

IOWA'S NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS

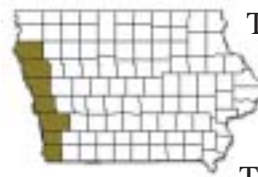
In June 2000, two Iowa roadways were designated as National Scenic Byways by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Loess Hills Scenic Byway and the Iowa Great River Road received the national designation because of their scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archeological and recreational qualities. These routes are the first two routes in Iowa to receive national designation, and were previously designated as scenic byways in Iowa's Scenic Byway Program.

The National Scenic Byway Program is managed by the Federal Highway Administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation. The program was designed to recognize and enhance the best of America's transportation corridors. Designated byways are exceptional roads that exemplify regional characteristics of the nation's culture, history and landscape.

LOESS HILLS SCENIC BYWAY

The Loess Hills Scenic Byway is a 220-mile route in western Iowa found in Plymouth, Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont counties. When roaming this byway, travelers have the option of selecting 13 excursion routes for additional experiences. The byway runs from the Missouri state border south of Hamburg, Iowa, north to Akron, north of Sioux City.

View from atop Murray Hill in Harrison County



The route weaves through the heart of a landform of windblown glacial silt deposits known as the Loess (pronounced "luss") Hills.

This natural geological wonder is found in only two places in the world, Iowa and China.

The rugged landscape and strong contrasts in weather and soil conditions provide refuge for a number of rare plants and animals, many of which are found only in the Loess Hills.

Not only does the Loess Hills region offer a unique natural heritage, it supports many culturally and historically important sites, public parks and recreation areas.

Blue and white highway signs, like the one on the left, mark this route.

For a complete map of the Loess Hills Scenic Byway and more information on the byway and the Loess Hills, visit the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center on U.S. 30, three and one-half miles east of Missouri Valley, or call 712-642-2114.