

= River Road National Scenic Byway =

The River Road National Scenic Byway (also called the River Road National Forest Scenic Byway) is a National Scenic Byway and National Forest Scenic Byway in the US state of Michigan . This 23 1/2 @-@ mile @-@ long (37 @.@ 8 km) byway follows M @-@ 65 and River Road ; it extends eastward into the Huron National Forest and ends in the historic community of Oscoda near Lake Huron . The road parallels the historic Au Sable River (French : Rivière aux Sable , " River of Sand ") which has historically been a major transportation route for floating Michigan ' s giant white pine from the forest to the saw mill towns on Lake Huron . Along its course , the roadway offers access to several recreational areas as well as the local scenery . The section of the River Road that follows M @-@ 65 was added to the State Trunkline Highway System in the 1930s . The River Road was given National Forest Scenic Byway status in 1988 , and National Scenic Byway status in 2005 .

= = Route description = =

The scenic byway starts at the intersection of M @-@ 65 and Rollways Road and runs eastward along M @-@ 65 near Loud Dam Pond . The road runs through the Huron National Forest and along the Five Channels Dam Pond to a junction with River Road . There , the byway leaves M @-@ 65 to follow River Road eastward along the south bank of the Au Sable River . The road passes the Canoer 's Memorial , the Kiwanis Monument and the Lumberman 's Monument near Cooke Dam Pond . River Road runs away from the river , cutting across forest land near a bend in the Au Sable . Near the Old Orchard Park , the byway follows the southern shore of Foote Dam Pond . From here east , the roadway continues along the south bank of the river , across from Oscoda @-@ Wurtsmith Airport , as it runs into Oscoda . The eastern terminus of the byway is at a junction with US 23 in town , a few blocks from Lake Huron . The segment of the byway that follows M @-@ 65 is maintained by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) , while River Road is under the jurisdiction of the Iosco County Road Commission (ICRC) .

= = Recreational opportunities = =

Byway travelers will find abundant , year @-@ round recreation opportunities , with many trails for hiking and cross @-@ country skiing . Camping , fishing , and wildlife viewing are popular activities along the byway . Visitors can enjoy the forest and vistas from the scenic overlooks along the route . Other sites along the byway include the Lumberman 's Monument and its visitors ' center which are dedicated to telling the story of Michigan 's lumber industry in the 19th century . The Largo Springs Interpretive Site presents visitors with exhibitions on natural springs and boardwalks along the river .

= = History = =

The section of the byway that follows M @-@ 65 was first added to the state highway system in the mid @-@ 1930s . On December 20 , 1988 , the National Forest Service designated the River Road National Forest Scenic Byway in Iosco County . A second designation was added on September 22 , 2005 , when the Federal Highway Administration listed the roadway as the River Road National Scenic Byway .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire byway is in Iosco County .