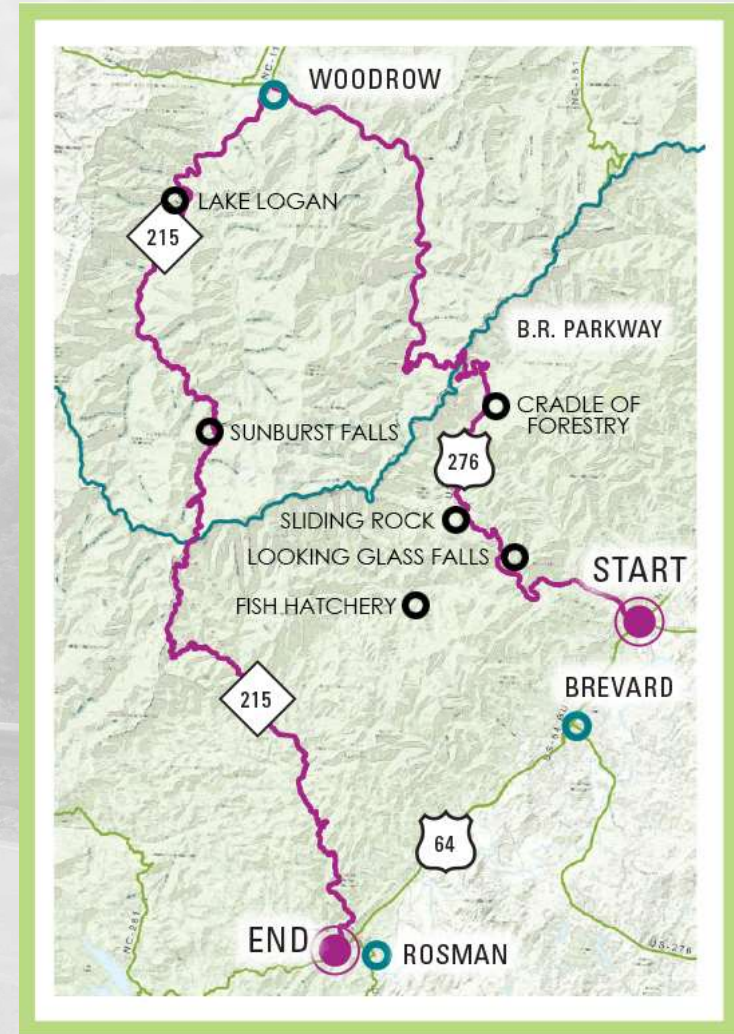
Interest Points:

- Brevard
- Pigeon River
- Pisgah Forest National Fish Hatchery
- Looking Glass Falls
- Sliding Rock Falls
- The Cradle of Forestry
- Lake Logan
- Sunburst Falls

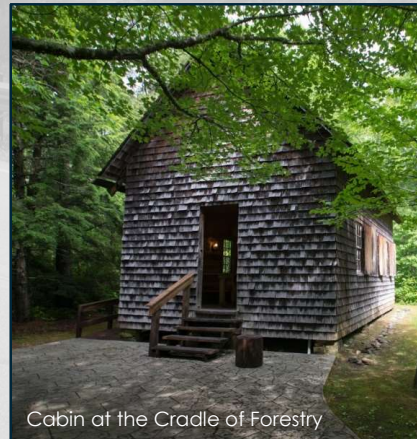
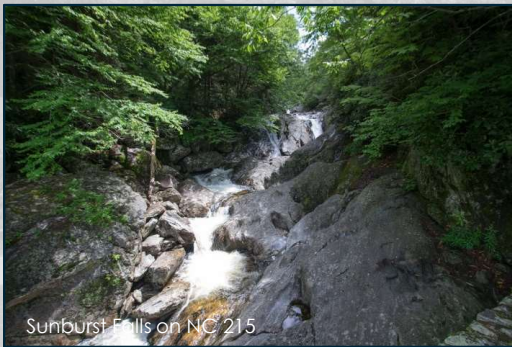


Above: Sliding Rock Falls

Below: Pisgah National Forest Entrance and WW1 Pillars



Forest Heritage Scenic Byway



Pottery Road

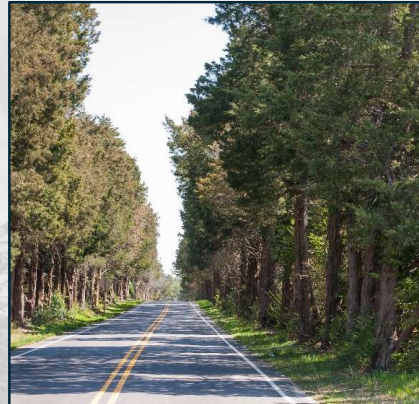
Counties: Moore and Randolph

Total Distance: 25.3 miles

Travel Time: 35 min

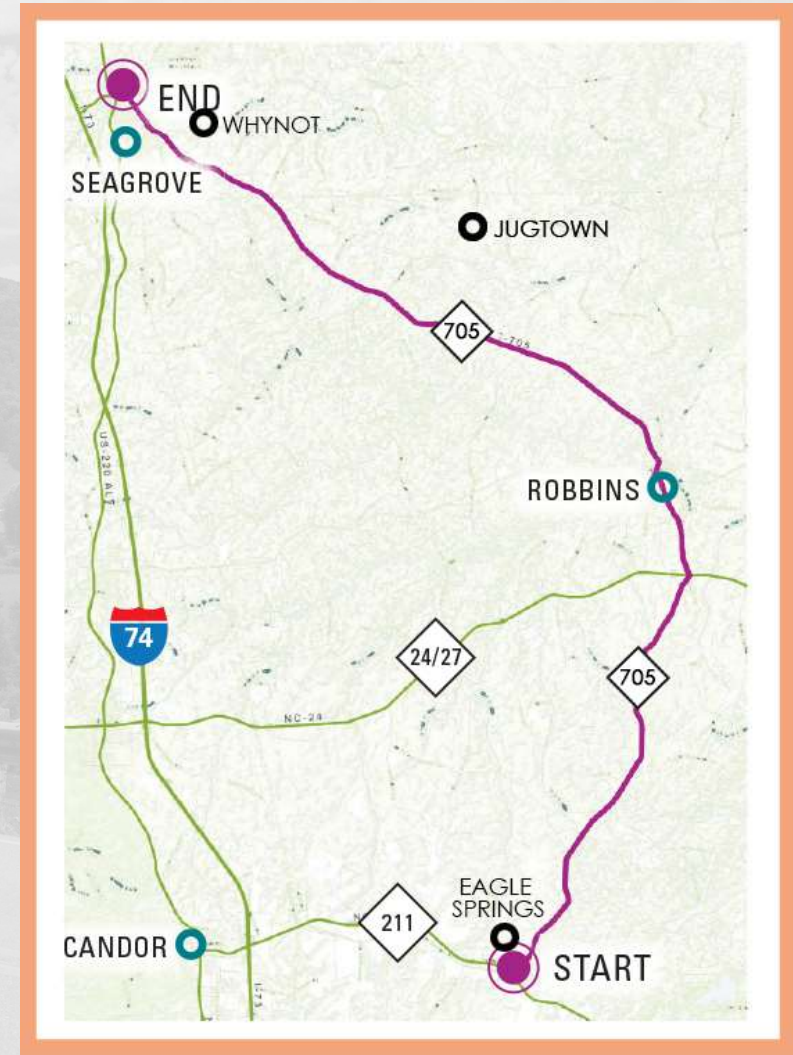
Interest Points:

- Pinehurst
- Eagle Springs
- Robbins
- Jugtown
- Whynot
- Seagrove

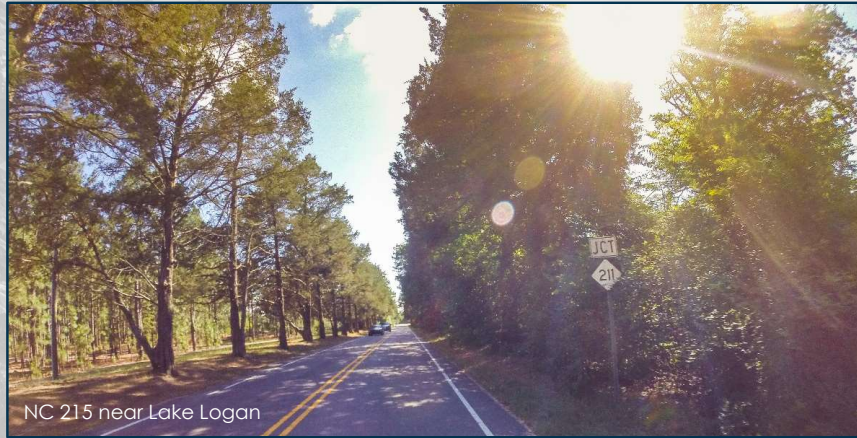


Above: NC 705 in Eagle Springs

Below: Seagrove Pottery in Seagrove



Pottery Road



NC 215 near Lake Logan



Barn along NC 705



Ben Owen Pottery on NC 105



Donkey along NC 705



Farm along NC 705



Mural in Robbins, NC

Cape Fear Historic Byway

Counties: New Hanover

Total Distance: 10.5 miles

Travel Time: 40 min

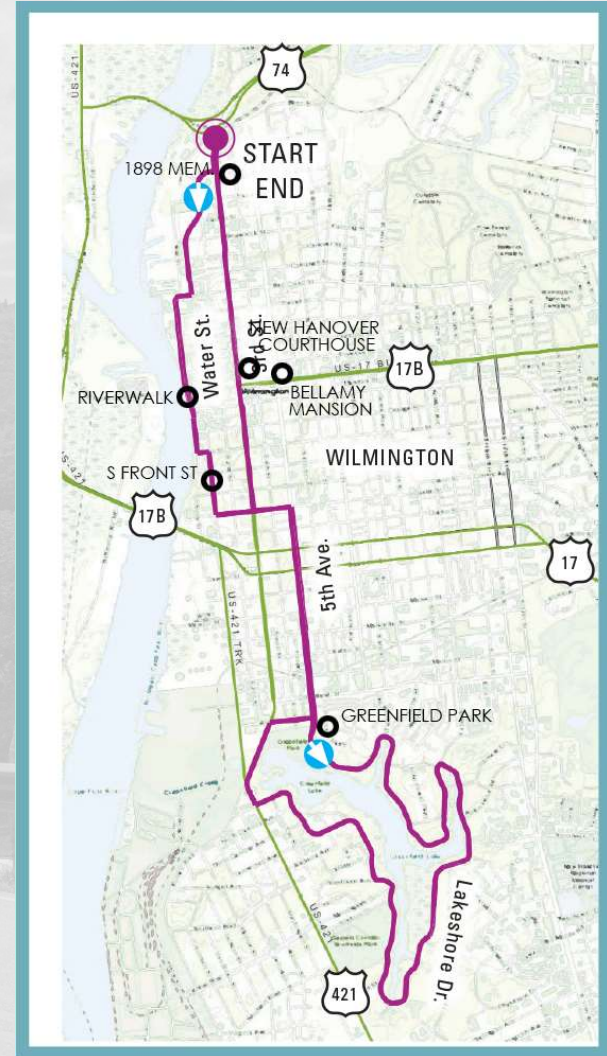
Interest Points:

- 1898 Memorial Park
- Wilmington Riverwalk
- South Front Street
- Greenfield Park and Gardens
- Bellamy Mansion
- New Hanover County Courthouse



Above: Wilmington Riverwalk

Below: Downtown Wilmington, NC



Cape Fear Historic Byway





Questions?

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