

FY 2020 National Scenic Byways Nomination Application Questions

This document is for use as a template to assist with nomination application preparation. It is not the official nomination application, and will not be accepted as part of the final submission. The official nomination application can be found online at:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/scenic_byways/nominations/.

<p>Byway Name: Great River Road</p>
<p>State(s), Indian tribe(s), or Federal land(s): Kentucky</p> <p>Multi-jurisdiction: YES, nine other states are submitting individual nomination applications for the Great River Road to be designated an All-American Road.</p> <p>If your byway traverses more than one jurisdiction (i.e., State, Indian tribe, or Federal land), you will be asked to indicate that you are submitting a nomination submission for a multi-jurisdiction nomination and applicants in each jurisdiction will be required to submit individual nomination applications.</p>
<p>Submission Agency: Carlisle County Fiscal Court on behalf of the Kentucky Mississippi River Parkway Commission</p>
<p>Submission Date: 04/30/2020</p>
<p>Desired Designation (select one): All-American Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Scenic Byway • All-American Road <p>For more information about the distinctions between designations, see the Nominations Guide.</p> <p>Please note: Any road that fails to meet the requirements for All-American Road designation will automatically be considered for designation as a National Scenic Byway.</p>
<p>Change in Designation: YES, from National Scenic Byway to All-American Road.</p> <p>If you are seeking to nominate an existing National Scenic Byway as an All-American Road, you are required to identify two (2) intrinsic qualities that are <u>nationally</u> significant. One of these may be the same intrinsic quality used to justify previous designation as a National Scenic Byway. However, your application will need to describe the national significance of that intrinsic quality.</p>
<p>Extension: NO</p> <p>If you are seeking an extension to an existing National Scenic Byway or All-American Road, you are required to submit the nomination application for the proposed extension in context of the existing National Scenic Byway or All-American Road and identify the same primary intrinsic quality(s) that can be found along the previously designated portion of the byway. Applicants are required to identify the same primary intrinsic quality(s) that can be found along the designated portion of the byway, and how the proposed extension relates to and enhances the designated byway.</p>

SECTION 1: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Location

Provide a description of the location of the byway within the State. Use cardinal directions (e.g., north) and reference major cities, regions, and/or landmarks. (limit 150 words)

Passing through ten (10) states, the Great River Road National Scenic Byway follows the Mississippi River for 3,000 miles from northern Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. The Great River Road is arguably the longest and most important scenic byway in America. Located many miles away from the urban centers of Kentucky, Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky's Great River Road travels through the westernmost four counties in Kentucky: Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman and Fulton Counties. The Great River Road begins at the Illinois-Kentucky state line at the US 51 bridge that crosses the Mississippi River near Cairo, Illinois. Then proceeds south through the charming small town of Wickliffe, Kentucky. Then it continues south through the rural Kentucky landscape to Columbus, Kentucky. From there south to Hickman, Kentucky and on to the Tennessee-Kentucky state line above Tiptonville, Tennessee at the north end of the Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge.

Date of Local Designation

Any road submitted for designation under the National Scenic Byways Program **must** be designated, through legislation or some other official declaration, a State, Indian tribe or Federal land management agency scenic byway. List the designating agency(s) and date(s) of designation.

Kentucky's Great River Road was designated as a National Scenic Byway by US Department of Transportation on 10/16/2009.

Intrinsic Qualities

For the National Scenic Byway designation, select the **one (1)** [Intrinsic Quality](#) that is most evident along the road and that you will demonstrate is regionally significant.

For multi-jurisdiction nomination applicants seeking designation as a National Scenic Byway, applicants must cite the same primary intrinsic quality as the other jurisdictions seeking designation.

For the All-American Road designation, select the **two (2)** Intrinsic Qualities that are most evident along the road and that you will demonstrate are nationally significant and contribute to the byway being considered a "destination unto itself."

For Kentucky's Great River Road, the historic and recreational intrinsic qualities are most evident along the road and are nationally significant.

For multi-jurisdiction nomination applicants seeking designation as an All-American Road, at least one of the two primary intrinsic qualities cited must match the qualities submitted by the other jurisdictions seeking designation. The applicant may cite the second intrinsic quality as specific to their segment of

the byway.

- Archaeological
- Cultural
- Historic
- Natural
- Recreational
- Scenic

Primary Photo

Provide a single image that you feel best represents the experience along your byway. Please select this image carefully as it will introduce the reviewers to your byway. Also, if designated, this image will be included with your byway on the America’s Byways® website.



Please provide an alternative text description of the image that describes what the image depicts. This text will be used by those who cannot see the photo, and should thoroughly describe what is depicted in the image. For guidelines on submitting images and composing alternative text descriptions, please see our [Image Style Guide](#). (limit 50 words)

Gunsmoke and the sounds of cannon blasts, rifle fire, hoofbeats, clashing swords and marching Union and Confederate soldiers rise into the autumn sky as the Battle of Belmont is reenacted at Columbus-Belmont State Park. This battle initiated the opening of the Union campaign to win the strategic Mississippi River.

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION

Statement of Qualification

This section will introduce the reviewers to your byway. Provide a description of your byway from the "big picture" point of view, and within the context of your description, include information on the items below. For more information on developing a strong statement of qualification, please reference the [Nominations Guide](#). (limit 750 words)

- Theme that reflects the central focus of the byway's nomination story and promotes the Byway
- An overview of the Traveler Experience navigating the byway. Provide a sense of how the experience unfolds as visible features, byway stories, or important resources form the core quality of your corridor.
- Regional Significance (National Scenic Byway) – explain and justify what is special, significant or unique about your byway in relation to the primary Intrinsic Quality
- National Significance (All-American Road) – explain and justify what is special, significant or unique about your byway in relation to the two (2) primary Intrinsic Qualities, and why the road is considered a destination unto itself.

The Lure of History

The story begins with a place naturally predestined to play a central role in the American saga – the convergence of two of the continent's greatest rivers, the Mississippi and Ohio. Today, that pivotal role, although mostly forgotten, can be employed to create a scenic byway that reveals the national importance of the region.

In North America, before its settlement by Europeans, rivers were the interstate highways that connected settlements throughout the continent's vast interior. The Mississippi River gave rise to the many sophisticated cultures that settled throughout the river valley and its tributaries. One of these societies, the Mississippian or mound building culture is evident at Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site. This site connects the modern-day explorer on the Great River Road with other Native American mounds found throughout the Midwest.

One of the major lost chapters in the settlement of North America is how significant a role the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio and one fort played in the development of the United States and subsequently the world.

The exploits of George Rogers Clark are well documented by students of the American Revolution but unfortunately not well understood by the general public. By re-interpreting the importance of Clark's Fort Jefferson along the Kentucky Great River Road, it is hoped that this error can be corrected.

At the site of Fort Jefferson, the Great River Road tourist could imagine the consequences of not annexing the land that later became the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and eastern Minnesota to our nation. How, if at all, would western expansion have occurred if denied a route through the Great Lakes and if the Ohio was bounded by hostile Indian tribes? Where, if at all, would the great industrialization of America have occurred? Would we have remained an agricultural nation? Would industrialization, capitalism, democracy, and personal liberty be linked? One small fort occupied for only a short time helped create the modern world.

Present day Columbus-Belmont State Park was the location of a fort that was known as "The Gibraltar of the

West." It commanded the Mississippi River from high fortified bluffs prickling with 143 canons. In addition, Polk had stretched a one-mile long chain across the river to attempt to keep Union gunboats at bay as targets for his entrenched guns. The fort had strategic significance in that it blocked the way of Union forces south along the Mississippi; It has historical significance in that it was the first real action for the union's new Brigadier General, U.S. Grant. The lessons learned at the Battle of Columbus- Belmont were put to good use in Grant's river campaign river campaign at Forts Donelson and Henry.

The Lure of Recreation

Natural geographic features, such as the confluence and wildlife management areas are an important asset in providing recreational opportunities. People are drawn naturally to the breathtaking views from the bluffs at the convergence of the rivers. Although this area is an important gateway for commercial trade, it also provides a recreational opportunity for a respite from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Travelers are invited to take some time to relax and enjoy the area's natural beauty and its ability to create a sense of contemplative wonder.

While the Midwest native landscape appears commonplace, it is only when it is linked with its storied past that it becomes sublime. The confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers is such a destination. The Great River Road, properly conceived and maintained, will provide a place for the tourist and the local resident to enjoy and appreciate the landscape and the people who forged its tales.

Today, visitors and residents come to Kentucky's Great River Road to experience the recreational opportunities afford by its natural character and historic sites. Tomorrow, the Great River Road will continue to provide users with these resources that are unique to Kentucky. It will continue to connect people to America's history, to their surroundings and to nature. The corridor gives visitors the opportunity to learn about the land and the people.

The target audiences for the Kentucky Great River Road byway are those who want to experience recreation by being connected to the natural surroundings and engaged in the rich history of the byway. With the rural landscape and the available resources, the byway is positioned to attract individuals and small groups or families who want to travel "off the beaten path" to experience the byway.

SECTION 3: ROUTE INFORMATION

Byway Length

Enter the total byway length (in miles) from end to end (including road gaps that aren't included in the nomination but must be traveled).

64.22 miles

Route Description

1. Please provide a complete, sequential route description that documents all road segments including any gaps and/or intrusions. Include all of the road segments which, when linked together, match the legal description used by your State/Indian tribe/Federal land management agency to officially designate the road. Please work with your State/Indian tribe/Federal land management agency Scenic Byway Coordinator to develop this section so that you accurately reflect State/Indian tribe/Federal land management agency records for the designated route. (limit 500 words)

Ballard County: From the US 51 bridge (Kentucky-Illinois state line) over the Ohio River south on US 51 through Wickliffe to the Ballard-Carlisle County line, a total distance of 8.297 miles.

Carlisle County: From the Ballard-Carlisle County line south on US 51 for 1.803 miles to KY 1203, then south along KY 1203 for 6.522 miles to KY 123, then south on KY 123 4.338 miles to the Carlisle-Hickman County line, a total distance of 12.663 miles.

Hickman County: From the Carlisle-Hickman County line south on KY 123 for 1.171 miles to KY 80, then west on KY 80 for 1.526 miles to KY 58 in Columbus, then east on KY 58 for 0.188 miles to KY 123, then south on KY 123 for 11.739 miles to KY 239, then south on KY 239 for 3.753 miles to the Hickman-Fulton County line, a total distance of 18.377 miles.

Fulton County: From the Hickman-Fulton County line south on KY 239 for 2.762 miles to KY 94 in Cayce, then west on KY 94 for 22.121 miles through Hickman to the Fulton County-Tennessee state line, a total distance of 24.883 miles.

2. To assist review of your nomination, please provide the addresses/intersections and the GPS coordinates for the beginning and end points of the byway, as well as for other key points/features included in Section 5: Traveler Experience. Please also specify road names and route numbers for all road segments. If available, please submit a GIS shapefile of the route.

Beginning point of byway at Illinois-Kentucky state line

GPS Coordinates: Latitude N 36.991127, Longitude W -89.148736

Ending point of byway at Kentucky-Tennessee state line

GPS coordinates: Latitude N 36.502344, Longitude W -89.356834

See Section 5 for addresses/GPS coordinates of key points/features.

Attach shapefile.

Federal Lands

When appropriate, check the boxes for agencies whose lands occur along the byway.

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- USDA Forest Service
- Other (please specify): _____

Route Map

Please provide the following information on a single pdf map which will be used as a central reference point with the other materials you include in your nomination application. The scale and size of the map will be relative to the location and length of your nominated byway. In some cases, this may require two or more pages. The map and supporting legend should clearly show:

- Location of the byway within the State, Indian lands, or Federal lands
- The location of the byway in relation to other State, Indian tribe, and Federal land management agency byways; and America’s Byways in your region
- Each end point of the byway
- Location of gaps and/or intrusions
- The location of each community along the route
- Boundaries and/or management areas of major entities (e.g., parks, forests, reserves)
- Locations of critical directional signage, if any
- Locations of existing interpretive panels/information
- Locations of public visitor centers and/or other visitor amenities (e.g., public restroom facilities)
- Locations of fueling stations (including alternative fuel vehicle charging/fueling stations, if any)
- Locations of the features detailed in the Visitor Experience section of the nomination

Continuity of the Route

The continuity of your byway route is an essential requirement for designation as it directly impacts the travel experience and can reflect community support. If you have included a list of gaps and/or intrusions in your official route description, please use this section to provide explanations for any gaps and/or intrusions in your route that interrupt the continuity of the traveler experience (e.g., local zoning decisions, lack of community support, etc.) (limit 250 words)

The route is continuous with no gaps and/or intrusions.

Nomination by Indian Tribes

If this nomination is being submitted for consideration by an Indian tribe, please answer the following questions:

1. Title 23, United States Code (USC), Section 162(a)(3)(B) allows nomination by Indian tribes only if a Federal land management agency (other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs), a

State, or a political subdivision of a State does not have jurisdiction over the road or responsibility for managing the road. Briefly discuss who has jurisdiction over the road and who manages the road. (Limit 200 words)

N/A

2. Section 162(a)(3)(C) requires that Indian tribes maintain the safety and quality of roads nominated. Discuss how the tribe will maintain the safety and quality of the road. (Limit 200 words)

N/A

SECTION 4: ROUTE CONDITIONS

Vehicle Accommodation

1. Confirm that two-wheel drive passenger vehicles and motorcycles are accommodated along the entire route, and describe how this is facilitated if segments of the road are not paved. (limit 150 words)

The entire Great River Road in Kentucky is owned and maintained by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (Department of Highways). The route is paved and easily can (and does) accommodate two-wheel drive passenger vehicles and motorcycles.

2. Describe the accommodation of bicycle and pedestrian travel, including crossings, along the byway. If non-applicable, indicate N/A. (limit 150 words)

The Mississippi River Trail (MRT), also known as US Bicycle Route 45 is a designated bicycle and pedestrian trail that traverses the shores of the Mississippi River in the United States. The trail extends from the headwaters at Lake Itasca in Minnesota to near the mouth of the river in Venice, Louisiana. In Kentucky, the MRT follows the Great River Road and is signed accordingly. As the trail is only on existing roads, pedestrians and bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as other road users.

3. For the All-American Roads designation, discuss the accommodation of conventional tour buses along the route. (limit 150 words)

While narrow lanes exist in some road sections, the entire length of the Great River Road in Kentucky is capable of accommodating conventional tour buses. Additionally, multiple alternate routes exist in the event it is necessary to detour for any reason.

Travel Restrictions

1. Describe any restrictions to the types of vehicles that are allowed along the route. If non-applicable, indicate N/A. (limit 150 words)

N/A

2. Describe any seasonal closures or other restrictions along the route. If non-applicable, indicate N/A. (limit 150 words)

Because Kentucky’s Great River Road is so close to the Mississippi River and land that accumulates backwater, some seasonal flooding can close sections of the route. Most of these events occur in winter or early spring, which would be at off-peak travel times. Multiple alternate routes exist in the event it is necessary to detour because of flooding.

Seasons

1. Describe the best time during the year to drive the byway and experience the Intrinsic Qualities identified in this application (limit 150 words)

The best time of year to drive Kentucky’s Great River Road is from May through October. The main historic venues, Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site and Columbus-Belmont State Park, have limited hours and limited services or are closed during winter and early spring.

2. Describe any travel concentrations or high seasons when byway visitors might be more likely to encounter crowds or extra traffic (limit 150 words)

Because it is genuinely “off the beaten path,” the rural nature of Kentucky’s Great River Road rules out any problems with traffic congestion. May through October is usually when planned events occur that draw crowds. Examples include the Hickman Pecan Festival in September and the battle reenactment at Columbus-Belmont State Park in October. Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site, which is an interpretive center, has several events during these months.

Safety

Describe the key factors of your roadway that contribute to its safety for travelers (e.g. rumble strips, low speeds, lighting, guard rails, high friction surface treatments). (limit 150 words)

The Great River Road’s entire length in Kentucky is owned and maintained by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (Department of Highways). Due to varying roadway geometry, the route has rumble strips and guard rails where appropriate but has relatively low travel speeds due to the horizontal and vertical geometry of the roadway. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet does an excellent job in maintaining warning signs and other roadway safety features.

SECTION 5: TRAVELER EXPERIENCE

Getting to the Byway

Using the table below, provide distance and driving time to the byway from at least two nearby large cities, gateway communities, airports, major roadways, or other locations that would be pertinent to the traveler (limit 5).

Location	Distance	Average Drive Time
St. Louis, MO	155	2 hours 30 minutes
Memphis, TN	134	2 hours 7 minutes
Paducah, KY (airport)	22	26

Traveler Services

1. Provide a short description of services and hours of operation at each public visitor/welcome center. (limit 150 words)

Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site: Park grounds are open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wickliffe Mounds has a museum, welcome center, gift shop, trails and picnic areas. Open Wednesday through Sunday, April 1 to November 15. Open Daily Memorial Day to Labor Day. Closed November 16 to March 31.

Columbus-Belmont State Park: Park grounds open all year. Museum/Gift Shop open May – Labor Day and weekends through Sept. Open by appointment Oct. – April. Campground open all year. Water not available during winter.

2. Describe any universal access accommodations to assist travelers of varying abilities. (Limit 150 words)

Both Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site and Columbus-Belmont State Park are wheelchair accessible including restroom facilities. Most other facilities can accommodate limited mobility.

3. Describe any gaps on the byway of 50 miles or more where no traveler services (food, fuel or restrooms) are available. (Limit 150 words)

There are no gaps of 50 miles or more where no traveler services are available. However, the traveler may need to travel a short distance (< 2 miles) into the cities of Clinton (in Hickman County) or Hickman (in Fulton County) to obtain desired services.

4. Does your byway include alternative fuel corridors, as defined under [FHWA’s Alternative Fuels Corridor Program](#)? If yes, please list the corridor(s) and date(s) of designation, and discuss the fuel(s) accommodated. If non-applicable, indicate N/A. (Limit 150 words)

N/A

Wayfinding

1. Describe how travelers will know they are on the byway and list tools such as maps, signs and brochures. (Limit 150 words)

The Kentucky Great River Road is well marked with signs along the route at every turn. There is also a map of the entire Great River Road from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. There is also a Great River Road App that can be downloaded for travelers.

2. Please describe directional signage that currently exists that would help travelers access and navigate the byway as well as find their way back to major routes. If non-applicable, indicate N/A (150 words).

In Kentucky, the Great River Road is a well-marked series of different roads and highways that roughly follow the winding course of the Mississippi River. All along the byway, travelers will find white signs displaying the green pilot’s wheel logo. The familiar pilot’s wheel symbol denotes which roads are part of the designated route. Turns are well marked by signs. Direction signs at key intersections direct traffic back to major routes such as the Julian M. Carroll-Purchase Parkway (future I-69), a controlled-access highway that runs from Fulton to Mayfield.

Evidence of Intrinsic Qualities

For the National Scenic Byway designation, identify **up to 8 features** (i.e., points of interest, sites or events) in sequential order along your byway that support the Intrinsic Quality you have identified for nomination.

For the All-American Road designation, identify **up to 16 features** (i.e., points of interest, sites or events) in sequential order along your byway that support the Intrinsic Qualities you have identified for nomination.

Please keep in mind that the quality of your points of interest, sites or events and their connection to the byway's Intrinsic Quality(s) are more important than citing a large quantity of sites that aren't connected. If using events to support your byway's Intrinsic Quality(s), they must be particularly related to the byway travel experience or connect the byway traveler to the Intrinsic Quality(s) for which the byway is being nominated.

For each feature, please include the following (limit 500 words per feature):

- Name of the feature
- A description of what is found at the feature, and how the feature supports the Intrinsic Quality(s)
- Dates and/or times on which the feature is available for traveler visits
- Driving distance to the feature, and existing signage if the feature is not immediately adjacent to the road. Please ensure the feature is included in the Route Description and on the Route Map in Section 3: Route Information.
- If hiking, cycling, or walking is involved, the distance and degree of difficulty
- Up to 3 photos highlighting how the feature supports the Intrinsic Quality. For guidelines on

submitting images and composing alternative text descriptions, please see our [Image Style Guide](#).

Confluence of Ohio and Mississippi Rivers

GPS Coordinates: Latitude N 36.981063, Longitude W -89.134115 (Confluence)

- Description: View the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers from US 51 Ohio River Bridge between Illinois and Kentucky. Events here helped determine the boundaries and path forward of our young nation. This is the critical confluence that had to be held if the Northwest Territories were to become part of the United States.
- Dates/Times: Open continuously
- Driving distance: N/A (on Great River Road)
- Hiking/Biking/Walking: N/A
- Photo:



Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site

94 Green Street

Wickliffe, Kentucky 42087

GPS Coordinates: Latitude N 36.971737, Longitude W -89.092487

- Description: The Mississippi River gave rise to the many sophisticated cultures that settled throughout the river valley and its tributaries. One of these societies, the Mississippian or mound building culture is evident along the Great River Road at Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site. This site connects the modern-day explorer on the Great River Road with other Native American mounds found throughout the Midwest.
- Dates/Times:
- Driving distance: N/A (on Great River Road)
- Walking: Moderate difficulty
- Photo:



Fort Jefferson Hill Park and Memorial Cross

GPS Coordinates: Latitude N 36.957130, Longitude W -89.092659 (Entrance)

- Description: In 1780 during the Revolutionary War, General George Rogers Clark established Fort Jefferson on a hill overlooking the Mississippi River one mile south of present-day Wickliffe. The fort was intended to protect what was then the western boundary of the infant United States from raids by the British Army and Native Americans. At the site of Fort Jefferson, the Great River Road tourist could imagine the consequences of not annexing the land that later became the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota to our nation. How, if at all, would western expansion have occurred if denied a route through the Great Lakes and if the Ohio was bounded by hostile Indian tribes? Where, if at all, would the great industrialization of America have occurred? Would we have remained an agricultural nation? Would industrialization, capitalism, democracy and personal liberty be linked? One small fort occupied for only a short time helped create the modern world.
- Dates/Times: Open continuously
- Driving distance: N/A (on Great River Road)
- Walking: Moderate difficulty on paved walking trail
- Photo:



Columbus-Belmont State Park

350 Park Road

Columbus, Kentucky 42032

GPS Coordinates: Latitude N 36.765719, Longitude W -89.110822

- Description: Columbus-Belmont State Park is a 156-acre site that played a fascinating role in the War Between the States. This is the site of a fortification build by the Confederates and later occupied by Union forces. The 1861 Battle of Belmont, fought to overtake the Confederate stronghold here, marked the opening of the Union's Western Campaign. The fort had strategic significance in that it blocked the way of Union forces south along the Mississippi, but it also has historical significance in that it was the first real action for the union's new Brigadier General, U.S. Grant. The lessons learned at the Battle of Columbus- Belmont were put to good use in Grant's river campaign river campaign at Forts Donelson and Henry.
- Dates/Times:
- Driving distance: N/A (on Great River Road)
- Bicycling/Walking: Moderate difficulty on paved trails
- Photo:



Ballard Wildlife Management Area
 864 Wildlife Lodge Road
 LaCenter, Kentucky 42056

GPS Coordinates: Latitude N 37.183477, Longitude W -89.026859 (Office)

- Description: Bottomland hardwoods, sloughs, and 11 oxbow lakes create a prime wintering area for migratory waterfowl and bald eagles at Ballard Wildlife Management Area. Common year-round sightings include beaver, coyote, deer, fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, squirrel and turkey. The WMA is closed mid-October to mid-March but a barrier-free observation platform with interpretive display and elevated wetland walkway are open year-round. The area is part of the John James Audobon Birding Trail.
- Dates/Times: Closed from mid-October to mid-March

- Driving distance: 18 miles
- Walking: Moderate difficulty on walking trail
- Photo:



Boatwright Wildlife Management Area

GPS Coordinates: Latitude N 37.00954, Longitude W -89.12183 (Entrance)

- **Description:** This wildlife management area is designed to protect and enhance winter waterfowl populations and is an important site of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. It contains Swan Lake, which is the largest natural lake in Kentucky. Wetland habitats include old oxbow lakes, marshes and cypress swamps. Much of the habitat can be under water during the winter season and provides important habitat for bald eagles, several gull species and waterfowl. One tract adjacent to the Ohio River provides nesting habitat for the interior population of the least tern, a federally endangered shorebird.
- **Dates/Times:** Close mid-October to mid-March
- **Driving distance:** N/A (on Great River Road)
- **Walking:** Difficult
- **Photo:**



Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge

Visitors Center

4368 TN-157

Union City, TN 38261

GPS Coordinates: Latitude N 36.456143, Longitude W -89.302921

- **Description:** This refuge consists of an area of Northwest Tennessee and Western Kentucky that consists primarily of a buffer zone around Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee's only large natural lake. It formed after the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811–1812 and is one of the Mississippi River Basin's richest locations for waterfowl, aquatic life, and other wildlife.
- **Dates/Times:** Visitors Center is open 8 am-4 pm central time, Monday-Saturday but closed on all Federal Holidays.
- **Driving distance:** 10 miles south of Great River Road
- **Walking/Hiking:** Moderate difficulty on walking trail
- **Photo:**



Telling Your Story

An important part of supporting the America's Byways brand is providing travelers with information about the Intrinsic Qualities that form the essence of your byway.

1. Describe the materials you use to tell your byway story and interpret its Intrinsic Qualities, (e.g., maps, brochures, DVDs, etc.) (Limit 150 words)

The primary way that Kentucky tells its Great River Road story is through a paper map that was designed and printed specifically for that purpose. This map specifically highlights Kentucky's two interpretive centers: Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site and Columbus-Belmont State Park. It also has information about lakes and wildlife management areas, recreational adventures, lodging, agritourism, crafts, boat access to the Mississippi River, museums, campgrounds, fueling stations, restaurants, shops/boutiques, golf courses, tourist information centers, Chambers of Commerce, transportation services, event venues and government offices. Additionally, a national Great River Road Map is available at rest areas on I-24 in west Kentucky.

2. Provide the website(s) and/or social media sites where travelers and media can find information specific to your byway (other than byways.org).

The website that promotes the Great River Road from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico is <https://experiencemississippiriver.com/>. This website contains an interactive map of the entire Great River Road and features a free (paper) map that can be ordered, a Drive the Great River Road App and other information about activities and attractions along the route. It also contains a list of every interpretive center along the byway. Another website that has information specific to Kentucky is _____

<https://kentuckytourism.com>. Finally, the Great River Road in Kentucky has its own website:
<http://http://kygrro.org/>. This website is currently under revision.

SECTION 6: PLANNING/SUSTAINABILITY

Community Support

Community support and the openness of the planning process are considered important components in both the designation and determination of the sustainability of a byway.

1. Provide a list of key participants/organizations in the planning and development of the Corridor Management Plan (CMP), and describe critical coordination efforts with these organizations. (Limit 150 words)

The CMP was initially developed through input from the following people/groups:

1. County Public Officials: Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton and Hickman Counties
2. City Public Officials: Arlington, Bardwell, Clinton, Columbus, Hickman, and Wickliffe
3. Property Owners
4. Traffic Users
5. Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet
6. Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife
7. Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
8. EMS/911
9. Commercial/Industrial
10. Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office
11. US Fish and Wildlife Services
12. Utility Companies
13. Ballard-Carlisle Historical-Genealogical Society
14. Ballard County Chamber of Commerce
15. Hickman County Chamber of Commerce
16. Hickman County Historical-Genealogical Society
17. Hickman County Museum
18. Columbus-Belmont State Park
19. Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site

2. Identify any significant objections to the CMP and describe actions taken to resolve them. (Limit 150 words)

No significant objections encountered.

3. Describe how you have addressed the control of outdoor advertising and view shed protection with your stakeholders. (Limit 150 words)

To maintain the existing intrinsic qualities and avoid visual pollution it is vital to have commercial billboard controls. Kentucky is required by agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to maintain effective control of its outdoor advertising. Kentucky statutes and administrative are consistent with federal law on advertising devices for scenic byways or those highways that are maintained by the state. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet maintains the Protected Areas for Outdoor Advertising interactive online map that displays protected areas in locations across the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including the Great River Road.

4. Describe how this byway nomination was developed and who was involved, including critical coordination efforts with key industries and organizations along the corridor and any significant objections to the nomination of the road. (Limit 200 words)

Being in such a rural location, there are no major industrial sites that might be affected by activities along the byway. Having already been designated as a National Scenic Byway, the Great River Road has the full support of county elected officials and other businesses and organizations. These four counties have 214 tourism related jobs (2017) which brought in total expenditures estimated at \$18,978,816. This level of economic activity (through tourism) would not be possible in these small rural counties without the support of the community. Although not significant, the farming community has expressed some concern that recreational activity may damage their farmland. These objections are handled locally on a case-by-case basis.

5. Document that you have received support from road management authorities responsible for each segment of the road and Federal land management agency(s) through whose lands the byway runs. (Limit 150 words)

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (Department of Highways) has ownership and maintenance control of the entire Great River Road in Kentucky. By state statute, the cabinet secretary (or his/her designee) is a member of the Kentucky Mississippi River Parkway. Historically, the cabinet has supported and cooperated very well with byway initiatives including placing additional signs (off the byway) directing people to the byway from major routes running through west Kentucky. The cabinet does an excellent job of maintaining signs to ensure travelers can easily navigate the route.

6. List actions the byway leader or organization will take to assure ongoing community involvement and citizen participation. (Limit 150 words)

As part of its commitment to public involvement, the Kentucky MRPC intends to

continuously seek public input into recommended changes to the byway vision, goals and objectives. It also intends to ask the public to let the commission know of any changes in land use that may alter the character or context of the Great River Road. It will also ask the public’s help in identifying any new partnerships in helping to develop the byway. The commission intends to update the CMP every five (5) years and will seek public input and/or comment in that process.

Supporting Documentation

You must include an electronic PDF copy of the Corridor Management Plan and a single PDF document combining any letters documenting support. Applicants are limited to providing these two forms of supporting documentation along with the Route Map (and optional GIS file) and the photos referenced within the body of the nomination application. Additional documentation/attachments will not be considered.

Corridor Management Plan – Your application must be supported by a Corridor Management Plan that addresses the required points of corridor management planning detailed in the [Interim Policy](#).

Letters Documenting Support – Reviewers find supporting letters that document local support useful as they corroborate statements you make in your application. The most effective documentation is personalized support statements that describe the writer’s relationship to the byway and expected benefits from national designation. It is also useful to see indications of how the writer will continue their support in the future.

Corridor Management Plan

1. Date CMP was adopted (04/30/2020).
2. Does your State/Indian tribe/Federal land management agency require that CMPs be regularly updated to reflect current policies? If yes, how often? If no, in a few concise bullet points, please describe your priorities for the byway for the next five (5) years. (Limit 150 words)

While not required by state policy, the CMP commits the commission to update the CMP every five (5) years. The CMP is intended to be a “living” document that can be revised and edited to reflect new goals and priorities.

Your byway’s Corridor Management Plan must address each of the following points. Using the table below, identify the principal pages in your document that discuss each point.

Question	Page Number(s)
1. A map identifying the corridor boundaries, location, intrinsic qualities, and land uses in the corridor.	14
2. An assessment of the intrinsic qualities and their “context” (the areas surrounding them).	6-10
3. A strategy for maintaining and enhancing each of those intrinsic qualities.	10-11
4. The agencies, groups, and individuals who are part of the team that will carry out the plan, including a list of their specific, individual responsibilities. Also, a schedule of when and how you'll review the degree to which those responsibilities are being met.	11
5. A strategy of how existing development might be enhanced and new development accommodated to preserve the intrinsic qualities of your byway.	11-12
6. A plan for on-going public participation.	12
7. A general review of the road's safety record to locate hazards and poor design, and identify possible corrections.	12-13
8. A plan to accommodate commercial traffic while ensuring the safety of sightseers in smaller vehicles, as well as bicyclists, joggers, and pedestrians.	13
9. A listing and discussion of efforts to minimize anomalous intrusions on the visitor's experience of the byway.	12
10. Documentation of compliance with all existing local, state, and federal laws about the control of outdoor advertising.	13
11. A plan to make sure that the number and placement of highway signs will not get in the way of the scenery, but still be sufficient to help tourists find their way. This includes, where appropriate, signs for international tourists who may not speak English fluently.	13
12. Plans of how the byway will be marketed and publicized.	13
13. Any proposals for modifying the roadway, including an evaluation about design standards and how proposed changes may affect the byway's intrinsic qualities.	12-13
14. A description of what you plan to do to explain and interpret your byway's significant resources to visitors.	13
Additional Requirements for All-American Road Nomination Submissions	
15. A narrative on how the All-American Road would be promoted, interpreted, and marketed in order to attract travelers, especially those from other countries. The agencies responsible for these activities should be identified.	13
16. A plan to encourage the accommodation of increased tourism, if this is projected. Some demonstration that the roadway, lodging and dining facilities, roadside rest areas, and other tourist necessities will be adequate for the number	12

of visitors induced by the byway's designation as an All-American Road.	
17. A plan for addressing multi-lingual information needs.	13
18. A demonstration of the extent to which enforcement mechanisms are being implemented in accordance with the corridor management plan.	13

Byway Organization

1. Describe the structure of any byway organization that currently exists. (Limit 100words)

The Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Kentucky serves as the byway organization. It has ten (10) members: One (1) citizen member from each of the four (4) counties that border the Mississippi River and the respective county judges/executive of Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, and Hickman Counties. Other members are the secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet and secretary of the Transportation Cabinet (or his designees). The commission assures that the proper direction is taken in developing a corridor of scenic, historical, and archaeological significance through the Kentucky counties of Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, and Fulton.

2. Describe plans to strengthen the organization over the next five years. (Limit 100 words)

The Mississippi River Parkway Commission intends to strengthen the organization of the next five years by:

- Actively participate in the meetings, committees and events of the national Mississippi River Parkway Commission.
- Update Kentucky’s Great River Road website to give more information about the story of the Great River Road.
- Develop new partnerships in promoting and preserving the Great River Road.

3. Provide a description of the stewardship actions and practices your byway organization intends to follow so that your Intrinsic Quality(s) remains evident or available to travelers along the byway. (Limit 100 words)

- Preserve natural, environmental, historical and cultural assets.
- Maintain public participation in the planning, development and management of the byway.
- Increase and promote coordination among the various federal, state, regional, local and private agencies that are responsible for the planning, programming and implementation of byway facilities and opportunities.

SECTION 7: CONTACTS AND SIGNATORY

Contacts

FHWA will use these contacts to obtain additional information during the nomination process and after designation, if it occurs. It is important for you to assure the individuals you list in your nomination are available for such contacts and will maintain up-to-date knowledge about byway activities.

Role	Contact Details
State/Indian tribe/Federal land management Agency Signatory	Name: Agency: Title: Email: Phone:
Principle Byway Point of Contact	Name: Jim LeFevre Agency: Purchase Area Development District Title: Transportation Planner Email: jim.lefevre@outlook.com Phone: 270-251-6110
Form Preparer	Name: Jim LeFevre Agency: Purchase Area Development District Title: Transportation Planner Email: jim.lefevre@outlook.com Phone: 270-251-6110

Signature

I certify that this application is complete and correct. My name below constitutes as my electronic signature.

Signature: Jim LeFevre	Date:
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