Lady Slipper Scenic Byway

The landscape that attracts visitors to the Lady Slipper Scenic Byway today is a product of its history. A rich yet subtle history that is quietly told by the terrain and waterways, the vegetation and the wildlife, and finally by the human settlement patterns which compose the landscape. The landscape waits quietly, telling its stories to those who stop long enough, and care enough, to listen.

This byway—perhaps more than other byways in the state—provides an opportunity to explore not only the relationship people have with their landscape but more precisely the way a person and the landscape have a responsibility to each other—that both are stewards of the other; by restoring one, the other is restored.

Historically, the Lady Slipper Scenic Byway corridor has sustained many people throughout many eras. It was the homeland for generations of Native Americans and provided the resources necessary for their traditional way of life. It supplied European and American fur traders with animal pelts. It supplied trees to loggers and logging provided a reason to establish communities. It gave men in the Civilian Conservation Corps a purpose, a job, and training while they restored the area's natural resources and constructed its infrastructure, including this highway.

Today, residents and visitors come to the byway to experience the majestic character of the great North Woods and the beauty of the area lakes and rivers. In late June travelers are rewarded with the spectacle of blooming showy lady's slipper orchids which are plentiful along this route.
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The Chippewa National Forest, home of the byway, has the largest breeding population of Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states.

wildflowers • birding • hiking
• biking • golfing • camping • fall colors • boating • fishing • hunting • canoeing • skiing • snowshoeing • history

CCC Camp Rabideau
National Historic Landmark
Most intact CCC camp in U.S.

A seasonal, changing palette of colors

Lakes, forests & bogs abound

Several varieties of lady's slipper orchids can be found along and near the byway

photos courtesy of Shirley J Gilmore