



Management Plan -Addendum
The Heritage Corridors of Bath
An Ohio Scenic Byway

Sponsored By:
Bath Township
3864 West Bath Road
Bath, Ohio 44333

Prepared for:
The Heritage Corridors of Bath Implementation Committee

Prepared By:
Vittum-Andrew Associates, Inc.
Landscape Architects

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FIRST ADDENDUM



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Acknowledgments

Bath Township Trustees

Elaina Goodrich
 Jim Nelson
 Don Jenkins

Heritage Corridors of Bath Implementation Committee Members

Lori Collins-Chairperson
 Libby Bauman
 Marty Ferch
 Carol Franklin
 Sean Gaffney
 Elaina Goodrich
 Greg Gulish
 Nancy Knauer
 Jim Nelson
 Peg Shriber
 Paul Schubert
 David White



Addendum introduction and description

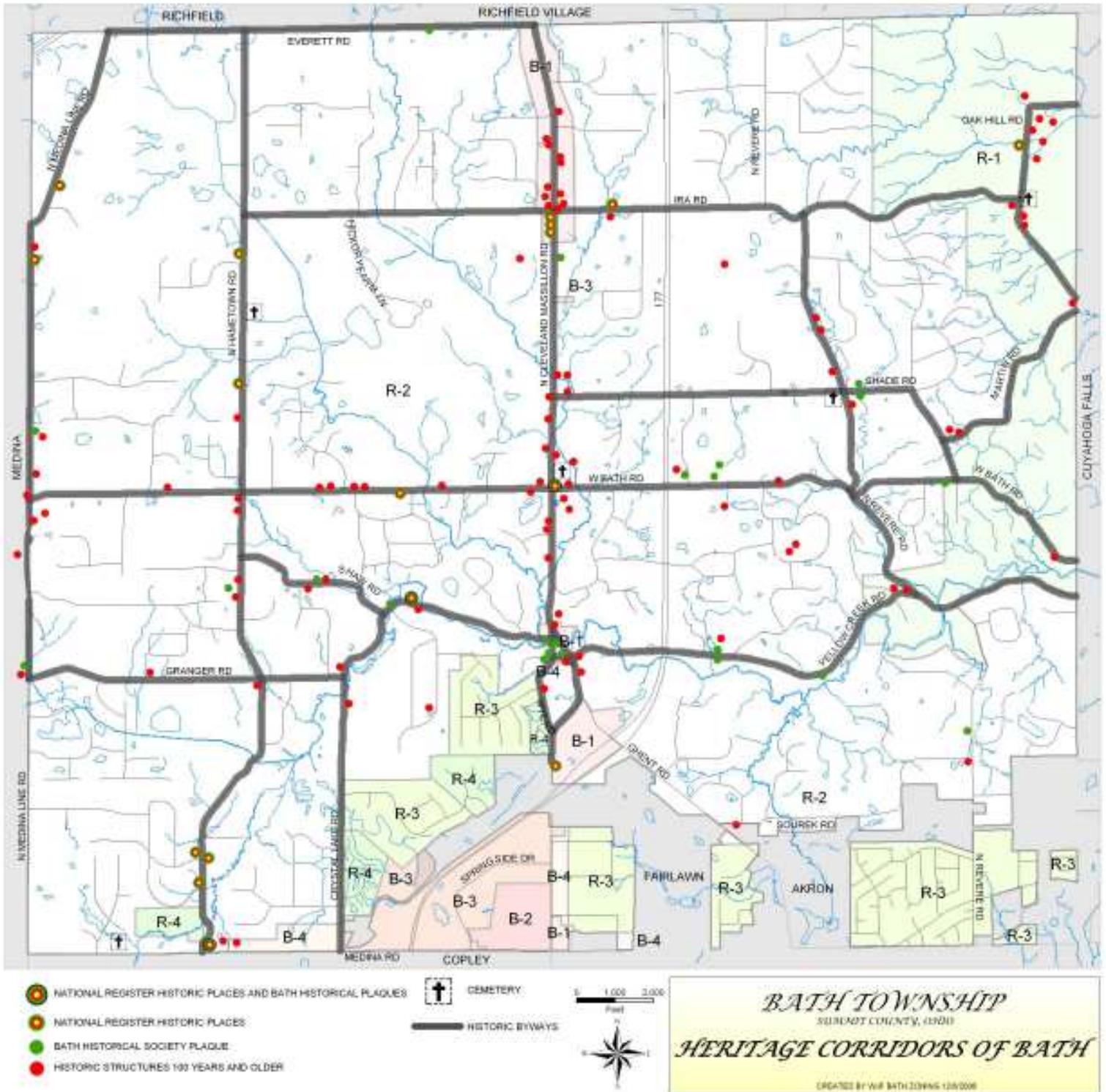
This addendum is a supplement to the original Heritage Corridors of Bath Management Plan. The original management plan is a comprehensive document that was printed in September 2001. This is the first addendum that makes the following additions and or changes to the original Management Plan.

1. New roads and sections of previously designated roads have been added to the byway. Written descriptions and inventory of current conditions of the roads as well as recommendations are added.
 - a. New roads include Crystal Lake Road and Shaw Road.
 - b. Extended roads include Cleveland-Massillon Road and Everett Road.
2. The road map and historical places of interest map have been updated to indicate the new roads and any additions or corrections.
3. The addendum documents natural areas, viewsheds and historical sites. It describes their importance in the community and why they should be preserved and protected. It does not create an enforceable law, but describes the intent and desires of the community to future developers or anyone that intends to put these features in jeopardy.
4. The implementation time line has been updated to:
 - a. Indicate original goals that have been achieved.
 - b. Reposition goals into a new order of priority and extend the time line from five years to ten.
5. Suggestions for small gateway signs are made to indicate the scenic byway route within the Township.

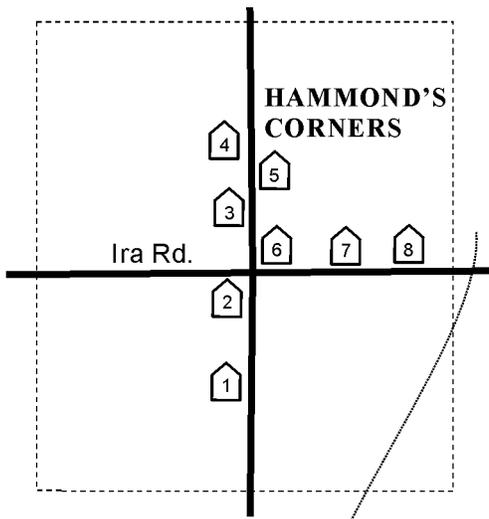


Heritage Corridors of Bath

38.1 miles of designated Ohio Scenic Byway



Historic Points of Interest



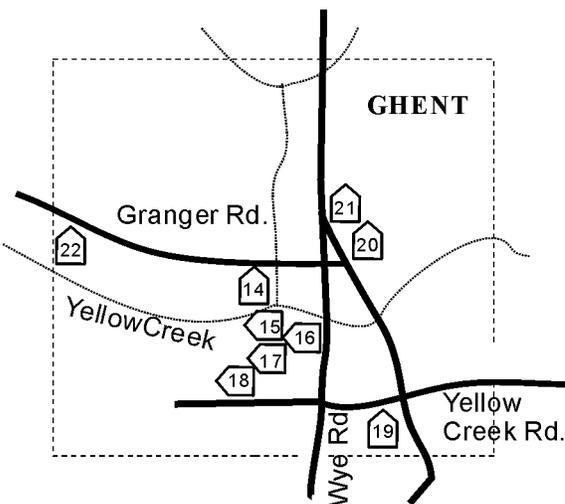
Hammond's Corners

1. Sandi & Bargo (1830) 'John Richard' house, National Register
1924 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
2. First Merit Bank (1830) 'Dustin Johnson' house, National Register
1946 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
3. Am. Inst. of Language (c.1850) 'Pugh' house
1990 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
4. The Saddle Shack (c.1850) current business
1996 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
5. Victor Andrew (1886) current owner
1989 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
6. Garth Andrews (1913) rebuilt historic 'Whitcraft' store
1969 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
7. Russ Price Realty, current business
3687 Ira Rd.
8. Academy of Court Reporters (c.1860) 'Rufus Randall' house
3675 Ira Rd. National Register



Bath Center

9. Bath Memorial Park-To honor Bath citizens having served in a war.
10. Bath Township Museum (1905) National Register, Bath Century Plaque
1241 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
11. Bath Center Cemetery (c.1820) Stone Holding Vault 1913
12. Bath Elementary School (1923) First 12 grade consolidated school
1246 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
13. Bath Church (c.1820) Original location on Ira Road
3980 W. Bath Rd.



Ghent

14. The Ghent Woolen Mill (1832) Ohio Historical Marker, Bath Century Plaque
3542 Granger Rd.
15. The Octagon Bee House-Built to house honey bees the only two story structure of its kind
800 Wye Rd.
16. The Bake Shop in Ghent (1837) 'Thomas Pierson' house,
800 Wye Rd. Bath Century Plaque
17. Law Offices (c.1893) Bath Century Plaque
794 Wye Rd.
18. Yellow Creek Barn (c.1893) Bath Century Plaque
794 Wye Rd.
19. The Spa at Yellow Creek (1893) Old Ghent Christian Church
3636 Yellow Creek Rd.
20. Cole Company, LPA (c.1850) 'James Root' house
863 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
21. Frantz Financial Group (c.1850) 'James Root' house
875 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
22. Artist Inc. (rebuilt in 1945 and remodeled in 1988) Alderfer's Mill
3850 Granger Rd.

Inventory of the Heritage Corridors

Cleveland-Massillon Road (Ira Road to Everett Road) .9 miles



Cleveland-Massillon Road looking north from Ira Road.

This .9 mile section of road extending north of Hammond's Corners was added to the Heritage Corridors of Bath, along with Everett Road to Hametown Road, in order to complete a loop for the byways and allow a continuous route for travelers. From Richfield to the north it is significant as the northern entrance to the byway. This section of road is by far the biggest aesthetic challenge for testing the goals of the Heritage Corridors because it has already been negatively affected by random business growth and destruction of rural character. Of greater concern is the fact that there remain significant parcels of vacant land along this stretch of road which, if careful development standards are not followed, pose a threat to further deterioration of the rural character. Looking at this area in another way, there is the opportunity to organize the existing business and residential owners into a group with a single minded goal of improving the aesthetic character of this stretch of road.

At the northern end of Cleveland-Massillon at

Everett Road, the Clearview Inn provides a local landmark and serves as a gateway to the approach into Bath. From this point south, the character of the roadway is anything but rural.



Cleveland-Massillon Road looking south from Everett Road.

Utility lines extend along the entire east side of the road all the way to Hammond's Corners and beyond. Just south of Everett Road a strip shopping area is located on the east side of the road. South of the strip mall, a vacant parcel of land extends all the way to Spring Valley Road. This vacant parcel is susceptible to development as is a vacant business across the street and an adjacent woodlot. The Township must be diligent to ensure that any future development will enhance the aesthetic character of the area and not contribute to its further visual deterioration.



Cleveland-Massillon Road looking south in front of the Ohio Motel.



The challenge facing those seeking to improve the visual image of most of this area is the widely diverse architectural styles of businesses, the lack of a unified streetscape image, utility wires, exposed parking and storage areas, and the uncertainty of the character of future development. There are existing businesses such as Louis Partners Design, Weidrick, Livesay and Mitchell, The Gardener of Bath and the Clearview Inn who have done an admirable job in enhancing the image of the area.

South of Louis Partners Design, the remainder of the Cleveland-Massillon corridor approaching Hammond's Corners consists primarily of residential properties and houses converted to businesses. The businesses could use some more creative signage, landscaping and replacement of street trees damaged by excessive pruning by utility companies, but the scale of these businesses is rural in character.

Recommendations

We strongly suggest that the business owners and residents in this area form a committee charged with the task of developing a dual strategy of enhancing the visual image of this stretch of Cleveland-Massillon Road and guiding future development. It is inevitable that future development will occur and the township and stakeholders in this section of the byway should be actively involved in its planning and design.

Everett Road (Cleveland-Massillon Road to Hametown) 1.4 Miles



Everett Road looking east at Hametown Road.

This 1.4 mile section of road completes the Heritage Corridor loop created by adding a section of Cleveland-Massillon Road north of Hammond's Corners and linking this section of road with Hametown Road to the west. Everett Road is the northern border adjacent to Richfield. The speed limit along this section of road is 40 M.P.H. and is appropriate considering the potentially dangerous hill east of the Bath Baseball Park entrance. For traffic approaching from the east, their view of traffic exiting the park is blocked until they reach the crest of the hill. If the approaching car is exceeding the speed limit, the chance to slow down and stop is greatly reduced.



Bath Baseball Park on Everett Road at Southern Road.



On the north side of Everett from the intersection of Hametown Road extending east to Southern Road is the Kniss Nature Park, which is a 73 acre nature preserve and part of the Metroparks Serving Summit County. The heavily wooded slopes reveal sandstone rock outcropping during the fall and winter.



Kniss Nature Park on the northeast corner of Everett Road and Southern Road.

Just east of the intersection of Southern Road on the south side of Everett is the entrance to the Bath Baseball Park with views of the Firestone Trace housing development to the south. The park is heavily used during the season.

The remainder of Everett extending east from the top of the steep hill is lined with residential properties. Some homes are set back away from the street with only gateways visible. The landscape is mostly natural and rural in character with trees and shrubs close to the edge of the road creating a corridor effect. Near the intersection of Everett and Cleveland-Massillon Road, the Constantine's Nursery and Garden Center, a Richfield business founded in 1955, can be seen to the north.

Recommendations

Preserve the rural character of the road edges through the observance of the landscape design guidelines in the Management Plan.

Crystal Lake Road 1.4 Miles



Crystal Lake Road looking north half way between Rt. 18 and Granger Road.

Crystal Lake Road is a heavily traveled 1.4 mile section of road that links Route 18 with Granger Road. It is predominantly residential in character except for the short section between Route 18 and Embassy Parkway, where the Akron General Health & Wellness Center and the Embassy Corporate Park campuses are located.



Embassy Parkway at Crystal Lake Road looking east.

To the north, Crystal Lake Condominiums are separated from the road by a large earth mound and landscaping. While this type of landscaping is typical around condominium developments and does provide privacy to the residents, it should be discouraged elsewhere within the Heritage Corridors because it is generally short lived and not in keeping with the goal of promoting natural landscape character. In fact, the existing evergreens planted on the mounds now are crowded and



overgrown and will likely need replacement in the near future. To their credit, the Village of Crystal Lakes has recently installed landscape improvements at both entrances and the grounds are well maintained.



Looking east across Crystal Lake Road at the entrance of the Village of Crystal Lakes from Big Spruce Drive.

On the north side of Embassy Parkway, there is a large parcel of undeveloped land between the parkway and the Cambridge Home Health Care building. This parcel is likely to be developed in the future and will impact the character of this stretch of road. The remainder of Crystal Lake Road is residential and very rural in character with several ponds, horse pastures and mature trees along the side of the road.

Recommendations

The only real visual blight along the road is the wide utility corridor east of the entrance to Crystal Shores, and the landscape image of the Ghent Christian Church at the intersection with Granger Road. The grounds of the church and the oil and gas well on the property would be improved by the planting of additional trees to soften the image of the grounds.

Shaw Road .8 miles



Shaw Road looking west from Granger Road.

Shaw Road is a short .8 mile section of east/west road which connects Granger Road on the southeast with Hametown Road to the west. The speed limit along Shaw Road is 35 M.P.H. except in an area of “S” turns where the recommended speed is 20 M.P.H. Shaw Road is an excellent example of the best qualities of the rural character of Bath Township.

As one enters Shaw Road from Granger, a horse pasture and contemporary barn can be seen to the south.



Horse farm on south side of Shaw Road near Granger Road.

Proceeding to the northwest, Shaw then intersects with Rolling Meadows Drive which leads to the Meadow Park allotment. The general character of the landscape along the road from this point on is woodland with the tree canopy shading the road in several sections giving the drive a quiet, intimate

character. Adding to this feeling is the very low traffic volume and curvilinear alignment of the road. Natural vegetation of native shrubs, grasses, wildflowers and vines and remnants of lilac and Norway Spruce hedges are seen along the roadside and add to the rural country road character of Shaw Road.



Historic bank barn on the north side of Shaw Road.

Most of the residences along the road, even those close to the street, have simple, understated landscapes which are kept neat without being overly maintained and fit well with the rural character. Relatively small areas of lawn are typical along with additional privacy provided by large stands of shrubs and trees along the roadside.



Shaw Road looking east from Hametown Road.

A drainage ditch located along the south side of the road intercepts runoff from Hametown Road and

flows quite heavily following heavy storms. There is a small pond on the south side of the road that empties into an intermittent stream that carries the water beneath the road to the northeast where it flows into a tributary of Bath Creek. This tributary passes beneath Shaw Road flowing toward Yellow Creek and is almost imperceptible due to heavy vegetation along the stream corridor.

A small barn (Whittum's) is located on the north side of the road near the stream crossing and adds to the rural character.

Recommendations

Other than removing some dead elm trees located along the road, little needs to be done to preserve the character of Shaw Road. Some selective thinning of tree limbs to enhance the view north up the stream corridor would be all the improvement the road needs. The property with the small pond will likely be developed in the near future and we would hope that any construction would follow the understated example of neighboring properties.

Recommendations for Preservation and Protection of Natural Areas, Viewsheds and Historical Sites

As a Township, Bath realizes that it can not force any property owner in a business or residentially zoned area not to disturb, demolish, change or develop natural areas, view sheds or historical sites.

Two of the few tools that can be used to protect these areas are to have the Appearance Review Committee and the Board of Zoning Appeals discourage these activities if and when they come up for review.

This document is another tool that states that both the township government and the citizens appreciate, cherish and wish to maintain the significant natural areas, view sheds and historic areas in the township.

The following is a list of examples that represent only a few items that have been selected by a committee to represent the intent of protection.

A. Natural areas

- i. Bath Nature Preserve
- ii. O'Neil Woods
- iii. Yellow Creek Corridor

B. Viewsheds

- i. Ira Road heading west from the top of the hill at Meadowvale Drive in Firestone Trace overlooking the old Firestone cinder track and the Nature Preserve beyond.
- ii. Ira Road heading east between Kemery and Oak Hill overlooking the valley and the barn at the bottom of the hill.
- iii. The sand stone boulder outcropping along the bend in Medina Line Road north of Ranchwood on the east side of the road.
- iv. Revere Road between Bath Road and Yellow Creek Road looking down the valley floor with the towering valley walls on both sides.

C. Historical Structures and Sites

- i. Hale Farm and Village
- ii. Crown Point Ecology Learning Center
- iii. Ghent Woolen Mill
- iv. Historic Town Hall & Museum



Natural Areas-Yellow Creek Corridor.



Viewshed-Ira Road looking west at Meadowvale Drive.



Historical Structures-Woolen Mill in Ghent.



Implementation Timeline

Establishing a time frame is one of the most important steps in achieving a goal. The implementation of the recommendations of this Management Plan is critical to the perpetual success of the Heritage Corridors of Bath. Dividing all of the recommendations into various time frames makes the quantity of tasks seem smaller and prioritizes their order of implementation. The time frames are as follows: 1 year, 5 years, 10 years, update every year, update every 5 years

Goals that have been achieved since inception of Byway. (See Scenic Ohio award photographs at the end of this section.)

1. Locally promote the Byway to encourage existing public support of township residents.
2. Establish a dialogue with the County Engineer to be up-to-date with current county projects within the Byway and provide input so that the projects are designed in harmony with the Byway Management Plan especially the proposed bridge in Ghent.
3. Join the Ohio Links Group and other Byway organizations such as Scenic Ohio.
4. Print a promotional brochure with map and brief historical and scenic descriptions of the Byway.
5. Install Hamlet identification signage at Hammond's Corners, Bath Center and Ghent to replace green County signage.
6. Contact local papers to print promotional stories.
7. Coordinate a business association in Ghent and Hammond's Corners to generate enthusiasm and ideas for informal streetscape in these areas.
8. Install landscaping at Bath Township Center parking lot as example plantings.
9. Correct erosion problem at corner of Bath Elementary School with decorative landscaping.

10. Upgrade landscape image at Garth Andrew's, Post Office, FirstMerit Bank and Holland Oil stations.
11. Extend limits of Byway north of Ira Road along Cleveland-Massillon Road and Everett Road east of Hametown Road.
12. Reduce truck traffic along Cleveland-Massillon Road.
13. Provide pull -off areas for vehicles in cemeteries and parks.
14. Create maps of cemeteries locating significant grave sites.
15. Host a barn owners appreciation social.

Goals to be implemented within 1 year

1. Continue to apply for grants for implementation of specific projects.
2. Establish an ongoing tree, shrub, daylily planting program along Cleveland-Massillon Road and other Byway roads.
3. Install decorative street signs along entire Byway indicating which are Heritage Corridor roads.
4. Remove select vegetation at certain stream crossings to promote clear views of streams.
5. Screen maintenance facility at R.B. Stout on Cleveland-Massillon Road.
6. NO MOWING-Publicize that residents who do not want their street frontage mowed by the county road crews should write a letter to the county indicating their address and location and that they do not want to be mowed.
7. Protect existing trees and vegetation around new construction by enacting a tree protection resolution.
8. Update Zoning Resolution to include Byway preservation efforts.
9. Support/assist "Century Homes of Bath" recognition program with the Bath Township Historical Society and Bath Museum. This program highlights the rural atmosphere of the township.



Goals to be implemented within 3 years

1. Buffer the front of all new housing developments with native or naturalistic plantings.
2. Collaborate with neighboring byway systems such as Ohio & Erie Canal Scenic Byway.
3. Have the Township name the Byway Task Force as a permanent, ongoing entity, or establish a position within the Township as Heritage Corridor administrator (possibly under the Parks system). The Task Force could create its own identity as a not-for-profit organization or an arrangement similar to the Bath Historical Society.
4. Evaluate signs (street, advertising, identification) along Byway and remove if unnecessary or not in compliance with zoning.
5. Install information kiosk at O'Neil Woods Metro Park and Bath Community Activity Center.

Goals to be implemented within 5 years.

1. Encourage the Historical Society to create a display in the Bath Township Museum describing the history of the mills in the Ghent area.
2. Plant native flowering shrubs and wildflowers along hill sides, stream banks and woods within viewshed of Byway.
3. Build pathways or sidewalks in Ghent, Bath Center and Hammond's Corners.
4. Build informal streetscape elements in Ghent, Bath Center and Hammond's Corners.

Goals to be implemented within 10 years.

1. Relocate overhead utility lines under ground.
2. Establish 35 M.P.H. speed limits along all Byway roads; especially Cleveland-Massillon Road.
3. Replace guardrails over bridges with more attractive open style railings.

Goals to be updated every year.

1. Award program for preservation or enhancement of historic structures.
2. Yearly review process with County Engineer of all county, state or federal road work along the Heritage Corridors.
3. Write grants for funding.
4. Write letter to ODOT updating them on progress of the Byway to continue Scenic Byway status.
5. Continue to host barn owners appreciation social.
6. Review this list of goals, reevaluate and adjust.

Goals to be updated every 5 years.

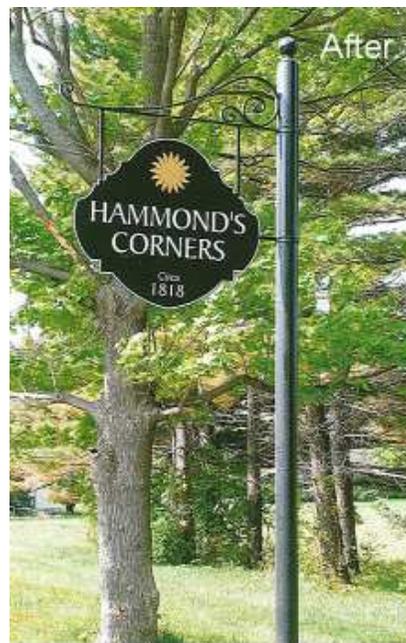
1. Update Byway Management Plan.

Scenic Ohio Award

On July 7, 2006 Bath Township was awarded a Scenic Ohio Award for its achievements over the past few years along the scenic byway. The following is a sample of the projects that were completed as a result of the Scenic Byway Management Plan.



Bath School erosion along Cleveland-Massillon Road



Hamlet sign replacement





Before



After

Hametown Road/Moore's Chapel Cemetery enhancements



Before



After

Ira Cemetery enhancements

Note: Historic foundation stone used in both cemetery enhancement projects to create retaining walls were reused from a culvert under Bath Road west of Bath Center that was washed out during a flood in 2004.



Scenic Byway Gateway Signs

Recommendations

This image represents one of many sign options considered by the Implementation Committee to identify the roads that make up the Heritage Corridors of Bath Scenic Byway.

The Implementation Committee had the following list of criteria or desires for these signs.

1. Since one of the goals of the Management Plan is to reduce signs along the byway, many committee members did not want to add additional signs even for Byway identification. This sign concept utilizes existing sign poles and signs.
2. The signs are to be small and inconspicuous, but recognizable.
3. Low cost is highly desirable. These signs are small, simple and utilize existing poles. Materials could be aluminum or plastic composite with construction similar to existing street signs with a different color.
4. These signs would be located at approximately 12 intersections around the perimeter of the township.

