

## National Scenic Byways Program

### Byway Nomination Form



#### Background

[Download](#)

**Byway Name:** Great River Road

**Identify Your State  
(choose one):** Illinois

**Byway Location:** Does your byway traverse **more than one state**? If yes, select all states the byway traverses, **including your state**.

Arkansas

Illinois

Iowa

Kentucky

Louisiana

Minnesota

Mississippi

Missouri

Tennessee

Wisconsin

Does your byway traverse **Tribal lands**? If yes, identify the land or lands in the text box.

No

Does your byway traverse **federal lands**? If yes, identify the land or lands in the text box.

Yes Shawnee National Forest

**If you answered yes to any of the questions above, then your byway traverses more than one jurisdiction (i.e., state, Indian tribe, or federal land). This constitutes a multi-jurisdiction nomination. For a multi-jurisdiction nomination, applicants in each jurisdiction are required to submit individual nomination applications.**

**Submission Agency  
(or individual):** Great River Road in Illinois

**Desired Designation:** all-american road

**Change in  
Designation:** Are you seeking to nominate an existing National Scenic Byway as an All-American Road? Yes

If yes, you are required to identify two (2) intrinsic qualities that are nationally significant. One of these may be the same intrinsic quality used to justify previous designation as a National Scenic Byway. However, in Section 1 your application will need to describe the national significance of that intrinsic quality.

**Extension:** Is this an extension to an existing National Scenic Byway or All-American Road? No

If yes, 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.

#### Section 1

**Location:** **1-1:** 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.)  
Beginning in East Dubuque, the Great River Road in Illinois winds its way south for 557 miles along the western border of Illinois on State Highways 20, 84, 92, 17, 96 as well as 100, 3, 51, and 60/62. The total mileage includes several exploration routes. Along the way, there are 31 state recreation and/or conservation areas, more than 40 museums and interpretive centers and more than 20 state historic sites and memorials.

From East Dubuque, the Great River Road travels south through Galena, Fulton, Rock Island/Moline, Nauvoo, Quincy, Alton, Cahokia, Ellis Grove, Chester, Thebes and ends in Cairo where the Mississippi joins the Ohio River. Thirty-three miles of the Great River Road between Pere Marquette State Park near Grafton, IL and Hartford, IL were designated as the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway in 1998. The Great River Road experience is seamless for the traveler.

**Date of Local Designation:** 1-2: Any road designated 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.

Designating Agency(s): Western Illinois Tourism Development, Inc. dba Great Rivers Country, Illinois Department of Transportation

Date(s) of Local Designation: 06/15/2000

**Intrinsic Qualities:** 1-3: 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." (Hold the Ctrl button and click on two Intrinsic Qualities.)

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, or Scenic.

Cultural

Historic

**Primary Photo:** 1-4: 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, your byway will be included in the marketing efforts of the National Scenic Byways Program and this image will be used on the traveler 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.)

Alternative text for image: A visitor takes in the expansive river view as they drive the Great River Road. Winding along the Mississippi River for the entire 557-mile western border of Illinois, the vast reaching shores of the river are set against a backdrop of forested bluffs.

Image name: Great River Road IL

Image owner: Great Rivers Country

Photo release? Yes

Upload Image: 1-4GreatRiverRoadIL.jpg

Before uploading, rename the file to begin with 1-4. For example, rename your file RiverBend.png to 1-4RiverBend.png.

## Section 2

2-1: 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.

### Statement of Qualification:

Long before America reached her ocean shores on the west coast, the banks of the mighty Mississippi River marked its jagged western edge. The untamed frontier was a magnet to Native American tribes, fur traders, French explorers and river pirates. European explorers used the Mississippi River as a route to discover the secrets of a new world. Early Americans used the river to explore and settle a continent. Today, the Mississippi is one of the most important commercial waterways in the world, moving 175 million tons of freight each year.

For 557 meandering miles along the nation's mightiest river, the Mississippi, travelers are exposed to extensive history, various cultures, natural wonders, the romance of the river and the well-known Midwestern hospitality. The Mississippi has long been a national icon and has now gained international recognition as one of the world's great rivers, becoming a destination for travelers from across the globe. The river itself and the historic and cultural attractions along it has become an important tourism marketing tool in the United Kingdom, Mexico, Japan, China, Germany and other European countries. In fact, during a recent German sales mission, the Great River Road and the city of Chicago tied for "Must-See Attraction" in Illinois.

The Great River Road in Illinois features historic sites and rich cultures of regional, national and international importance as well as scenic vistas, parks and outdoor recreation. Five of the additional six National Scenic Byways in Illinois meet the Great River Road at some point, connecting the Illinois byway system. The remaining National Scenic Byway, Illinois River Road, has a proposed plan to extend their Byway to the Mississippi River.

In Galena, the traveler feels as though they have been transported to another era of Main Street America, but enhanced by many early historic sites as well as over 100 specialty shops and restaurants. Traveling south, a visitor comes upon the authentic Dutch windmill, de Immigrant, which highlights the area's Dutch history and culture. The Black Hawk State Historic Site celebrates Native Americans and educates travelers on their important history in Illinois and to the nation. In Moline, the famous farm implement and equipment manufacturer, Deere and Company, has built the John Deere Pavilion and features educational exhibits, activities and nearby factory tours. Nauvoo is a well-preserved historic village offering fascinating views into 19th century life and was the mid-19th century home of Joseph Smith and his thousands of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints followers. There are two excellent visitor centers as well as a beautiful temple that was built in 2002 on the site of the original. As the traveler continues south, Quincy is a historic riverfront city that boasts 3,600 historic structures built in 30 different architectural styles. Further south is Elsah, a picturesque village where time has stood still since the early 1800s. Next to Elsah is the New Piasa Chautauqua, one of ten remaining in the nation. Further southeast on the Byway is the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site which tells the story of the early 1800s Corps of Discovery led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Close by is the National Great Rivers Museum and Melvin Price Locks and Dam where visitors will have a river experience like none other. Another major attraction is Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and contains the remains of a major pre-Columbian Native American city. Continuing

on the Byway, visitors will find Fort de Chartres, the Pierre Menard Home and Fort Kaskaskia which tell the story of Illinois and the Mississippi River before Illinois became a state. Continuing south to Chester, visitors will see that this small riverfront town has done a wonderful job building on its theme of being home to cartoon character Popeye, created by Chester resident Elzie C. Segar. Near the southern terminus of the Byway is the Thebes Courthouse, which was completed in 1848 and built on a high bluff overlooking the river. It has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972 and can boast that Abraham Lincoln practiced law at the courthouse. The final Byway destination in Illinois is Cairo, the southern terminus of the Great River Road. This city is an example of the boom and bust cycles of river life and is home to several historic treasures, including the U.S. Custom House Museum.

## Section 3

<b>Byway Length:</b>	3-1: 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). 557
<b>Route Description:</b>	<p>3-2: 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. Please also specify road names and route numbers for all road segments. (Limit 750 words.)</p> <p>U.S. Highway 20 from the Illinois/Iowa state line on the Julien Dubuque Bridge, East Dubuque, through Galena to approximately 12 miles east of Galena and then south on Illinois Route 84, through Hanover, to the southern border of Jo Daviess County.</p> <p>In Carroll County, the route continues on Illinois Route 84 through Savanna and Thomson.</p> <p>In Whiteside County, the route continues on Illinois Route 84 through Fulton and Albany.</p> <p>In Rock Island County, the route continues on Illinois Route 84 through Cordova, Port Byron, Rapids City, Hampton, and into East Moline where it turns onto Illinois Route 92. It continues through Moline, Rock Island and Andalusia. Approximately 7 miles west of Andalusia, it turns onto County Road 59/Loud Thunder Road to Illinois City, and rejoin Illinois Route 92. Turn south on 322nd Street West and continue on to County Road 14 to the southern border of Rock Island County.</p> <p>In Mercer County, the route continues on County Road 14 to Illinois Route 17. After approximately 4 miles on Illinois Route 17, the route turns south onto 76th Street/Keithsburg Road and continues through Keithsburg.</p> <p>Exploration Route: New Boston At the intersection of County Road 14 and Illinois Route 17, continue south on Illinois Route 17 into New Boston, terminating at the Mississippi River. Return the same way to link back to the route.</p> <p>In Henderson County, the route continues on Keithsburg Road, now called County Road 3, where it turns west onto Illinois Route 164. The route follows Illinois Route 164 through Oquawka and Gladstone to the junction of Illinois Route 164 and U.S. Highway 34. Follow U.S. Highway 34 west approximately 7 miles to Carman Road south to Lomax, where it turns west onto Illinois Route 96. The route continues on Illinois Route 96 west through Dallas City to the southern border of Henderson County.</p> <p>Exploration Route: Gulf Port At the intersection of U.S. Highway 34 and Carman Road, travel east on U.S. Highway 34 and loop back to the Great River Road.</p> <p>In Hancock County, the route continues on Illinois Route 96 through Dallas City, Pontoosuc, Niota, Nauvoo, and Hamilton. In Hamilton, take County Road 32 to Warsaw where the route continues west on Main Street, then south on Water Street to County Road 12 and the southern border of Hancock County.</p> <p>In Adams County, the route switches to County Road 7 and remains on County Road 7 until it reaches County Road 1400. It follows County Road 1400 east to U.S. Highway 24 through Quincy (southbound 3rd Street, northbound 4th Street) to Illinois Route 57. The route follows Illinois Route 57 south through Marblehead and Fall Creek to the southern border of Adams County.</p> <p>Exploration Route: Quincy Follow signs for Quincy Arts Corridor/National Register Historic Districts. Leaving U.S. Highway 24, the route travels west on Vermont Street to North Front Street, then south to Hampshire Street, east to North 4th Street, and west to Vermont Street, linking back to U.S. Highway 24.</p> <p>The next Illinois counties on the route are Pike and Calhoun. During the original Scenic Byway designation process, the Pike County Board of Supervisors and Calhoun County elected not to participate in the original Corridor Management Plan and designation process. The Great River Road in these counties is marked with the Great River Road pilot's wheel signs.</p> <p>The counties of Jersey and Madison (to Hartford) were designated as the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway in 1998, two years before Great River Road was designated as a National Scenic Byway. The Great River Road is marked with the official pilot's wheel throughout these counties.</p> <p>The Great River Road picks up in Madison County at the junction of I-270 and Illinois Route 111. It continues for approximately 6 miles on Illinois Route 111, where it travels I-70 westbound for approximately 4 miles to the southern border of Madison County. In 2010, the City of East St. Louis requested and received de-designation due to zoning issues. This gap is approximately 2.7 miles and is from the I-70/I-64 intersection to the I-64/Illinois Route 3 intersection.</p> <p>Exploration Route: Madison County Travels Illinois Route 3 south off I-270 going through Granite City, Madison, Venice, and Brooklyn, looping back onto the Great River Road at the junction of Illinois Route 3 and I-70.</p> <p>In St. Clair County, the route continues on I-70 westbound and travels to the junction with Illinois Route 3 southbound. The route continues on Illinois Route 3 through Cahokia and Duplo.</p> <p>In Monroe County, the route continues on Illinois Route 3 through Columbia, Waterloo and Red Bud.</p> <p>Exploration Route: Columbia, Old Route 3 Main Street through Columbia, linking back to Illinois Route 3 at the south city limit.</p>

Exploration Route: Maestown  
Turns off Highway 3 onto Market Street in Waterloo and continues to Illinois Route 156 going west. Then travels south on County Road 7 (Maestown Road) to Maestown. The route continues past Maestown on County Road 7, and links back to Illinois Route 3 north of Ellis Grove.

In Randolph County, Illinois Route 3 travels through Red Bud, Ellis Grove and Chester to Rockwood. The City of Evansville requested and received de-designation within the city limits due to zoning issues.

Exploration Routes: Fort de Chartres  
Two signed options to get to Fort de Chartres: In Ruma, turn off Illinois Route 3 onto Illinois Route 155 to Prairie du Rocher and Fort de Chartres; or just north of Ellis Grove, turn off Illinois Route 3 onto Bluff Road which travels to Prairie du Rocher and the fort.

In Jackson County, the route continues along Illinois Route 3 through Glenn, past the Illinois Route 149 intersection, and through Grand Tower.

In Union County, the route continues on Illinois Route 3 through Wolf Lake, Ware and Reynoldsville.

Exploration Route: Wolf Lake  
In Wolf Lake, follow Great River Road signage on Illinois Routes 127 and 146 back to Illinois Route 3 in Ware.

In Alexander County, take Illinois Route 3 through McClure, Gale, Thebes, Olive Branch, Cache and Klondike to U.S. Highway 51. On U.S. Highway 51 the Byway continues south through Cairo to U.S. Highway 51/60/62 through Fort Defiance Park on Fort Defiance Road to the southernmost tip of the state. The Great River Road in Illinois terminates just east of Fort Defiance Park at the Illinois/Kentucky border on the Cairo Ohio River Bridge, U.S. Highway 51/60/62.

Exploration Route: Thebes  
At Thebes, leave Illinois Route 3 going west on Riverview Drive to the Village of Thebes and return to link back to Illinois Route 3.

Exploration Route: Horseshoe Lake  
At Olive Branch, turn south on County Road 2, then follow Promised Land Road east to return to the Byway on Illinois Route 3.

Exploration Routes: Cairo  
Two signed routes to explore Cairo: Exit U.S. Highway 51 and follow signs to Millionaire's Row/Washington Avenue and back to U.S. Highway 51. The other option leaves U.S. Highway 51 at 8th Street, following 8th Street to Ohio Street heading south and linking back to U.S. Highway 51 via 4th Street.

**Route Address:**

3-3: To assist review of your nomination, please provide the addresses/intersections and the GPS coordinates for the beginning and end points of the byway. You will provide the GPS coordinates for other key points/features in Section 5: Traveler Experience.

**Beginning** addresses/intersections and the GPS coordinates of the byway.  
Julien Dubuque Bridge  
Iowa/Illinois Border  
42.491610, -90.655947

**Ending** addresses/intersections and the GPS coordinates of the byway.  
Cairo Ohio River Bridge  
Kentucky/Illinois Border  
36.991120, -89.148735

If available, please submit a GIS shapefile of the route.

Uploaded GIS file:

Before uploading, rename the file to begin with 3-3. For example, rename your file RiverBend.png to 3-3RiverBend.png."

**Federal Lands:**

3-4: Check the boxes for agencies whose lands occur along the byway or select Not Applicable.

Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service

**Route Map:**

3-5: 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 the features detailed in the Visitor/Traveler Experience section of this nomination form (Section 5).

Uploaded Map: 3-5GreatRiverRoadIL.pdf

Before uploading, rename the file to begin with 3-5. For example, rename your file RiverBend.png to 3-5RiverBend.png.

**Continuity of the Route:**

3-6: 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.) When the Great River Road in Illinois (GRR) was designated in 2000, there were two counties that opted out of the program: Pike and Calhoun. The reason was fear of local intrusion into their lives. Since that time, there has been interest

expressed in being added to the Byway as they now better understand that their fears were unfounded and that river related tourism is good for their economies. Depending on the future of the National Scenic Byway Program, discussions about adding them to the Byway will continue.

Upon leaving Calhoun County, the next 33 miles are designated as Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway.

The additional gaps include a 2.7-mile gap near East St. Louis and a gap within the city limits of Evansville. They are both the result of local zoning decisions and do not affect the continuity of the route for the traveler. In the few sections of roadway that are technically gaps in the 557-mile Byway, the Great River Road in Illinois signs are in place, letting travelers know they are on the Great River Road.

**Nomination by Indian Tribes:**

3-7: 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.)
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.)

## Section 4

**Vehicle Accommodation:**

4-1: Confirm that two-wheel-drive passenger vehicles are accommodated along the entire route, and describe how this is facilitated if segments of the road are not paved. (Limit 150 words.)  
The Byway road system is very suitable for travelers and can accommodate a mixture of agricultural, residential, industrial and commercial vehicles and use. The roadway is well suited to handle the incremental growth in vehicle traffic anticipated in the next decade. Much of the byway is rural with two-lane roads with 2-foot wide shoulders, although there are stretches of roadway without shoulders. In areas that approach communities, the shoulders typically widen to AASJT standards of 3 to 4 feet.

4-2: Describe the accommodation of bicycle and pedestrian travel, including crossings, along the byway. If non-applicable, indicate N/A. (Limit 150 words.)

Bicycling is safe in most areas and the network of ancillary roads allows cyclists to choose alternate routes if necessary. The Mississippi River Trail (MRT) is a 10-state route that parallels the Mississippi River and the Great River Road. In addition to the MRT, there are 22 established bicycle/pedestrian trails in the state that either have a trailhead in a Great River Road community or are nearby.

As a combined Illinois Byway project, 33 bicycle racks with information on each of the 7 Illinois Byways were placed in 14 communities along the Great River Road.

4-3: For the All-American Roads designation, discuss the accommodation of conventional tour buses along the route. (Limit 150 words.)

The Great River Road in Illinois is maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation and can accommodate tour buses. Tour bus parking is available at the state's convention and visitors bureaus, state parks, and at all the state historic sites including Galena, Quad Cities, Cahokia Mounds and Fort de Chartres.

**Travel Restrictions**

4-4: 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

4-5: Describe any seasonal closures or other restrictions along the route. If non-applicable, indicate N/A. (Limit 150 words.)

The only closure that may occur would be temporary and due to seasonal flooding of the river.

**Seasons:**

4-6: Describe the best time during the year to drive the byway and experience the Intrinsic Qualities identified in this application (Limit 150 words.)

The Great River Road is magnificent all times of the year, but late spring, summer and fall would offer the most opportunities to enjoy the historic and cultural attractions. In addition, American bald eagle watching is very popular December through February and is promoted at many sites along the Byway.

4-7: Describe any travel concentrations or high seasons when byway visitors might be more likely to encounter crowds or extra traffic (Limit 150 words.)

The Country Fair in Galena each fall can cause traffic congestion in and around the city. In addition, there are many organized fall drives along the Great River Road that can slow traffic in areas with vibrant fall colors and within communities holding events. Apple picking is very popular in September at orchards along the Byway and there are times that traffic can be quite heavy on the two-lane sections of the road. Fort de Chartres State Historic Site in Prairie du Rocher holds an annual two-day Rendezvous in June that attracts thousands of visitors and significantly increases traffic to the area.

**Safety:**

4-8: 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.)

Most of the road has a speed limit of 55 mph or less which lends to the safety of travelers. It is maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation and that agency's traffic safety standards contribute to the safety of the Byway traveler. There are rumble strips to slow speeding vehicles in several areas including Galena and East Dubuque and guard rails where Illinois Department of Transportation has deemed them necessary.

## Section 5

**Getting to the Byway:**

5-1: 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 (miles)	Avg Driving Time (hours)
Chicago O'Hare Airport	150 miles	2.5 hours
Joliet - Interstate 80	144 miles	2.25 hours
Springfield - Interstate 72	112 miles	1.75 hours
St. Louis Lambert Airport	23 miles	30 minutes
Interstate 70	18 miles	20 minutes

**Traveler Services:**

5-2: Provide a short description of services and hours of operation at each public visitor/welcome center. (Limit 150 words.)

There are nine sites designated as Great River Road Interpretive Centers along the Byway. These centers are located at important visitor stops along the route and are staffed, provide visitor information and restroom facilities.

Mississippi River Visitor Center – Arsenal Island  
Tuesday-Friday 9am–5pm

Black Hawk State Historic Site  
Wednesday-Sunday 9am-Noon & 1pm-4pm

Villa Kathrine  
Monday-Friday 9am–5pm, Sunday 1pm-5pm

Pere Marquette State Park Interpretive Center  
Monday-Saturday 8:30am-3:30pm

National Great Rivers Museum  
Wednesday-Saturday 9am-5pm

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site  
Wednesday-Sunday 9am-5pm

Fort de Chartres State Historic Site  
Thursday-Sunday 9am-5pm

Pierre Menard Home State Historic Site  
May-October: Wednesday-Sunday 9am-5pm  
November-April: by appointment

Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site  
Monday-Sunday 8am-4pm

U.S. Custom House Museum  
Tuesday-Friday 10am-Noon & 1pm-3pm

5-3: Describe any universal access accommodations to assist travelers of varying abilities. (Limit 150 words.)

Official state historic sites and public information and visitor centers are all accessible to individuals with disabilities. Printed materials at the tourist information centers are placed at a height to be accessible. In addition, many, but not all, of the other attractions along the Byway are also accessible.

5-4: 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.

5-5: Does your byway include alternative fuel corridors, as defined under [FHWA's Alternative Fuels Corridor Program](#)?

Yes If yes, please list the corridor(s) and date(s) of designation, and discuss the fuel(s) accommodated. (Limit 150 words.)

Although the byway itself does not include alternative fuel corridors, the byway does intercept three such corridors.

Electric Vehicle (EV, Designated 2016): I-74 as it passes through Rock Island and Moline and on I-70 through Metro East St. Louis in Illinois

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG, Designated 2016): I-80 Mid-America Corridor, through Rock Island and on I-74 through Rock Island

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG, Designated 2016, 2018): I-74 through Rock Island and Moline and on I-70 through Metro East St. Louis in Illinois

In addition, more and more hotels and restaurants along the Byway are installing electric charging stations for vehicles.

**Wayfinding:**

5-6: Describe how travelers will know they are on the byway and list tools such as maps, signs and brochures. (Limit 150 words.)

There are 27 large blue paddlewheel kiosks along the Great River Road in Illinois as well as 9 Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MRPC)/Great River Road interpretive signs. In addition, a new four panel information kiosk was designed and four have been installed at Galena, Quad Cities, Quincy and Cairo. A new wayside base was designed and installed along with interpretive signage at Savanna, Albany, Nauvoo and Warsaw.

To keep the traveler oriented, the Illinois Department of Transportation has placed sign assemblies all along the Byway that include the route sign, Great River Road sign and America's Byways sign. Maps and brochures are available at each



convention and visitors bureau, each tourist information center, the Great River Road Interpretive Ranges and many of the attractions along the Byway.

5-7: 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 (Limit 150 words.)

The large blue paddlewheel information kiosks along the Byway remind travelers that they are on the Great River Road. In addition, more than 65 orientation and interpretation signs are installed along the Byway. All primary locations along the road are signed and GIS mapped. Travelers wishing to use mapping services on their smart devices can easily find their way back to a major route. Finally, visitors need only ask at any visitor center or attraction to be guided to where they wish to go.

**Evidence of Intrinsic Qualities:**

5-8: Identify up to 8 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
- A photo highlighting how the feature supports the Intrinsic Quality. **Before uploading photos, rename the file to begin with the Feature Number. For example, for Feature 1, rename your file RiverBend.png to Feature1RiverBend.png.** For guidelines on submitting images and composing alternative text descriptions, please see our [Image Style Guide](#).

**Feature 1**

Feature name:

City of Galena (Historic)

GPS coordinates:

42.415549, -90.429422

Describe the feature:

The historic city of Galena has been described as the "Most Beautiful Main Street in America" by Architectural Digest. The city looks much as it did during the American Civil War and was built at a time when the city was the lead mining capital of the world, the major commercial port on the upper Mississippi River and the wealthiest city in Illinois. Today, 85 percent of Galena is in a National Register Historic District. On Galena's historic Main Street, there are more than 100 shops, restaurants, and art galleries, most of which are located in well preserved 19th century red brick buildings. Many of these buildings have markers explaining their history, allowing for a self-guided walking tour. The city is home to many historic attractions including the oldest house in Galena, the Dowling House, built in 1826 and frequented by early fur traders. A tour of the home provides a complete history of the development of the city. The Jail Hill Inn operates in a 135-year-old brick building that originally served as the county jail. This beautifully renovated inn was named Trip Advisor's "Best B&B in the U.S." and the "Second Best B&B in the world" in 2019. Other historic attractions are the DeSoto House Hotel, the longest continuously operating hotel in the state, the Belvidere Mansion and Gardens, Ulysses S. Grant Home State Historic Site, Elihu B. Washburne House State Historic Site, the Old Market House State Historic Site, the Historic Customs House and Post Office - which is the oldest operating Post Office in America - and the Old Stockade from the 1832 Black Hawk War. The Old Market House State Historic Site is home to the Galena Country Visitors Center and the best place to begin this amazing tour of Galena's history.

Galena is a tourist-ready city that attracts over a million visitors a year. It is beautiful to visit all year, but especially between May and October. Many visitors would enjoy Galena during the Christmas season when it is dressed in its finest and in January and February for eagle watching. Chestnut Mountain Resort is located near Galena and offers skiing and snowboarding during the winter season.

The state historic sites are open and staffed all year with general hours of 9 am to 5 pm, but Monday closings are possible. Belvidere Mansion and Gardens is open mid-May to mid-November.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Galena is located 12.9 miles from the northern end of the Byway. The city itself and all the historic attractions are well signed on Illinois Route 20, which is the longest road in the United States and spans coast to coast. In Illinois, Route 20 is designated as the General Ulysses S. Grant Highway.

There is a Great River Road paddlewheel kiosk located at the intersection of Route 20 and 84 north of Galena. These same easily identifiable kiosks are also located at two locations between Galena and the next intrinsic feature: Elizabeth, Illinois, at the Long Hollow Rest Area and Overlook and two in Savanna, Illinois, at the Mississippi Palisades State Park, one at the north entrance and one at Oak Point.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

The historic district is easily walkable and there are two pedestrian bridges available to connect the historic downtown to Grant Park across the Galena River, as well as to other historic areas of the city. Main Street speed limit is 20 mph which makes it both pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Visitors have two bicycle outfitters to choose from to rent a bicycle and ride the 8.8 miles from Main Street along the Galena River Trail to Chestnut Mountain Resort overlooking the Mississippi River. The bike trail would not be considered difficult.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
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File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F1aJailHillInn.JPG	Great Rivers Country	Jail Hill Inn, Tripadvisor's #1 Bed and Breakfast in the U.S. and #2 in the world in 2019, is a 135-year-old building which served as the county jail for almost 100 years. The renovation preserved elements like the original curved brick ceiling and 9-foot-tall windows.	Jail Hill Inn	Yes
F1bGalenaPedestrianBridge.JPG	Great Rivers Country	A pedestrian bridge over the Galena River connects Main Street with Grant Park. The brick homes and storefronts of Galena look much as they did between 1820 and 1930, when it was a booming lead mining town and one of the largest steamboat hubs on the Mississippi River.	Galena Pedestrian Bridge	Yes
F1cHistoricMainStreetGalena.JPG	Great Rivers Country	Historic Main Street Galena, curving into the surrounding hills, is filled with more than 100 red brick storefronts which look much like they did during the Civil War. Today those storefronts have been repurposed as boutique shops and restaurants.	Historic Main Street	Yes

## Feature 2

Feature name:

De Immigrant Windmill (Historic/Cultural)

GPS coordinates:

41.867165,-90.168377

Describe the feature:

The Dutch heritage of Fulton dates to the mid-1800s when families arrived from the Netherlands. In 1872, nearly 60 Dutch families lived in the town. Today, many of the 3,400 residents descend from the original Dutch immigrants. The authentic, historically and culturally important de Immigrant Windmill is an imposing, all wooden structure held together with wooden dowels. It was fabricated in the Netherlands, then disassembled and transported to Fulton. The windmill is fully operational and stands nearly 100 feet tall. It was rebuilt in Fulton by Dutch millwrights and masons on the banks of the Mississippi River to celebrate the town's Dutch heritage along with the adjacent Windmill Cultural Center/Visitor Center. The center offers visitors a chance to see models of 20 working European windmills that vary in size up to 6 feet tall from 10 different countries. Visitors can learn about the cultural impact of windmills from displays, video presentations and special exhibits. Stone ground buckwheat, corn, rye and wheat flours are all manufactured at the windmill and are available in the gift shop

Visitors can also visit Heritage Canyon in Fulton. This reclaimed 12-acre quarry features a mid-1800s small-scale settlement with structures filled with authentic period items. Locations open for viewing include a school house, a beautiful historic church and many more. Heritage Canyon is open daily 9 am to 5 pm and holds several special events throughout the year.

The de Immigrant Windmill is open daily 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm, but may be best experienced spring through fall. The fall colors along the Great River Road are especially beautiful in the northern section of the Byway. Also, the first weekend in May is the Dutch Days Festival when local history and culture is celebrated with food, a parade, dancing, arts and crafts vendors and children's activities.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Fulton's de Immigrant Windmill is located 49 miles south of Galena and 61 miles south of East Dubuque, the northern end of the Byway. Chicago O'Hare International Airport is 138 miles from Fulton. The windmill is well signed on Illinois Route 84 and is easily found by travelers since it is located one block from downtown Fulton. There are two of the large blue paddlewheel Great River Road kiosks in Fulton: one at the de Immigrant Windmill and a second near Lock and Dam 13 north of Fulton. There are two additional Great River Road kiosks between Fulton and the next intrinsic feature: one at the Albany Mounds State Historic Site and another on a Great River Road Exploration Route to Albany's Mississippi River access area.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

The windmill is located one block from downtown Fulton and easily walked or biked. The Mississippi River Trail/Great River Trail portion connects Rock Island to Savanna, passing through Fulton with a paved portion of the pedestrian/bike path along the river next to the windmill. For bicyclists, there is a bicycle rack provided at the attraction as well as a 2-mile bike path along the riverfront.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F2aDeImmigrantWindmill.JPG	Great Rivers Country	De Immigrant Windmill, standing atop the levee in Fulton with the Mark Morris Bridge and Clinton, IA, in the distance. It stands sentinel over the Mississippi River and the Great River Trail, which bikers and pedestrians can travel between Savanna and the Quad Cities.	De Immigrant Windmill	Yes
F2bWindmillAndWindmillCulturalCenter.JPG	Great Rivers Country	De Immigrant Windmill, an authentic Dutch windmill, stands atop the levee with the Windmill Cultural Center behind it. Visitors can explore the windmill and purchase flours ground by the mill and view more than 20 model windmills in the Windmill Cultural Center.	Windmill and Windmill Cultural Center	Yes



File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F2cDelImmigrantWindmill.JPG	Great Rivers Country	De Immigrant Windmill is an authentic Dutch Windmill which was assembled in the Netherlands then transported and reassembled in Fulton. It stands atop the levee amid ornamental trees showing a bounty of early fall color.	De Immigrant Windmill	Yes

### Feature 3

Feature name:  
Black Hawk State Historic Site (Historic/Cultural)

GPS coordinates:  
41.464146,-90.572869

Describe the feature:

The historic and culturally significant Black Hawk State Historic Site is a wooded, steeply rolling 208-acre park with museum that borders the Rock River in the city of Rock Island. It occupies much of the historic village of Saukenuk, the home of a band of Native Americans of the Sauk nation. Paleoindians and 19th century settlers made their homes here, but the area is most closely identified with the Sauk nation and its great warrior, Black Hawk. Voted one of the "7 Wonders of Illinois," this pristine park offers beautiful wooded hiking trails. It is home to the John Hauberg Museum of Native American Life and the Watchtower Lodge, where visitors can learn about the Sauk Tribe and the history of the park. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. At the museum, visitors will find Sauk and Meskwaki artifacts and displays depicting the life of these tribes from 1750 to 1830. They will also learn the story of the warrior Black Hawk and his refusal to give up tribal land which marked the beginning of the Black Hawk War of 1832. A 24-minute audio tour takes the listener through 10 stops, narrating the life of the Sauk and Meskwaki from 1750 to 1830 and expands on the information in the exhibit labels.

The best time to visit would be spring through fall. Black Hawk State Historic Site is closed Mondays and Tuesdays and open 9 am to 4 pm Wednesday through Sunday. The surrounding park is open year-round sunrise to 10 pm.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Black Hawk State Historic Site is located 82 miles from the northern end of the Byway and 48 miles from the previous feature in Fulton, Illinois. Springfield, Illinois is 172 miles from Rock Island. The site is well signed on Illinois Route 92 as well as on Interstate 74 and it is home to a Mississippi River Parkway Commission/GRR interpretive sign to remind visitors that they are on the Great River Road.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Black Hawk State Historic Site offers easily navigated walking and bike trails for the visitor to experience the natural and cultural beauty of the area. The Mississippi River Trail/Great River Trail is a paved pedestrian/bike path that travels to Black Hawk State Historic Site.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F3aJohnHaubergIndianMuseum.jpg	Great Rivers Country	Exterior of Watch Tower Lodge, built from large timbers and native limestone, which houses the John Hauberg Indian Museum that tells the story of the Sauk and Meskwaki people and Sauk warrior Black Hawk.	John Hauberg Indian Museum	Yes
F3bBlackHawkStatue.jpg	Great Rivers Country	This 1892 stone statue of Sauk warrior Black Hawk is prominently placed in front of the Watch Tower Lodge at Black Hawk State Historic Site.	Black Hawk Statue	Yes
F3cHikingTrail.jpg	Great Rivers Country	A winding, tree lined trail through Black Hawk State Historic Site allows visitors to explore the nature preserve and Rock River.	Hiking Trail	Yes

### Feature 4

Feature name:  
John Deere Pavilion (Historic/Cultural)

GPS coordinates:  
41.507706,-90.518045

Describe the feature:

Located in Moline, the John Deere Pavilion celebrates the history of farming pioneer John Deere and his 1830s steel plow innovation that revolutionized modern farming. One of the most recognized corporate logos in the world, the leaping deer trademark has been a symbol of quality John Deere products for more than 135 years. In 1837, blacksmith John Deere designed a plow for the thick prairie soil in Illinois from a broken saw blade. In 1838, John Deere, blacksmith, evolves into John Deere, manufacturer. His move to Moline was due to the available water power and transportation options on the Mississippi River and it goes without saying that his business flourished. Exhibits at the John Deere Pavilion showcase the company history as well as the latest modern day combines and tractors. The John Deere Pavilion houses big, powerful machines that invite you to grab the controls and let your imagination run. Climb into one of the state-of-the-art simulators and test your skills in realistic job situations. Check out an awesome machine that has legs instead of wheels. Kids enjoy exploring the hands-on activities in the Discovery Zone. Nearby, tour the John Deere Harvester Works to see mega machines being built.

The Deere and Company World Headquarters is also located here and is situated on a beautifully wooded, 120-acre campus. The headquarters houses 15,000 square feet of exhibits and includes not only displays on John Deere history, but displays on agriculture, golf and turf, construction and consumer products.

The nearby Butterworth Center and Deere-Wiman House is located in the Overlook District of Moline. Both historic homes once belonged to John Deere descendants and are now operated by the William Butterworth Foundation. Tours are

offered for local, national and international visitors.

Any time of the year is a good time to visit the John Deere Pavilion. Visitors are welcomed Monday 1 pm to 5 pm and Tuesday through Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. The Pavilion is closed on Sunday. Butterworth Center and Deere-Wiman House are open to visitors 9 am to 5 pm daily and Noon to 5 pm on Sunday.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Moline is located 76 miles from the northern end of the Byway and 5.6 miles from the Blackhawk State Historic Site. There are 165 miles between Moline and Springfield, Illinois. The John Deere Pavilion and Complex is visible from Illinois Route 92 and is also well signed. There are 3 GRR paddle wheel kiosks in the Quad Cities area and another 4 between the Quad Cities and the next feature of Nauvoo. In addition, there is a Mississippi River Parkway Commission/GRR interpretive sign located in Rock Island.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

The Pavilion campus is easily walked and there is the nearby Ben Butterworth Parkway, a walking/pedestrian path along the Mississippi River. It offers a paved trail for walking, running and biking. Ben Butterworth Parkway also offers playground equipment, exercise equipment, restrooms and shelters. In the Quad Cities area, there are several additional bike trails, including the 61 mile Great River Trail (part of the 10 state Mississippi River Trail) which connects Rock Island north to Savanna, Illinois; the Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park is a 104 mile trail from Rock Island east to Bureau, Illinois; and the Kiwanis Trail, is a 6.5 mile trail within the Quad Cities on the Illinois side. There is no real difficulty associated with any of the trails.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F4aJohnDeerePavilionInteractiveExhibit.jpg	Great Rivers Country	At the John Deere Pavilion visitors test their skills in a state-of-the-art simulator like the ones customers train in before tackling projects at the job site.	John Deere Pavilion Interactive Exhibit	Yes
F4bJohnDeerePavilion.JPG	Great Rivers Country	More than 180 years of John Deere history are represented at the John Deere Pavilion. John Deere, who used his skills as a blacksmith to change the face of farming with his self-scouring steel plow, turned his invention into one of the most successful manufacturing companies in the world.	John Deere Pavilion	Yes
F4cJohnDeerePavilion.JPG	Great Rivers Country	Inside John Deere Pavilion visitors can sit in the cab of a giant combine or bulldozer, and view historic tractors alongside ideas for the future.	John Deere Pavilion	Yes

#### Feature 5

Feature name:  
Historic Nauvoo (Historic/Cultural)

GPS coordinates:  
40.544854,-91.391527

Describe the feature:

The known history of the city of Nauvoo starts with the Sauk and Fox Tribes who frequented the area. By 1827, settlers had built cabins in the area and named it Commerce, Illinois. In late 1839, arriving members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints bought the little town of Commerce and in April 1840, it was renamed Nauvoo by Joseph Smith, Jr., the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Joseph Smith and his followers settled in this area after they were forced out of Missouri by religious persecution. By 1844, Nauvoo grew to rival Chicago in size and was the 10th largest city in the country. Fear of the growing political power of Latter-day Saints members led to the assassination of Joseph Smith and his brother in 1844 and evacuation of Latter-day Saints. Led by Brigham Young, a majority of the Latter-day Saints' population headed west.

Today, Nauvoo is a well-preserved historic village offering fascinating views into 19th century life. Often considered the most accurately restored and intact 1800s town in the United States, the period dressed docents bring history to life as they provide interpretive demonstrations at the blacksmith, post office, brickyard, bakery, school and more. One of the restored homes and shops belonged to Jonathon Browning, inventor of many firearms including some used for decades by the U.S. military. Visitors can learn about the Browning family legacy at the home and workshop.

The original Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints temple was demolished in the late 1800s and in 2000, the Latter-day Saints began to rebuild the temple on the original site overlooking the Mississippi River. The beautiful white exterior of the new temple is a replica of the first. On June 27, 2002, a date that coincided with the 158th anniversary of the death of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, the temple was dedicated as the Nauvoo Illinois Temple. Visitors can learn about the interesting Nauvoo history at the Joseph Smith Historic Site which is a National Historic Landmark District.

Nauvoo is home to two excellent visitor centers: Historic Nauvoo Visitors Center and Community of Christ Visitors Center. Attractions are open year-round, but the hours vary somewhat by season. The basic hours are 10 am to 5 pm, but are extended to 9 am to 6:30 pm during the summer season. The British and Nauvoo Pageants are held during the summer months in Old Nauvoo. These presentations are taken from historic records of the period and are held on an outdoor stage two blocks south of the Historic Nauvoo Visitors Center and the Community of Christ Visitors Center.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Nauvoo is located 179 miles from East Dubuque, the northern end of the Byway and 102 miles from the previous feature, John Deere Pavilion. It is located on Illinois Route 96 and is signed along the route before arriving in Nauvoo. Upon arriving in Nauvoo, there is signage directing visitors toward the temple and historic village. There are 2 GRR paddlewheel kiosks in Nauvoo and another 3 between Nauvoo and the next feature location of Quincy. Nauvoo is located 129 miles

from Springfield, Illinois.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

The historic village is walkable from the downtown area and there are sidewalks leading from downtown to the village, but the walk could be challenging for some. The historic village has ample parking. Bicyclists are common in the area and there is a bike rack at the Visitor Center. In addition bicycles are welcome in the historic village where the vehicle speed limit is 15 mph.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F5aNauvooTemple.JPG	Great Rivers Country	The reconstructed Nauvoo Temple sits in the center of town atop a bluff overlooking the mighty Mississippi River. The building's all white exterior contains hand carved sunstones and moonstones, each one distinctly unique, displayed at the top and bottom of the pilasters.	Nauvoo Temple	Yes
F5bHistoricNauvooVisitorsCenter.JPG	Great Rivers Country	The Historic Nauvoo Visitors Center honors the faith, courage, and industry of Mormon pioneers. Exhibits include a carved sunstone, a relief map of Nauvoo, and displays on the history of Nauvoo and the exodus.	Historic Nauvoo Visitors Center	Yes
F6cBrowningHome.JPG	Great Rivers Country	The Browning Home and Gunsmith Shop is one of the many reconstructed historic buildings in Nauvoo. Tour the site to learn about the humble beginnings of the Browning Arms Corporation and see rifles, handguns, and shotguns from the early 1800s.	Browning Home	Yes

#### Feature 6

Feature name:

East End Historic District in Quincy (Historic)

GPS coordinates:

39.929387,-91.394851

Describe the feature:

The East End Historic District in Quincy, Illinois, features a collection of 493 buildings built from the 1830s to the 1930s. The corner of 16th and Maine Streets was described by National Geographic as "one of the ten most architecturally significant corners of the United States." The John Wood Mansion, a Greek Revival home built in 1835 for Quincy's founder, John Wood, is one of the oldest and most significant homes in the district.

Motor coach tours are welcome in the historic districts and 18 area homeowners in the East End Historic District have opened their historic homes to private tour groups of 6 or more. Visitors can tour 18 homes with the homeowners providing tours of gardens, antiques, history, folklore and architecture. Tours are available year-round and advance notice of a week is appreciated. There is also a local bus tour with a step on guide that is available to visitors.

The river city of Quincy was an early major river trade community and contains many impressive examples of fine architecture from 1850 to the early 1900s. In addition to the East End Historic District and Maine Street, the Northwest Historic District showcases large mansions built in the 19th and 20th centuries, with most of the homes perched on the river bluffs.

Also located in Quincy is the South Side German Historic District. This area includes most of Quincy's rich German architecture and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 with a boundary increase in 1995. Large numbers of German immigrants settled here after moving west from Ohio and Pennsylvania or coming up the Mississippi River from New Orleans. It is also home to the Dr. Richard Eells House built in 1835. Quincy served as the first Underground Railroad station across the river from the slave state of Missouri. Dr. Eells was an outspoken abolitionist and offered runaway slaves shelter on their way north. Tours of this home are provided on an appointment basis. The South Side German Historic District is also where the Dick Brothers Brewery was founded. Dick Brothers was one of the largest beer brands in the country during the 20th century.

The city of Quincy offers visitors more than 30 different architectural styles in over 3,600 historic structures. One of the beautiful historic structures, the Villa Kathrine, is a Moroccan-style home located on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. The unique home, sometimes branded as a castle, was built in 1900 and currently functions as the office of the Quincy Convention and Visitors Bureau and as an Mississippi River Parkway Commission/GRR Interpretive Center. Tours of the Villa Katherine are offered on an appointment basis.

The historic districts can be enjoyed year-round. Each season will provide the visitor with its own unique beauty. The Villa Kathrine is open all year from 9 am to 4 pm except Sunday when hours are 1 pm to 4 pm. The Dr. Richard Eells House is open for group tours and on special occasions.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Quincy is located on Illinois Route 57 and is 228 miles south of the northern end of the Byway. It is located 47 miles south of the previous feature of Nauvoo and 106 miles from Springfield, Illinois. There are 3 paddlewheel interpretive kiosks in Quincy as well as a Mississippi River Parkway Commission/GRR interpretive center sign. There is an additional paddlewheel kiosk before reaching the feature location of Cahokia.

The city has several signage programs marking the historic districts and historic properties. There are gateway signs marking the entrances of the historic districts and a plaque program has been in place since the 1970s. To date, many plaques have been placed on historic structures with identifying information for visitors. The Villa Kathrine is well signed from all areas of Quincy and there is a GRR interpretive kiosk at this location.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

The historic districts can be explored on foot, but are separated by several blocks so travel to each in a vehicle or on a bicycle is suggested. There is a 10-mile bike route through the city that is marked and mapped. Visitors can rent a bike through Tour Quincy Bikes and follow the easy Architectural Guide that is provided with a rental. Bicycles are also

available at the Villa Kathrine and daily rentals available.

There is also a new 3-mile bike trail, The Bill Klingner Trail, from the riverfront through the city with plans to extend to the Quincy Amtrak station. Recently, a self-guided car and bike tour has been developed that incorporates 24 murals in Quincy. There is no significant difficulty associated with any of the bicycle or walking tours.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F6aVillaKathrine.JPG	Great Rivers Country	Villa Kathrine, a Mediterranean style home built in 1900 on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, is surrounded by flowering shrubs in the summer months.	Villa Kathrine	Yes
F6bJohnWoodMansion.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The John Wood Mansion, festooned with red, white and blue bunting, is one of the Midwest's finest examples of Greek revival architecture. The four large Doric columns in front were lathed by John Wood, Illinois' 12th Governor, specifically for incorporation in the home.	John Wood Mansion	Yes
F6cQuincyMuseum.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The Quincy Museum, also known as the Newcomb-Stillwell Mansion, was built in the Richardson Romanesque Revival Style. The buff colored Berea Sandstone contains extensive ornamental carvings. The seven pillars supporting the porch roof each have a capital with a unique design.	Quincy Museum	Yes

#### Feature 7

Feature name:  
Village of Elsah (Historic/Cultural)

GPS coordinates:  
38.959647,-90.338648 Elsah  
38.964326,-90.386049 Chautauqua

#### Describe the feature:

Once an important steamboat landing on the Mississippi River, historic Elsah is better known today for its picturesque beauty, quaint stone houses and lush gardens. The entire village has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1973. It is often referred to as "the village where time stood still" and visitors to Elsah often feel as if they've escaped back to Americana of the early 1800s. This picture-perfect village is an excellent place for photographers interested in capturing a glimpse of the past. It is also a perfect place to escape to a simpler way of life at one of the delightful bed and breakfasts.

Elsah is next to the New Piasa Chautauqua that has existed for 135 years. In the past, there was a small road over the bluff, connecting Elsah and Chautauqua. The Chautauqua community on the Great River Road was founded in 1885 and is one of ten remaining historic Chautauqua communities in the country and the last of such communities in Illinois. The Chautauqua began as a post-Civil War social experiment and cultural, religious and political education movement. The purpose was to bring people together for culture and entertainment with speakers, teachers, musicians, showmen, preachers and specialists of the day. The word Chautauqua became synonymous with organized gatherings intended to introduce people to the great ideas, new ideas and public issues of the day. President Theodore Roosevelt was quoted as saying that Chautauqua is "the most American thing in America." The New Piasa Chautauqua was placed on the National Register of Historic Districts in 1982, establishing it as both a cultural and historic feature along the Byway.

Elsah is also home to historic Principia College, a 2,600-acre campus located high on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. A portion of the school's campus is designated as a National Historic Landmark District for its many buildings designed by architect Bernard Maybeck.

Visitors will find that Elsah is a self-guided tour, so it is available to them at whatever time of year or day they choose. Chautauqua is a private village, but visitors can view the pavilion to gain a sense of the location's history.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 3/15/2020 End date: 11/15/2020

#### Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Both Elsah and Chautauqua are located on Illinois Route 100 and are signed along the Great River Road. They are 104 miles south of Quincy and 281 miles south of the northern end of the Byway. St. Louis Lambert International Airport is located 33 miles from Elsah. Just north of Elsah, at Pere Marquette State Park, is a Mississippi River Parkway Commission/GRR interpretive center sign.

#### If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

The village is easily walked and best experienced either on foot or bicycle. Elsah is accessible to bicyclists as it is situated along the Sam Vadalabene Bike Trail which is part of the Mississippi River Trail. Principia College is located high upon a limestone bluff, so for anyone other than an avid bicyclist or hiker, it would be difficult to reach other than by vehicle. There is a natural trail over the bluff between Chautauqua and Elsah, but only the most experienced hikers should attempt it.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F7aElsahLighthouse.JPG	Great Rivers Country	A white and green lighthouse is situated on the natural banks of the Mississippi River near Elsah. It stands in front of one of the limestone bluffs it would have warned riverboat captains to avoid when the town was a thriving steamboat stop along the Mississippi River.	Elsah Lighthouse	Yes
F7bVillageOfElsahMusuem.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The Village of Elsah Museum is in the old Elsah Village Hall, built in 1887. It houses exhibits on the history of Elsah, its residents, and businesses, along with photos of the architectural styles common throughout the town.	Village of Elsah Musuem	Yes
F7cElsahStoneBuilding.JPG	Great Rivers Country	The village of Elsah was established to support a nearby stone quarry. Lots in Elsah were offered for free to anyone who would build a home in stone. The irregular shaped stones, used in the houses in Elsah, were rubble or discarded pieces and add to the town's rustic charm.	Elsah Stone Building	Yes

## Feature 8

Feature name:  
Lewis and Clark State Historic Site (Historic)

GPS coordinates:  
38.802405,-90.101977

### Describe the feature:

This historic site in Hartford, Illinois, is stop number one on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and is distinguished as the Point of Departure of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. On January 18, 1803, President Thomas Jefferson proposed the first official government expedition to explore the vast unknown lands west of the Mississippi River. He proposed an expedition across the continent to the Pacific Ocean, stressing the importance of discovering commercial opportunity. But it would discover much more. On Monday, May 14, 1804, at 3 pm, the Corps of Discovery left Camp River Dubois near present day Hartford. Led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the expedition followed the Missouri River, crossed the Rockies and reached the Pacific Ocean in late 1805. The journals kept by Lewis called Camp River Dubois the "point of departure." On September 23, 1806, on their return from their voyage of discovery, the expedition visited the location of Camp River Dubois before concluding their journey in St. Louis.

The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Hartford, Illinois, contains a 55-foot full scale replica of the keelboat used in the expedition along with many other exhibits detailing the journey. Outside is a replica of Camp River Dubois where the Corps of Discovery spent five months preparing for the expedition.

Nearby is the Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower which is a three level, 180-foot-tall observation tower and monument to the Lewis and Clark expedition. The attraction is stocked with exhibitions that bring context to the explorers and their travels.

The Lewis and Clark sites are available to the visitor Wednesday through Sunday 9 am to 5 pm and are open year-round. There are picnic tables available.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

### Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

The Lewis and Clark sites are located on Illinois Route 3. The sites are visible from the highway as well as signed on Illinois Route 3. They are approximately 19 miles from Elsah, Illinois, and 322 miles from the northern end of the Byway. Hartford is 23 miles from the St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

### If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Most visitors will arrive at these sites by vehicle or tour bus and there is ample parking. The multi-sectioned bicycle/pedestrian paths administered by Madison County Transit are in the vicinity of this historic site and would not be considered difficult.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F8aLewisAndClarkStateHistoricSiteInterpretiveCenter.JPG	Great Rivers Country	The Lewis & Clark State Historic Site Interpretive Center focuses on the expedition's winter encampment at Camp River Dubois and the departure of the Corps of Discovery. The exhibits contain excerpts from Lewis & Clark's journals and statue of Captains Clark & Lewis with Lewis's Newfoundland, Seaman.	Lewis and Clark State Historic Site Interpretive Center	Yes
F8bReplicaKeelboat.JPG	Great Rivers Country	The highlight of Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, the first stop on the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, is the magnificent, 55-foot, full scale replica of the expedition's keelboat. The cutaway shows what conditions would have been like aboard, with containers of supplies stored throughout.	Replica Keelboat	Yes
F8cLewisAndClarkConfluenceTower.jpg	Great Rivers Country	Built to celebrate the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, the Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower offers 3 viewing platforms and magnificent views of Hartford, the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, and the launch point of the Corps of Discovery's expedition.	Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower	Yes

## Feature 9

Feature name:  
National Great Rivers Museum (Cultural)

GPS coordinates:  
38.871042,-90.151191

Describe the feature:

The National Great Rivers Museum, located in East Alton, Illinois, opened in 2003 and is one of 11 planned visitor centers operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Each year, millions of people travel to the Mississippi River to learn about its history and its impact on our nation – from the grand history and cultural significance of the river to the ecological importance and role as a transportation corridor. The museum is a 12,000 square foot facility featuring state of the art interactive displays and exhibits about the Mississippi River and how it historically affected early life in Illinois as well as its effects on our lives today. The museum features kid-friendly, interactive and computer animated exhibits. You can steer a towboat through the locks and dam via simulator, measure your water consumption or come face to face with river fish in the aquarium. One of the themes of the museum is how the Mississippi River has been home to many people throughout the ages.

The adjacent Melvin Price Locks and Dam 26 is one of the largest locks and dam structures on the river. Staff provide free guided tours where visitors can see towboats and barges from eight stories in the air as they push their way through this incredible structure. It is a great place to see a part of the river only seen from this vantage point. In the winter it is a popular place for eagle watching.

The Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday 9 am to 5 pm and the Melvin Price Locks and Dam is open daily 9 am to 5 pm. Tours at the Locks and Dam are offered at 10 am and 1 pm and 3 pm daily. There are public restrooms, bicycle racks and a picnic area overlooking the river.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Both sites are located near where Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway and Great River Road in Illinois meet. The sites are off Illinois Route 3, on Illinois Route 143, and are well signed. They are located approximately 5 miles from the previous Lewis and Clark feature and are 326 miles south of East Dubuque, the northern end of the Byway. There is a Mississippi River Parkway Commission/GRR interpretive sign located at the museum. The Museum and Locks and Dam are located 23 miles from St. Louis Lambert International Airport and there is ample parking for any type of motorized vehicle.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

The museum is easily navigated by any visitor. However, the 45-minute tours of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam involve walking and heights of 80 feet. The 21-mile Madison County Transit Confluence Bike/Pedestrian Trail, which begins in Alton, has a stop at the National Great Rivers Museum that includes restrooms and a picnic area overlooking the river. The trail would not be considered difficult.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F9aMelvinPriceLocksAndDam.JPG	Great Rivers Country	More than 6,500 boats lock through Melvin Price Locks and Dam each year. Barges, carry more than 55 million tons of goods up and down the Mississippi River. Each barge can carry the equivalent of 225 train cars or 870 semitrailers.	Melvin Price Locks and Dam	Yes
F9bNationalGreatRiversMusuemExhibit.JPG	Great Rivers Country	Exhibits in the National Great Rivers Museum discuss the history of the Mississippi River and its impact on civilization, from early Native Americans to steamboat captains, and the present day lives of those who live and work near the river.	National Great Rivers Museum Exhibit	Yes
F9cNationalGreatRiversMuseum.JPG	Great Rivers Country	The National Great Rivers Museum, at Melvin Price Locks and Dam, is dedicated to telling the story of the Mississippi River, from her grand history and cultural significance, to her ecological importance and role as a transportation corridor.	National Great Rivers Museum	Yes

#### Feature 10

Feature name:

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site and UNESCO World Heritage Site (Historic/Cultural)

GPS coordinates:

38.654885,-90.058932

Describe the feature:

Cahokia Mounds is located in Collinsville, Illinois, and contains the remains of an ancient city founded by a Mississippian culture that flourished from 700 to 1400 AD, then vanished. Prior to Columbus landing in the Americas, Cahokia was the largest city ever built north of Mexico. It boasted 120 earthen mounds, with the 100-foot-tall Monks Mound rising above the city's center. This continues to be the largest earthwork in the Americas and Cahokia is considered one of the most advanced civilizations to exist in ancient America.

There is a structure called Woodhenge at the historic site which is considered the wood equivalent to Stonehenge in the British Isles. The recreated site contains a ring of cedar posts creating a calendar. Cedar was a wood that was considered sacred to the area's inhabitants. Currently, 4 circles have been uncovered with posts numbering 24 to 60 and a 5th is currently being uncovered that is believed to have had 72 posts.

Of the original 4,000-acre site, 2,200 are preserved as a state historic site. It is the largest archaeological site in the United States and has changed the preconceptions of what pre-Columbian Native American life was like on this continent. There is a state-of-the-art interpretive center that includes interactive displays, a screening theater and iPod tours.

Visitors can climb Monks Mound which was the symbolic center of Cahokia. It is a 100-foot-high platform mound that is 1,000 feet long, 800 feet wide and comprised of four terraces, each believed to have been added at different times. An estimated 22 million cubic feet of earth was used to build the mound between the years 900 and 1200 AD. Over the years, the mound has experienced erosion and has been damaged by man, so the original size is uncertain. From the top of the mound, visitors can see the entire area that was home to this ancient culture as well as across the Mississippi River to the

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is open Wednesday through Sunday 9 am to 5 pm.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Cahokia Mounds is located on Illinois Route 3 and is 20 miles from the National Great Rivers Museum. The attraction is 330 miles from the northern end of the Byway. It is visible from the roadway and well signed on Illinois Route 3. A Mississippi River Parkway Commission/GRR interpretive sign is located at the site. Cahokia Mounds is 22 miles from the St. Louis Lambert International Airport and Interstate 70.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Most of Cahokia Mounds is easily navigated by visitors, but there are 154 stairs up Monks Mound which can be challenging to some visitors. The Metro East Levee Trail is located in the Cahokia vicinity. This biking and pedestrian trail is 7.6 miles long and travels along the Mississippi River and is not considered difficult.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F10aCahokiaMoundsMuseum.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The exterior of the Cahokia Mounds Interpretive Center, which houses the museum exhibits depicting the largest pre-Columbian settlement north of Mexico, a life-size village recreation, an orientation theater, auditorium, and museum gift shop.	Cahokia Mounds Museum	Yes
F10bCahokiaMoundsMuseum.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The interior of the Cahokia Mounds museum contains a large mural depicting what Monks Mound and the plaza may have looked like during Cahokia's height between 700 and 1400 A.D.	Cahokia Mounds Museum	Yes
F10cMonksMound.jpg	Great Rivers Country	Monks Mound, the largest prehistoric earthen mound in the Americas, is one of 70 of the original 120 earthen mounds built by the prehistoric Native Americans who lived at Cahokia. Visitors can climb the staircase to the top of the terraced mound, almost 100 feet high.	Monks Mound	Yes

#### Feature 11

Feature name:

Cahokia Courthouse State Historic Site (Historic)

GPS coordinates:

38.570934,-90.192078

Describe the feature:

The Cahokia Courthouse is located in Cahokia, Illinois, and is a French-Canadian structure built about 1740. It was built as a residence when Illinois was a colony of France. In 1793, the structure was purchased by the U.S. Northwest Territory and became a center of political and legal activity. The structure is historically significant as the oldest courthouse in Illinois and the only one remaining from the state territorial period of 1787-1818. It is architecturally significant as an example of the French Colonial vertical log post on sill construction technique.

In November of 1803, Lewis and Clark arrived in Cahokia with a plan of using Cahokia as their headquarters, but the political climate of the time forced them to move north. A fun fact about the structure is that it was dismantled in 1901, displayed at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair and then reconstructed on its original foundation in 1939. A visitor center is located on the grounds of the Cahokia Courthouse.

Other historic attractions in this area include the Holy Family Log Church, the oldest church west of the Allegheny Mountains and home to the oldest continuous Catholic parish in the United States. Built in 1799, it is one of only five remaining churches built in the French Colonial upright log style. In celebration of the 2018 Illinois Bicentennial, the church was selected by the American Institute of Architects as one of the Illinois 200 Great Places.

Also located in Cahokia is the Jarrot Mansion State Historic Site. The Jarrot Mansion was completed in 1810 for Nicholas Jarrot, a French born entrepreneur and land speculator who also served as a judge and local militia officer. This historic home is one of the oldest masonry structures in Illinois and is notable for its American Federal architectural design rather than the traditional French Colonial style of the area. The home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2001.

The Cahokia Courthouse is available to visitors Thursday through Saturday 9 am to 4 pm. The Holy Family Log Church continues to offer mass and visitors are also welcome for guided tours during the summer season. The Jarrot Mansion is a state historic site and is open Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday 10 am to 6 pm.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Cahokia Courthouse is located on Illinois Route 3 and is 11 miles south of Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site. The mileage from the northern end of the Byway is 377 miles and it is 20.3 miles from the St. Louis Lambert International Airport and Interstate 70. The Courthouse, the Jarrot Mansion and Holy Family Log Church are all signed on Illinois Route 3 and easily found by travelers. The Jarrot Mansion is adjacent to the church and a GRR paddlewheel interpretive kiosk is located in the parking lot between the two structures.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

There is parking at the Cahokia Courthouse as well as at the Jarrot Mansion and Holy Family Log Church. Visitors could walk the few blocks between the two with no difficulty. The Metro-East Levee Trail is a 7.6-mile bike/pedestrian trail in the Cahokia area and there is no difficulty involved.



File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F11aCahokiaCourthouse.jpg	Great Rivers Country	A sign sits in front of Cahokia Courthouse that describes the courthouse as one of the region's oldest buildings and its unusual, upright, hewn log construction. Called post-on-sill, this technique was characteristic of French Colonial era timber construction.	Cahokia Courthouse	Yes
F11bCahokiaCourthouse.jpg	Great Rivers Country	Cahokia Courthouse, built using upright, hewn logs typical of French Colonial timber construction, was a courthouse from 1790-1814 and is now home to a museum.	Cahokia Courthouse	Yes
F11cCahokiaCourthouseExhibit.jpg	Great Rivers Country	An exhibit found inside Cahokia Courthouse describes the rise of the U.S. Postal Service as settlers spread across North America.	Cahokia Courthouse Exhibit	Yes

## Feature 12

Feature name:

Fort de Chartres State Historic Site (Historic)

GPS coordinates:

38.084720,-90.158216

Describe the feature:

Located in Prairie du Rocher, this well preserved 18th century stone fort was one of the primary French settlements along the Mississippi River, marking the heart of French Colonial Illinois history. First built in 1720 of wood, and later rebuilt in stone, it is home to the oldest existing masonry building in Illinois. The year 2020 marks the 300th anniversary of the first Fort de Chartres and celebrations have been planned. The massive stone Fort seen today was originally constructed by the French in 1753 and became the nucleus of French civil and military government in the area, as well as an economic center. In 1763, France ceded much of its territory in North America, including what is now Illinois, to Great Britain. British troops occupied the fort from 1765 to 1772 when the Mississippi River caused a collapse of the south wall and the buildings fell into ruin.

On December 4, 1803, explorer William Clark and several recruits passed by Fort de Chartres on their expedition. In his journal, Clark noted the stone ruins of the Fort. The party continued on to meet Meriwether Lewis in Cahokia.

Using the foundation of the original wooden building, a visitor center was erected and houses exhibits on the history of the fort and its French inhabitants. Also on the grounds is an operating bake oven, a garden shed built in the post on sill construction of the time, and a kitchen garden with raised beds of produce that would have been grown in 18th century Illinois. The site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

There is currently a major campaign to raise funding for the continued repair and maintenance of this amazing historic structure so that visitors can continue to enjoy it for many years to come.

Fort de Chartres State Historic Site is open to visitors Thursday through Sunday 9 am to 5 pm. From April through November, numerous events are held at the fort celebrating the area's French heritage. The annual two-day Rendezvous in June is the largest gathering of its kind anywhere in the Midwest and attracts thousands of visitors. There is also a Winter Rendezvous and Woodswalk which is a weekend full of demonstrations on early Illinois life.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

The attraction is located 11 miles off Illinois Route 3, on Illinois Route 155, a Great River Road Exploration Route. There is a GRR sign located on Illinois Route 3 in Ruma, directing visitors to Fort de Chartres. Several miles south, there is an additional sign in Ellis Grove directing visitors to the fort. A large Mississippi River Parkway Commission/GRR interpretive sign is located along Illinois Route 3 in this area and is visible from the highway.

Fort de Chartres is located 39 miles south of the Cahokia Courthouse and is 377 miles from the north end of the Byway. Visitors flying into St. Louis Lambert International Airport can reach the fort in 70 minutes. There is a large parking lot to accommodate both vehicles and buses.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

The area is easily walked as the area is flat. A bicyclist could safely reach the fort using country roads.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F12aStoneGatehouse.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The reconstructed stone gatehouse of the last of three French forts named "de Chartres" built here, stands tall along with a portion of the 15-foot walls. Originally erected in the 1750s it was used by the French, followed by the British, until 1772. The gate was rebuilt in the 1920s.	Stone Gatehouse	Yes
F12bFortDeChartresMuseum.jpg	Great Rivers Country	A sign inside the Fort de Chartres museum which welcomes visitors to Fort de Chartres and the Illinois French Colony in English and French. Built on the foundation of an original fort building, the museum depicts French life at Fort de Chartres.	Fort de Chartres Museum	Yes
F12cFortDeChartresOldestBuilding.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The restored powder magazine at Fort de Chartres is thought to be the oldest standing building in Illinois.	Fort de Chartres Oldest Building	Yes

### Feature 13

Feature name:  
Pierre Menard Home State Historic Site (Historic)

GPS coordinates:  
37.961380,-89.906522

#### Describe the feature:

Pierre Menard (1766-1844) was the presiding officer of the Illinois Territorial Legislature and from 1818 to 1822, and served as the first lieutenant governor of Illinois. His two-story 1815 home is located in Ellis Grove, Illinois, and overlooks the Mississippi River. It is considered an unusually fine example of French Creole architecture. The home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 and has also been designated a National Historic Landmark. The ground level contains a small museum and an audiovisual room and the second, or principal, floor includes the living spaces used by the Menard family. Visitors can experience the lifestyle of an affluent businessman and gentleman farmer in early 19th century Illinois. The staff offers interpretation of the rooms in the mansion and of Menard related artifacts. They also interpret the outbuildings and the historic herb and vegetable garden located near the kitchen. The graves of many of Illinois' earliest pioneers are located on nearby Garrison Hill, including Pierre Menard, his two wives and other family members.

A mile from the Pierre Menard Home is Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site which preserves the earthen remains of Fort Kaskaskia, constructed by the French about 1759 to defend the town of Kaskaskia. Founded in 1703, the town was for more than a century the region's principal commercial center and served as the first state capital of Illinois from 1818 to 1820. The historic site is situated on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and offers scenic views of the American Bottoms, the confluence of the Mississippi and Kaskaskia rivers, as well as the site of the original town of Kaskaskia.

The French originally had control of Fort Kaskaskia, but released it to the United States at the end of the Revolutionary War. The U.S. Army later took ownership of the fort and renovated it for their use. Eleven soldiers from here were enlisted in the Corps of Discovery when Lewis and Clark passed through here in 1803. The fort was last used during the War of 1812 as shelter from raids by Native Americans allied with Great Britain. Today the parapets and dry moat of Fort Kaskaskia are still visible.

The Pierre Menard home is open to the public and staffed Wednesday through Sunday 9 am to 5 pm. During the winter season, tours are by appointment only. Fort Kaskaskia is open to visitors daily 8 am to 4 pm.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

#### Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

The Pierre Menard Home State Historic Site is located just off Illinois Route 3 in Ellis Grove, Illinois, and is 21 miles from Fort de Chartres. The site is signed on Illinois Route 3 and there is a Mississippi River Parkway Commission/GRR interpretive sign located in Ellis Grove. From the site of the previous feature of Fort de Chartres, visitors can follow a well signed route through the country to rejoin Illinois Route 3 in this area. The distance from the north end of the Byway is 417 miles.

Fort Kaskaskia is located on Illinois Route 3 and is just 1 mile from the Pierre Menard Home. The fort is signed on Illinois Route 3 and is easily found by travelers. There is a GRR paddlewheel interpretive kiosk located at the fort. Both sites are located 68 miles from the St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

Along the Great River Road, travelers will find a signed auto tour route called the Kaskaskia-Cahokia Trail (KCT). KCT was Illinois' first road and was used by Native American tribes beginning around 11,000 B.C. The road traverses for 60 miles along the eastern edge of the state with Cahokia and Kaskaskia serving as the trail bookends. Native American migrations created the trail for economic trade, government, social and religious purposes. Over time, these first inhabitants built large civilizations with mound cities along the trail. Their use of the trace continued into American historic periods, and they introduced the route to the first French explorers and colonists in the late 1600s.

#### If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Both locations have ample parking, including for recreational vehicles and buses. At the Pierre Menard Home, the living quarters on the principal floor are accessible to persons with disabilities, but rooms on the ground level are not. The Kaskaskia River Confluence Trail is a peaceful recreation trail that begins near Ellis Grove, providing access to the shoreline at the confluence of the Kaskaskia and Mississippi rivers. There is no difficulty involved.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F13aPierreMenardHome.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The Pierre Menard Home, built in the Creole style, is characterized by gable ends and a galerie along the front façade. Also visible is the historic herb and vegetable garden.	Pierre Menard Home	Yes
F13bPierreMenardHome.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The Pierre Menard Home is an example of the Southern French Colonial or Creole style and is characterized by the galerie, or porch, that runs along the front façade. Pierre Menard was the first lieutenant governor of Illinois.	Pierre Menard Home	Yes
F13cStoneSpringhouse.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The stone springhouse, on the grounds of the Pierre Menard Home, would have originally been used to keep the spring water clear of fallen leaves and animals. The building would also have been used for refrigeration, as the spring would keep the structure a constantly cool temperature throughout the year.	Stone Springhouse	Yes

### Feature 14

Feature name:  
Popeye the Sailor Man (Cultural)

GPS coordinates:  
37.905226,-89.834004

#### Describe the feature:

A cultural asset of the Byway, the small riverfront city of Chester is perched on the bluffs above the Mississippi River and has built on the theme of being home to cartoon character Popeye the Sailor Man (strong to the finish 'cause he eats his spinach) created by Chester resident Elzie C. Segar. There is a Popeye & Friends Character Trail that currently consists of

13 granite statues of Popeye characters, with a new statue unveiled each year at the annual Popeye Picnic celebration. The main Popeye statue, located at the riverfront Chester Welcome Center, is 6 feet tall and has been overlooking the Mississippi River in Segar Park for more than 30 years. Chester is also home to the only Popeye shop and museum in the world. Over the years, Popeye has also appeared in comic books, television cartoons, video games, hundreds of advertisements, peripheral products ranging from spinach to candy cigarettes, and the 1980 action film starring Robin Williams as Popeye. In 2002, TV Guide ranked Popeye number 20 on its "50 Greatest Cartoon Characters of All Time."

The Chester Visitor Center is staffed by volunteers Monday through Friday 9 am to 4 pm. However, the park and Character Trail is available to visitors anytime.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Chester is located along Illinois Route 3 and is 9 miles from Fort Kaskaskia. You can find Chester 425 miles from the northern border of the Byway and 76 miles from the St. Louis Lambert International Airport. The Chester Welcome Center is located on the Great River Road and there is a sign directing visitors to Popeye.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Parking is available at Segar Park and the Character Trail is easily walkable in this small town. The Mississippi River Trail is a 61-mile trail from Dupo to Chester. In addition, the Illinois leg of the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail travels through Chester and then loops south toward Murphysboro before it goes into Missouri. These trails are not considered difficult.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F14aPopeyeCharacterTrail.JPG	Great Rivers Country	Chester is home to Popeye creator Elzie Segar. To celebrate its status as the home of Popeye, Chester has created the Popeye Character Trail, which includes stone statues of various Popeye characters, including this one of Poopdeck Pappy.	Popeye Character Trail	Yes
F14bChesterWelcomeCenter.JPG	Great Rivers Country	The first statue on the Popeye Character Trail is Popeye, located at the Chester Welcome Center. The Welcome Center is located next to the Chester Bridge, has a viewing deck overlooking the Mississippi River, and offers visitors information on the Popeye Character Trail and the Great River Road.	Chester Welcome Center	Yes
F14cPopeyeStatue.jpg	Great Rivers Country	A bronze statue of Popeye the Sailor Man sits in Segar Park, named after Popeye creator Elzie Segar. For 30 years the statue has stood overlooking the Mississippi River, serving as a gateway to Segar's hometown. It is one of many statues on the Popeye Character Trail.	Popeye Statue	Yes

#### Feature 15

Feature name:

Thebes Courthouse (Historic)

GPS coordinates:

37.219558,-89.459829

Describe the feature:

The historic Thebes Courthouse in Thebes, Illinois, is a southern style Greek Revival building and was completed in 1848. Standing for more than 170 years, it is situated on a high Mississippi River bluff and has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972. The courthouse was visited by Abraham Lincoln and its jail held Dred Scott, the former slave whose lawsuit demanding freedom was denied by the U.S. Supreme Court in the run-up to the Civil War. Famed local Civil War General John A. Logan argued cases in its second-floor courtroom. The building has recently undergone a major renovation by local donors and is open to the public. The Thebes Historical Society's mission is to preserve and maintain this historical courthouse including any images, historical artifacts, books and documents relating to the courthouse. The society hosts an annual Living History Day with reenactors portraying court cases of the 1800s.

The courthouse is currently staffed by volunteers and is open Saturday 10 am to 1 pm and Sunday 1 pm to 3 pm.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Thebes is located off Illinois Route 3 and is 63 miles from Chester, Illinois. The distance from the northern end of the Byway is 462 miles and is 150 miles from the St. Louis Lambert International Airport. There is a Great River Road pilot's wheel sign located on Illinois Route 3 with an arrow pointing to Thebes, and in Thebes there is signage pointing to the courthouse.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

The small town of Thebes is easily walkable. There is not an official bike path in this area.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F15aThebesCourthours.jpg	Great Rivers Country	Thebes Courthouse has been standing on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River for more than 170 years. It was built of local sandstone in the Southern Greek Revival style and features a four pillar, white two-story porch on the back. It served as the Alexander County seat for 15 years.	Thebes Courthouse	Yes
F15bThebesCourthouse.jpg	Great Rivers Country	Thebes Courthouse overlooks the Mississippi River and offers sweeping views of the waterway. In front of the courthouse is a hand-hewn pier block that was once part of the Mississippi River Bridge at Thebes, which was built in 1905.	Thebes Courthouse	Yes

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F15cThebesCourthouse.jpg	Great Rivers Country	Thebes Courthouse sits atop the bluff with the Mississippi River in the background. A sign in front describes the imprisonment of Dred Scott, a fugitive slave, whose fight for freedom went to the U.S. Supreme Court.	Thebes Courthouse	Yes

#### Feature 16

Feature name:  
U.S. Custom House Museum (Historic)

GPS coordinates:  
37.002726,-89.172123

Describe the feature:

The U.S. Custom House, also known as "Old Custom House" is a historic three-story government building in downtown Cairo, Illinois. Building of the structure began in 1869 and was completed in 1872. In 1973, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places, and in 2018 it was selected as one of the Illinois 200 Great Places by the Illinois chapter of the American Institute of Architects. When it was completed in 1872, the Italianate style was a rarity among federal buildings. The Old Custom House has served as a customs house, post office and courthouse. It is one of the few surviving U.S. Custom houses as well as one of the largest federal buildings of its era in the Mid-Mississippi Valley. The original purpose of the structure was to house offices to collect duties and tariffs on international imports which had not been offloaded before they reached Cairo. The building now serves as a museum and artifacts on display include a Civil War-era desk used by General Ulysses S. Grant while he was in Cairo. The museum offers exhibits on Cairo's pivotal role in the Civil War and includes items from the USS Cairo, a gunboat built in the local shipyards which was sunk by a Confederate torpedo in 1862 and raised in 1964.

In addition to the historic U.S. Custom House, Cairo is home to the historic and stunning Cairo Public Library/A. B. Safford Memorial Building. Open to the public, the library contains an extensive collection of research documents relating to the city's role in the Union Army's control of the Western Theater in the Civil War.

The historic Magnolia Manor mansion is open to the public as a Victorian period house museum.

The Great River Road in Illinois National Scenic Byway ends in Cairo where the Mississippi and Ohio rivers meet. This harbor played a critical role during the Civil War, supplying the Western Campaign with soldiers and supplies. Currently, the state of Illinois is proposing to spend 40 million dollars on a river port terminal at Cairo as part of the Rebuild Illinois initiative. The proposal is currently being considered by the Illinois State Legislature.

The Custom House is available to visitors Tuesday through Friday 10 am to Noon and 1 pm to 4pm. The Cairo Public Library is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Magnolia Manor is open daily 9 am to 4:30 pm and Sunday 1pm to 4:30 pm.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/15/2020 End date: 5/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Cairo is 476 miles south of East Dubuque, Illinois, the northern end of the Byway and 24 miles from the previous feature, the Thebes Courthouse. It is 183 miles from the St. Louis Lambert International Airport and 28 miles from a regional airport located in Paducah, Kentucky. There is a Mississippi River Parkway Commission/GRR interpretive sign at the museum and a GRR paddlewheel interpretive kiosk marking the end of the Byway at Fort Defiance Park, where the Great River Road meets the Ohio River.

The Custom House is located on U.S. Highway Route 51 which is the main street through the town. It is signed and easily found by visitors. The Cairo Public Library is located on the same route and is also easily identifiable. To reach Magnolia Manor, a visitor would take the Cairo Exploration Route toward the river and the mansion is located on what is called Millionaire's Row.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Cairo is small and visitors can easily walk to the U.S. Custom House Museum and other attractions. Two bike and pedestrian trails are in the area: the 55.3-mile Tunnel Hill State Trail and the 3-mile George Rogers Clark Discovery Trail. Neither are difficult.

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
F16aUSCustomHouse.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The U.S. Custom House was built in 1872 and served as a port of entry into the country. Duties and tariffs on international imports were collected. It was constructed in the Italianate style with a bracketed cornice and rounded windows.	US Custom House	Yes
F16bABSaffordMemorialBuilding.jpg	Great Rivers Country	The A.B. Safford Memorial Building, which houses the Cairo Public Library, was built as a monument to one of Cairo's civic-minded residents. Two niches flank the door to the red brick, Queen Anne structure, containing statues of Clio, the Greek muse of history, and Concordia, the Roman goddess of peace.	AB Safford Memorial Building	Yes

#### 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.

5-9: Describe the materials you use to tell your byway story and interpret its Intrinsic Qualities, (e.g., maps, brochures, DVDs, etc.) (Limit 150 words.)

Brochures available include:

Great River Road in Illinois National Scenic Byway Visitor Guide is available in English at all Great River Road Interpretive Centers

Great River Road in Illinois National Scenic Byway Itineraries in English, Japanese, German and Chinese

Great River Road in Illinois National Scenic Byway Map in English, German and Spanish

Great River Road in Illinois National Scenic Byway Culinary Guide

Great River Road in Illinois National Scenic Byway Activity and Agriculture Guide

10-State Great River Road in Illinois National Scenic Byway Driving Map

10-State Great River Road National Scenic Byway Mobile App

A video on the Great River Road in Illinois is available for viewing online at [greatriverroad-illinois.com](http://greatriverroad-illinois.com)

5-10: Provide the website(s) and/or social media sites where travelers and media can find information specific to your byway (other than [byways.org](http://byways.org)). Separate URLs with a semi-colon.

Primary Website - [greatriverroad-illinois.com](http://greatriverroad-illinois.com)

Japanese Website - [greatriverroad-illinois.jp](http://greatriverroad-illinois.jp)

German Website - [greatriverroad-illinois.de](http://greatriverroad-illinois.de)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ILGreatRiverRoad/>  
@ILGreatRiverRoad

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ILGreatRiverRd>  
@ILGreatRiverRd

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ilgreatriverroad/>  
@ilgreatriverroad

Social Media Hashtags:  
#GRRIL  
#greatriverroadtrip

## Section 6

### 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.

6-1: 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.)

Each mayor or village president and each county board were directly involved in the planning and development of the original Corridor Management Plan (CMP) as well as the 2012 update. Other statewide organizations and agencies involved included convention and visitors bureaus, the Illinois Office of Tourism, the Illinois Department of Transportation, county engineers, economic development committees, chambers of commerce and tourism coordinators and state legislators. During the preparation of the original CMP, many public meetings were advertised in local publications and held along the Byway. In addition, Byway organizers, including Illinois Department of Transportation staff, held separate meetings with the individual local and state officials to explain the program and to determine if there were questions or concerns that needed to be addressed. During the planning process for the CMP update, there were four regional public meetings held throughout the corridor and all the same entities were invited to participate.

6-2: Identify any significant objections to the CMP and describe actions taken to resolve them. (Limit 150 words.)

In the original process of developing the CMP, the local governments and residents of Pike and Calhoun counties were very much opposed to participating due to their fear of government involvement in their daily lives. Several meetings with public officials were held as well as local public meetings, but strong objections remained so the decision was made to exclude them with the hope that they would reconsider in the future. Subsequently, local zoning issues have caused the de-designation of small portions of the 557-mile Byway in the Metro-East St. Louis area and within the city limits of Evansville.

6-3: Describe how you have addressed the control of outdoor advertising with your stakeholders. (Limit 150 words.)

In the public involvement process for both the original CMP and the update, it was made clear that designation requires that no new, off-premise outdoor advertising be erected on Federal Aid Primary Routes or National Highway System Routes that are part of a National Scenic Byway. Most local governments accepted and understood the requirement, but there were some that did not. In Pike and Calhoun counties, that was one of several obstacles concerning state and federal government involvement that could not be overcome. The Illinois Department of Transportation, Operations Division, is very active in the control of outdoor advertising and carefully investigates each new application for outdoor advertising to determine if the requested location is along a National Scenic Byway.

6-4: 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.)

In the process of developing this application for All-American Road designation, the Great River Road has worked with the convention and visitors bureaus along the Byway, the Illinois Office of Tourism and the Illinois Department of Transportation. The application has also been discussed with local legislators and the many international agencies that are involved in the promotion of the Great River Road in Illinois. There have been no objections to the Great River Road in Illinois applying to become an All-American Road. All parties consider this special designation to be an honor and see it as a positive step in bringing more recognition to the Byway.

6-5: 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 Illinois Department of Transportation has responsibility for the Great River Road and supports this application for All-American Road designation. The Great River Road does not travel through the Shawnee National Forest, but it is adjacent to it. The National Forest management staff has expressed their support.

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

The Great River Road Scenic Byway organization is part of the Great Rivers Country tourism office. The office is open Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5 pm. The President and CEO and the office staff are in contact with all convention and visitors bureaus along the Byway and are available to them as well as the mayors and county boards of cities and counties that make up the Great River Road route. The Byway organization, along with the Great Rivers Country office, will continue working directly with all local officials and tourism agencies to assure ongoing community involvement and support for the Byway efforts.

**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.

6-7: **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](#).

6-7GreatRiverRoadIL.pdf

Before uploading, rename the file to begin with 6-7. For example, rename your file RiverBend.pdf to 6-7RiverBend.pdf.

6-8: **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.

6-8GreatRiverRoadIL.pdf

Before uploading, rename the file to begin with 6-8. For example, rename your file RiverBend.pdf to 6-8RiverBend.pdf.

**CMP Information:**

6-9: Name of CMP: Great River Road in Illinois National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan – 2000; The Great River Road in Illinois National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan Update 2012; Great River Road in Illinois Corridor Management Plan 2020 Addendum

6-10: Date CMP was adopted: 4/14/2020

6-11: Does your State/Indian tribe/Federal land management agency require that CMPs be regularly updated to reflect current policies?

No If yes, how often?

If no, in a few concise bullet points, describe your byway priorities for the next five (5) years. (Limit 150 words.)

Expand domestic and international marketing and promotion of the Byway

Attend domestic and international travel and trade shows to promote visitation to the Byway

Continue print advertisement both domestically and internationally

Continue Great River Road familiarization tours to promote international visitation to the Byway

Continue to seek funding opportunities to maintain the Byway's intrinsic features

Continue to seek opportunities to create new and/or restore Byway attractions

6-12: Your byway's CMP must address each of the following points. Using the table below, identify the principal pages in your document that discuss each point.

Item that the CMP Addresses	Discussed on Page Number(s)
1. A map identifying the corridor boundaries, location, intrinsic qualities, and land uses in the corridor.	V-VII, 68
2. An assessment of the intrinsic qualities and their "context" (the areas surrounding them).	15-25, 76-81
3. A strategy for maintaining and enhancing each of those intrinsic qualities.	31-43, 73-80
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.	53-60, 75
5. A strategy of how existing development might be enhanced and new development accommodated to preserve the intrinsic qualities of your byway.	27-29, 86-91
6. A plan for on-going public participation.	45-49
7. A general review of the road's safety record to locate hazards and poor design, and identify possible corrections.	43, 81-85
8. A plan to accommodate commercial traffic while ensuring the safety of sightseers in smaller vehicles, as well as bicyclists, joggers, and pedestrians.	41-43, 81-85
9. A listing and discussion of efforts to minimize anomalous intrusions on the visitor's experience of the byway.	12-13, 81-85
10. Documentation of compliance with all existing local, state, and federal laws about the control of outdoor advertising.	36, 115
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.	12, 81-85

12. Plans of how the byway will be marketed and publicized.	45-49, 89-91
13. Any proposals for modifying the roadway, including an evaluation about design standards and how proposed changes may affect the byway's intrinsic qualities.	34-36, 81-85
14. A description of what you plan to do to explain and interpret your byway's significant resources to visitors.	36-43, 86-91
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.	104-107
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 of visitors induced by the byway's designation as an All-American Road.	39-41, 89-91, 104-107
17. A plan for addressing multi-lingual information needs.	40, 76, 98, 104-107
18. A demonstration of the extent to which enforcement mechanisms are being implemented in accordance with the corridor management plan.	36, 107

### Byway Organization

6-13: Describe the structure of any byway organization that currently exists. (Limit 100 words.)

The Great River Road in Illinois is overseen and its business is conducted by Western Illinois Tourism Development, Inc. dba Great Rivers Country. A Great Rivers Country Board is in place and is represented by visitors bureaus along the Byway.

6-14: Describe plans to strengthen the organization over the next five years. (Limit 100 words.)

The Great River Road in Illinois has a strong relationship with the Illinois Office of Tourism and works closely with their office in developing and executing tourism-based strategies to encourage both domestic and international visitation to the Byway. The Byway organization will continue this relationship, as well as their relationship with the Illinois Department of Transportation with the hope of expanding programs that will benefit the Byway. The greatest assets to any Byway organization includes local tourism agencies and visitor attractions along the road, and these organizations will also be involved in planning for the future of the Great River Road in Illinois.

6-15: 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.)

The Great Rivers Country office will continue to maintain relationships with the convention and visitors bureaus, tourist information centers, state historic sites and other attractions in order to maintain cooperative working relationships and be made aware of their needs. If and when funding becomes available at the state or federal level, the Byway organization will work closely with all parties on potential projects to enhance the Intrinsic Qualities of the Byway. The Byway organization will also continue to work closely with the Illinois Department of Transportation to ensure that all visitor signage is maintained so that it is attractive and available to the visitor.

### 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

##### 7-1: Signatory for State, Indian Tribe, or Federal Land Management Agency

Name:	Todd Smith	Agency:	Illinois Department of Transportation	Title:	Byway Coordinator
Work Email:	Todd.A.Smith@illinois.gov	Work Phone:	217-785-8643		

##### 7-2: Principal Point of Contact for Byway

Name:	Roger Carmack	Agency:	Great Rivers Country	Title:	President & CEO
Work Email:	rcarmack@macomb.com	Work Phone:	309-837-7460		

##### 7-3: Nomination Form Preparer

Name:	Melissa Kribs and Elisha Szyjka	Agency:	Great Rivers Country	Title:	Retired Illinois State Coordinator; Great Rivers Country Staff
Work Email:	melissakribs@gmail.com	Work Phone:	314-660-8589; 309-837-7460		

### Signatory Review

**Status:** submitted

**Comments:**





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