

= Whitefish Bay National Forest Scenic Byway =

The Whitefish Bay National Forest Scenic Byway is a National Forest Scenic Byway that runs along Whitefish Bay in the Hiawatha National Forest in the U.S. state of Michigan . The byway mostly follows Federal Forest Highway 42 (FFH 42) through Chippewa County in the Upper Peninsula . As a forest highway , it is maintained jointly by the Chippewa County Road Commission (CCRC) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) . The route of the byway first existed as an earth road by the 1930s ; it was improved into a gravel road in the 1940s and paved between the 1950s and the 1980s . The byway designation was created in 1989 .

= = Route description = =

The byway starts at an intersection with M @-@ 123 south of Paradise in the Hiawatha National Forest where it runs eastward along Lake Superior Shoreline Road through birch forests . The roadway runs parallel to the North Country Trail , a hiking trail that spans several northern U.S. states ; the trail crosses the road near Naomikong Creek . After about three miles (4 @.@ 8 km) , the road comes to the shores of Tahquamenon Bay , part of the larger Whitefish Bay . The byway follows the shoreline running near sandy beaches at the edge of the forest . Near Naomikong Point , the roadway turns inland for about three miles (4 @.@ 8 km) . Along this section , Lake Superior Shoreline Road , which bears the FFH 3150 designation , ends at the intersection with Lakeshore Road . East of here , the byway transitions from FFH 3150 to follow FFH 42 easterly . FFH 42 runs along the shoreline providing access to two campgrounds at Monocle Lake and Bay View as well as picnic areas . The road also provides access to the Point Iroquois Lighthouse which is open for tours . The lighthouse was built in 1870 and offers visitors a view of the Canadian shore at the top of its spiral staircase . After passing through the Point Iroquois area , FFH 42 turns southward to follow the shore line on Iroquois Road , terminating at the national forest boundary west of Brimley . The FFH 42 number is not signed along the roadway .

= = History = =

The roadway is part of the Forest Highway System that is funded and administered by the USFS and the Federal Highway Administration ; the system was created by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1921 . An earthen roadway was present through the area by 1936 . In the beginning of 1937 , the easternmost section around Point Iroquois was improved to a gravel road . Two years later , the westernmost section from Naomikong Point to the junction with M @-@ 123 was improved to gravel . The entire road surface was improved to gravel by 1945 . Paving started on the road in the mid @-@ 1950s on the eastern end .

The section through the Naomikong Point area was built starting in 1967 by the Michigan State Highway Department under contract to the USFS . The road , at the time , was intended to be part of a longer scenic highway that would connect a proposed lakeshore road through the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore with roads running along Whitefish Bay and the St. Marys River south of Sault Ste . Marie . The western end was realigned and paved in the late 1970s , moving the roadway closer to Tahquamenon Bay west of Naomikong Point . The former roadway was removed in the process . The last section was paved in 1987 between the two paved sections at Naomikong and Iroquois points . The National Forest Scenic Byway designation was granted on February 8 , 1989 . The roadway is maintained by the CCRC along with the USFS .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire byway is in Chippewa County .