



## ***Upper River Road*** **Jefferson County's Only State Scenic Byway**

The State of Kentucky awarded seven miles of Upper River Road the official designation of "Scenic Byway" in 1994. Stretching from Zorn Avenue to U.S. 42, this is Jefferson County's only Scenic Byway. The Scenic Byway designation is part of a federal program to recognize and preserve these special scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archeological, and recreational roads.

This tree-lined stretch of River Road offers local residents as well as visitors to Louisville the opportunity to travel along the edge of the Ohio River, with dramatic unobstructed views of the Ohio River, the downtown Louisville skyline, and the southern Indiana shoreline. River Road travelers also experience a tremendous view of historic places, historic landscapes, open land, creeks, wetlands, farmland, river boats, and palisades. River Road served as an early settlement thoroughfare to Louisville's downtown for farmers and planters who had settled along Beargrass Creek and Harrods Creek. The historic homes and landscapes of the Country Estates front on this Scenic Byway.

As an historic transportation route alongside the Ohio River and a settlement corridor spanning the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Upper River Road offers travelers a scenic ride into Kentucky's history. River Road is an important, beautiful and relaxing drive, and destination for future generations to enjoy.

The Ohio River Corridor Master Plan highlights the importance of the area covered by the Scenic Byway:

*"Much of the special character of the Ohio River Corridor derives from the diverse visual quality of landscapes such as the fields and woods of northeastern Jefferson County (and] the Olmsted-designed parks and parkways. . .Because most people experience the Ohio River Corridor from the automobile, scenic roadways such as the Upper River Road are especially valuable resources for which measures should be considered to protect and enhance views of the river or adjacent landscapes."*

The Kentucky State Scenic Byways Act was enacted to establish and protect scenic roads and states:

*"All elements of the landscape, including landform, water, vegetation, and manmade development must contribute in harmony to the quality of the scenic byway's visual environment and share in its intrinsic qualities."*

Long range goals for the River Road Scenic Byway include: promote the establishment of a conservation easement program; continue to implement the recommendations of the Ohio River Corridor Master Plan for this area; encourage the preservation and planting of native trees and vegetation; work with historic properties for federal funds; work for uniform signage along the corridor; continue to monitor new development along the corridor.