



Byway Information Package

Winter 2016



Byway Fact Sheet

Mission Statement It is our mission to promote and protect the natural beauty, recreational potential and outstanding historical resources and traditions of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway for residents, visitors, and future generations.

Byway Vision

It is our vision that the synergy developed through strong partnerships, education and resource advocacy creates a nationally recognized byway that showcases the natural, scenic, recreational, and heritage resources of Sumter County, and that community decisions are based in part on these special values.

Organization History

The organization began as a Community Action Group in March 2009 in partnership with the Sumter County chamber of Commerce with the express purpose of improving the southern entrance to Sumter County, therefore enhancing the visitor experience to the National Cemetery. The Veteran's Memorial Highway was designated soon afterwards, and pursuit of a Florida Scenic Highway designation began. A Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) began meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) District Five Scenic Highways Coordinator in order to pursue the "Scenic" classification for a series of roads within Sumter County that encompass the communities of Webster, Bushnell, Sumterville, Lake Panasoffkee, Carlson, Rutland and the surrounding areas.

Byway Accomplishments

- Published Byway newsletter
- Hosted multiple Antique Appraisal Fairs
- Received 501(c)(3) July 2014
- Participation in various events along the corridor
- Adopt-a-Highway Program, Sumter County
- Active Participation in the long range planning for the Florida Coast to Coast Rail Trail planning effort
- Established Byway website

Corridor Story

The roads that comprise our Byway include a cross section of the natural beauty with which Sumter County is blessed. From south to north, the Byway traverses pastoral farmlands, cattle ranches and horse farms with lush open fields. The corridor then passes through several of the most interesting small country towns in the region, and finally travels through the lush hardwood hammock and floodplain parklands that are part of the Withlacoochee River watershed. This Corridor highlights the scenic view and rich heritage of Sumter County through Byway travel.

Attractions include:

- General James Van Fleet Trail State Park
- Richloam Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- Dade Battlefield Historic State Park
- Florida National Cemetery
- Lake Panasoffkee
- Withlacoochee River
- Half Moon WMA

Contact

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Visit our website at: www.sumterbyway.com



Spend a day in Sumter County!

SCENIC SUMTER HERITAGE BYWAY



It is the mission of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Management Entity to promote and protect the natural beauty, recreational potential and outstanding historical resources and traditions of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway for residents, visitors and future generations. Please help us accomplish this mission by visiting Sumter County's most treasured intrinsic resources found along our Byway.

1. Rutland Park

(6805 W SR 44 - Lake Panasoffkee)

A paved boat ramp allowing access to the Withlacoochee River, picnic tables (with a grill) located along the river under large shade trees, and clean restrooms are available for public use at this County Park in Northwest Sumter County.

2. Marsh Bend Outlet Park

(3100 CR 413 - Lake Panasoffkee)

Located on the Outlet River between Lake Panasoffkee and the Withlacoochee River, this County Park is a prime access point for many types of recreational activities. With many picnic tables and grills, covered pavilions, a paved boat ramp with fishing pier, a hiking trail, a sand volleyball court and clean restrooms, this is the perfect place for a family outing.

3. Historic Pana Vista Lodge

(3417 CR 421 - Lake Panasoffkee)

As a full service fish camp, the Pana Vista Lodge offers boat sales and rentals, a ramp and a tackle shop with licenses, bait, ice and everything you may need for a day of fishing out on the lake. For those who enjoy both boating and camping, the Lodge has cabins, RV hook-ups and primitive camping areas available. Owned and operated by Jim and Eloise Veal, the Lodge has been in the Veal family since the early 20th century. Please call (352) 793-2061 for additional information or visit <http://www.panavistalodge.com/>.

4. Shady Brook Greenway Park

(230 CR 470 N - Lake Panasoffkee)

This County Park facilitates boating access to the SE portion of Lake Panasoffkee and is perfect for small boats, canoes and kayaks because of the sheltered creek where it is located. Amenities include a boat ramp with aluminum access dock, a covered picnic table and grill.

5. Historic Sumter County Courthouse

(209 N Florida Street - Bushnell)

Located in the heart of historic Bushnell, the courthouse is the centerpiece of this traditional town. When an earlier courthouse in Sumterville burned in 1909, Bushnell became the new county seat. The existing courthouse was designed by famed architect William A. Edwards who designed campus buildings for Florida State University and the University of Florida. Construction was completed in 1914.

6. Dade Battlefield Historic State Park

(7200 CR 603 - Bushnell)

Commemorating the battle that started the Second Seminole War in 1835, this 80-acre State Park protects the historic battlefield, and also the natural communities as they existed during the war. The Park's visitor center provides information and displays about the historic battle, as well as a 12 minute video history titled This Land, These Men. Other amenities include restroom facilities, a recreation hall, a playground, a hiking/nature trail and picnic pavilions with covered shelters, electricity and grills. For hours of operation and additional information, please call (352) 793-4781 or visit <http://floridastateparks.org/dadebattlefield/default.cfm>.

7. Florida National Cemetery

(6502 SW 102nd Avenue - Bushnell)

Within the Withlacoochee State Forest, this beautiful cemetery features a Memorial Pathway that is lined with a variety of memorials that honor America's Veterans as commemoration of their service to our nation. With more than 97,000 interments since the cemetery's opening in 1988, this is the fourth such location in Florida established by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and is open daily from sunrise to sunset. For additional information, please call (352) 793-7740 or visit <http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/florida.asp>.

8. Sumter County Farmers Market and Cattle Auction

(524 N Market Boulevard - Webster)

As the oldest and largest market in the state, this eclectic composite of markets covers 40 acres, contains 2,000 stalls and accommodates over 1,200 dealers while attracting thousands of visitors each Monday. Combined with the third largest cattle auction in the state, the flea markets and cattle auctions are a distinctive resource that exemplifies the mercantile nature of small rural towns throughout the region.

9. Richloam Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

(South of SR 50 in SE Sumter County)

As one of seven large tracts of land that make up the Withlacoochee State Forest, the Richloam WMA consists of more than 58,000 acres of pine flatwoods, scattered oak hammocks, bottomland hardwoods, and cypress swamp. Hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing (part of Great Florida Birding Trail), camping, horseback riding, hiking and biking are popular recreational activities here. There are eight miles of shared trails for horseback riding, bicycling, and hiking, and three loop hiking trails ranging in length from nine to fourteen miles. For additional information please visit <http://myfwc.com/viewing/recreation/wmas/cooperative/richloam>.

10. Florida Bass Conservation Center

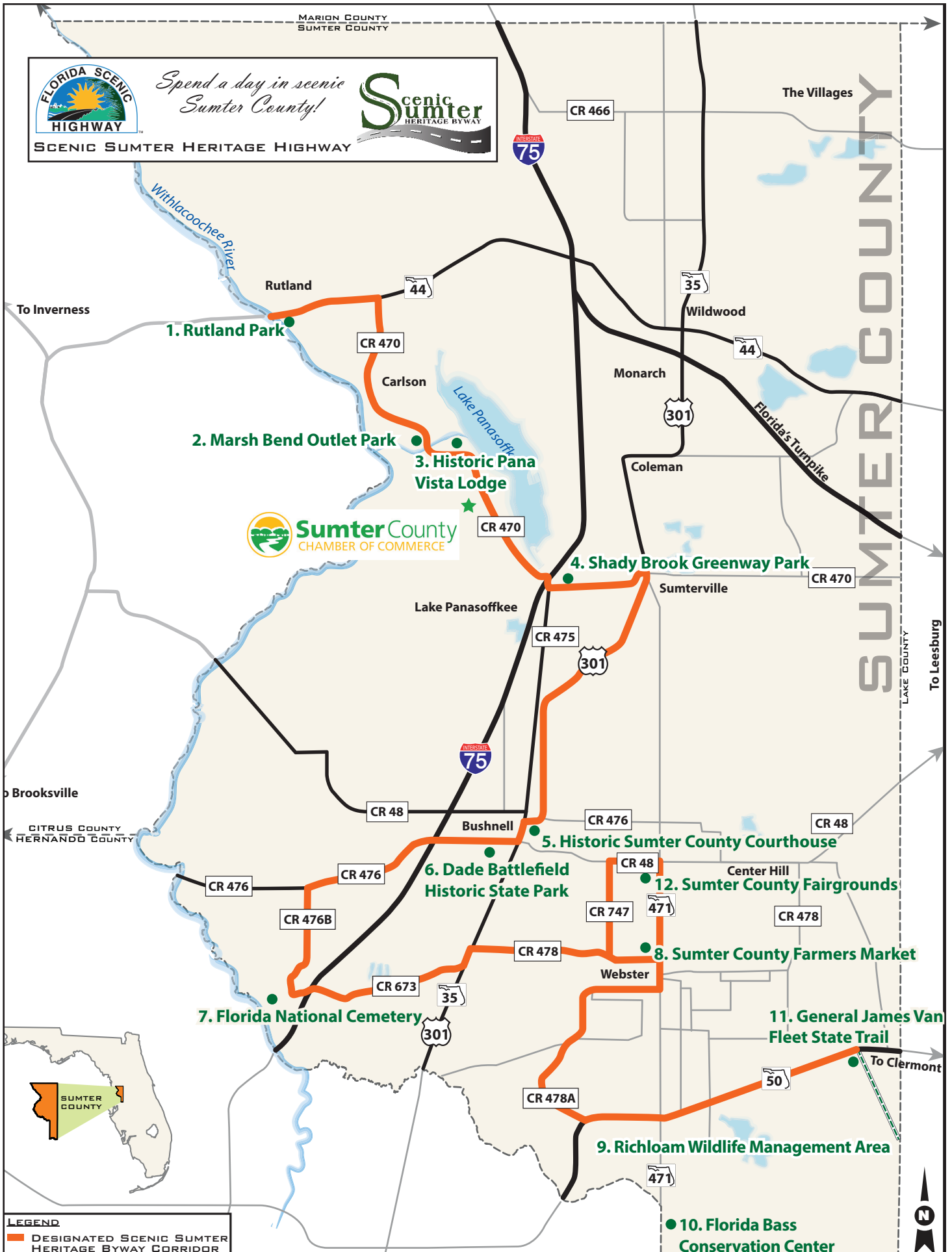
(3583 CR 788 - Webster)

Located five miles south of SR 50 off SR 471, this state-of-the-art freshwater fish hatchery and research facility is dedicated to conservation of the Florida Largemouth bass, where an aquarium and visitor center allow visitors a close look at modern research practices. True anglers and fish enthusiasts will enjoy the overlook for watching hatchery activities and self-guided tours. For hours of operation and additional information, please call (352) 732-1225 or visit <http://myfwc.com/conservation/freshwater/fbcc/>.

11. General James Van Fleet Trail State Park

(South of SR 50 in SE Sumter County - Mabel Trailhead)

Officially designated as part of Florida's Statewide System of Greenways and Trails, this old railroad corridor has been converted for recreational use. As one of Florida's most rural, the trail runs for 29 miles through the Green Swamp from Mabel to Polk City in Polk County. With excellent wildlife viewing opportunities, the Van Fleet Trail is a safe and pleasant place for bicyclists, hikers, joggers, and horseback riders to enjoy. For additional information, please visit <http://www.trailink.com/trail/general-james-a-van-fleet-state-trail.aspx>.





GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Approved September 19, 2012
Revised October 21, 2014



GOAL 1: Protect, preserve, maintain, and enhance the scenic, recreational and natural resources of the corridor.

Objective 1: Support efforts to promote public awareness and use of **Public Land / Recreational Resources** along the Byway.

Objective 2: Identify and document **Historic Resources** along the Byway in order to enhance community appreciation of Sumter County's heritage. Foster partnerships with like-minded advocacy groups.

Objective 3: Develop/maintain a “**Stories from the Road**” archive of materials & information that tells the story of the Byway's heritage (see Goal 4/Objective 5).

Objective 4: Identify **Scenic Vistas** along the Byway and advocate the protection of these vistas through public awareness and appreciation of the corridor envelope.

Objective 5: Accentuate the **Agricultural Heritage** of Sumter County by supporting and promoting the scenic beauty existing along the Byway as a result of ranching/farming/crop production efforts.

Objective 6: Support or advocate for a Byway sponsored **Litter Control / Roadway Beautification Program** along the Byway corridor.

GOAL 2: Advocate for safe access to the corridor's intrinsic resources so as to promote their use while preserving them for future generations.

Objective 1: Support the County's **Wayfinding Plan** and potential links to the Byway's resources.

Objective 2: Partner with and support the MPO **Safe Routes to School Plan** for those schools on or near the Byway.

Objective 3: Support FDOT and MPO **Safety Improvement** efforts related to the Byway.

Objective 4: Partner with and provide support to user groups (hikers, bikers, birders, kayakers, etc...) for the enhancement, creation and maintenance of existing and proposed **Trails and Blueways** on public land.

GOAL 3: Partner with local governments, community advocacy organizations and individuals, to promote responsible residential and commercial development which enhances the value of the corridor's resources.

Objective 1: Promote and develop enhanced **Participation with the Byway** through community volunteers, the local business community and civic groups.

Objective 2: Support the county's efforts to re-energize the **Adopt-A-Highway Program** with links to the Byway (see Goal 1/Objective 6 for additional information).

Objective 3: Identify and support Byway **User Groups** that promote the Byway's mission – i.e.; bicyclists, birders, motorcyclists, runners, fishermen, boaters (groups within The Villages).

Objective 4: **Provide decision makers** with a clear understanding of the Byway's resources and the mission of the CME.

GOAL 4: Increase awareness of the region's rich natural and heritage resources through the development and presentation of the corridor story to residents and visitors alike.

Objective 1: Develop and implement a focused **Awareness Plan** that educates the community about the Byway utilizing available media sources. (Facebook, newspaper, newsletters, Villages TV, local radio, Visit Florida, etc.).



Objective 2: Develop **Educational Materials** to be used by locals and visitors alike (brochures, mobile apps, kiosks, etc.) describing the history of Lake Panasoffkee Landing, cemeteries, Spanish explorer routes, Native American history, transportation history, etc.).

Objective 3: Create a **Website** and/or partner with another organization for website content/hosting, etc.

Objective 4: Develop a strategy for the **Documentation of Historic Information** to be archived and passed on to younger generations.

Objective 5: Develop a digital “**Stories from the Road**” oral histories series.

Objective 6: Continue the partnership with the **Chamber of Commerce** for exposure to the Sumter County business community and participation with local events.

Objective 8: Recognize Sumter County **community founders**.

Objective 9: Develop **community educational programs**.

GOAL 5: Encourage investment that enhances the regions resources and improves the corridor’s special sense of place.

Objective 1: Support the county’s **Economic Development Program** and partner with advocacy groups who also promote economic development in Sumter County (examples include the TDC, Chamber of Commerce, Historic Preservation Society, native plant group/garden clubs, etc.).

Objective 2: Promote **Recreational Tourism** in the County (fishing, county parks, antiques, birding, blueways/trails, etc.) through outreach activities such as presentations, guest speakers, and guided tours.

Objective 3: Promote and support the FDOT’s **wildflower program and the use of native plants** in Sumter County as it pertains to the Byway.

Objective 4: Identify and support **Local Events/Festivals** that bring attention/awareness to the region and the Byway (annual events include the Beef & Boogie, Dade Battlefield State Park re-enactments and the Linden picnic).

Objective 5: **Partner with local businesses** to promote the Byway.

GOAL 6: Maintain the administrative functions of the organization to ensure long term sustainability.

Objective 1: **Maintain an organization structure** that assures the long term success of the CME.

Objective 2: **Maintain CME Documentation.**

Objective 3: **Ensure the successful completion/submittal of organizational documents** (such as FSHP reports, Florida Department of State Incorporation documents and IRS filings as required).

Objective 4: **Maintain active participation in the FDOT Accreditation program.**

Objective 5: **CME Sustainability**



Byway Partners and Friends

Become a founding partner or friend of Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway!

Your contribution helps further the mission of the organization through Byway projects, community events and activities.

Partner Sponsorships

- **Sand Hill Crane** Major Donor Level - \$2,500
 - Receive acknowledgment as a founding partner at the highest level on the website and social media outlets, annual meeting and byway informational materials
 - Recognition plaque/sign
- **Osprey** Major Donor Level - \$1,500
 - Receive acknowledgment as a founding partner on the website and social media outlets, annual meeting and byway informational materials
 - Recognition plaque/sign
- **Swallow-Tailed Kite** Major Donor Level - \$1,000
 - Receive acknowledgment as a founding partner on the website and social media outlets, annual meeting and byway informational materials
 - Recognition plaque/sign
- **Mockingbird** Donor Level - \$500
 - Receive acknowledgment as a founding partner on the website and social media outlets
 - Recognition plaque/sign
- **Scrub Jay** Donor Level - \$250
 - Receive acknowledgment as a founding partner on the website and social media outlets
 - Recognition plaque/sign

Friends of the Byway (yearly donation levels)

- **Individual** Donor Level- **\$25**
 - Receive acknowledgment on the website and social media outlets
 - Selected themed byway merchandise acknowledgement
- **Family** Donor Level- **\$45**
 - Receive acknowledgment on the website and social media outlets
 - Selected themed byway merchandise acknowledgement
- **Business/Organization** Donor Level- **\$100**
 - Receive acknowledgment on the website and social media outlets
 - Selected themed byway merchandise acknowledgement



Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Inc.

Yes, I would like to endorse the Byway's mission to promote the region's natural beauty and heritage.

Enclosed is my contribution for \$ _____

My contact information is:

Name: _____

Company or Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Please make your check payable and mail to:

Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Inc.

P.O. Box #6

Webster, Fl. 33597

For more Information Contact:

sumterbyway@gmail.com

Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Inc. is a federally designated 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.

Donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.