



*Helping Communities face the challenge and impacts of growth while maintaining community character and a sense of place.*

## Scenic Roads and Scenic Byways

Scenic roads and scenic byways have unique, cultural, or scenic features that are worthy of note and preservation. They are designated by federal, state, or local authorities and each uses specific goals, criteria, and ranking systems to classify, preserve, and protect these roads. Scenic roads attract visitors every year and are as diverse as the landscapes they traverse.

### National Scenic Byways Program

- 🏡 **Jurisdiction** ~ US Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration
- 🏡 **Established** ~ 1991
- 🏡 **Criteria** ~ to be designated a National Scenic Byway, a road must possess regionally significant historic, cultural, natural, scenic, recreational, and/or archaeological characteristics.
- 🏡 **Number of designated roads** ~ 99
- 🏡 **Within NH** ~ NH has 3 designated National Scenic Byways: the Connecticut River Byway, Kancamagus Scenic Byway, and White Mountain Trail.
- 🏡 **Funding** ~ funding is available for state & tribal scenic byway programs, corridor management plans, safety improvements, byway facilities, access to recreation, resource protection, interpretive information, and marketing.  
[www.bywaysonline.org/grants/](http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/)
- 🏡 **Learn more** ~ <http://www.bywaysonline.org/>

### All American Roads

- 🏡 **Jurisdiction** ~ US Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration
- 🏡 **Established** ~ 2000
- 🏡 **Criteria** ~ to be designated an All American Road, a road must possess multiple, nationally significant, one-of-a-kind features. It must also be considered a destination onto itself and provide an exceptional travel experience.
- 🏡 **Number of designated roads** ~ 27
- 🏡 **Within NH** ~ there are no All American Roads in NH. The Acadia Byway, located within Acadia National Park, ME, is the only All American Road in New England.
- 🏡 **Funding** ~ funding is available for state & tribal scenic byway programs, corridor management plans, safety improvements, byway facilities, access to recreation, resource protection, interpretive information, and marketing.  
[www.bywaysonline.org/grants/](http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/)
- 🏡 **Learn more** ~ <http://www.byways.org/>

iTRaC is the Nashua Regional Planning Commission's new approach to community planning that focuses on integrating transportation, land use and environmental planning. The program was developed to assist communities in dealing with the challenges of growth in a coordinated way that sustains community character and a sense of place.



#### Nashua Regional Planning Commission

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**Connecticut River Byway, NH**  
Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge  
Photo: William H. Johnson



**White Mountain Trail**  
Artists' Bluff  
Photo: Dick Hamilton

## NH Scenic & Cultural Byways

- 🏡 **Jurisdiction** ~ NH Office of Energy & Planning and the Scenic & Cultural Byways Council, an advisory board appointed by the governor.
- 🏡 **Established** ~ under RSA 238:19
- 🏡 **Criteria** ~ the Council designates scenic and cultural byways on the basis of its natural and cultural features, including panoramic views, notable geological features, agricultural land, cottage industries, and exemplary architecture. The road must also provide access to these features as well as adjoining conservation lands and recreational opportunities.
- 🏡 **Regulations** ~ the only regulation attached to a Scenic & Cultural Byways designation is “no new billboards.” See RSA 238:24 for more info.
- 🏡 **Number of designated roads** ~ 17
- 🏡 **Within the Nashua Region** ~ there are no designated Scenic & Cultural Byways in the Nashua Region.
- 🏡 **Funding** ~ competitive grants are available through the Federal Highway Administration’s Scenic Byways Program. Contact NH OEP for details.
- 🏡 **Learn more** ~ [www.nh.gov/oep/programs/SCBP/index.htm](http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/SCBP/index.htm)

## NH Scenic Roads

- 🏡 **Jurisdiction** ~ individual municipalities
- 🏡 **Established** ~ under RSA 231:157 & 231:158
- 🏡 **Criteria** ~ Any road other than a Class I or II Highway, or a road already designated under the state or federal byway programs, may be designated a Scenic Road. The filing of a petition with signatures of 10 registered town voters or property owners abutting the proposed scenic road are necessary to bring the issue to vote at a regular town meeting.
- 🏡 **Regulations** ~ stone walls and trees over 15 inches in circumference are protected from potential harm incurred during road & utility repair, maintenance, and construction, unless written permission is received from the planning board or other local body following a public hearing. The designation of a scenic road does not affect the rights on a landowner with respect to work on his property, except to the extent that trees have been acquired by the municipality as shade or ornamental trees under RSA 231:139-156, and except that RSA 472:6 limits the removal or alternation of boundary markers including stone walls. A municipality may adopt additional measures to preserve the character of a designated scenic road.
- 🏡 **Designated roads in the Nashua Region** ~ roughly 77
- 🏡 **Funding** ~ no centralized funding source is available.
- 🏡 **Learn more** ~ [www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XX/231/231-158.htm](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XX/231/231-158.htm)

## NRPC’s Great Streets Program



Center Rd, Lyndeborough, 2007 Great Streets Winner

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) began its Great Streets Program in conjunction with the 2nd annual National Community Planning Month, sponsored by the American Planning Association. This month long celebration each October is designed to raise awareness of planning achievements across the country and to recognize the many local projects that make our communities wonderful places to live and work.

Great streets are at the center of vibrant, livable communities. They balance the many demands of cars, transit, pedestrians, and bicyclists; promote safety among all users; and relate well to their surrounding land uses.

Their design blends with the topography of the area and takes advantage of distinctive natural features. Great streets also encourage human interaction and social activities, which helps them to take on a character of their own. For more information, visit [www.nashuarpc.org/greatstreets](http://www.nashuarpc.org/greatstreets).



Albuquerque Ave, Litchfield  
2007 Great Streets Winner



For more details on this topic or an overview of the entire iTRaC program, visit [www.nashuarpc.org/itrac](http://www.nashuarpc.org/itrac) or contact Camille Pattison, iTRaC Program Manager, at [camillep@nashuarpc.org](mailto:camillep@nashuarpc.org) or 603-883-0366 x14.

Nashua Regional Planning Commission in partnership with the NH Department of Transportation & the NH Office of Energy and Planning.

