

## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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## **Kansas Scenic Byway Receives National Award**

The Kansas Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway, headquartered in Great Bend, received the 2009 Scenic Byway Award for Planning at the National Scenic Byways Conference on August 24. The award is sponsored by the America's Byways Resource Center, Federal Highway Administration and American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials. The Byway is one of nine scenic byways in Kansas, two of which are National Scenic Byways.

The award program recognizes byway organizations that showed exemplary work in four areas, including community involvement and public outreach; partnerships; advancing the goals of the byway's corridor management plan; and innovation. The Kansas Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway was recognized for outstanding community involvement, public outreach and partner participation and for its cohesive interpretive plan.

The 76-mile long Byway showcases Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Together, these wetlands were voted one of the Eight Wonders of Kansas in a contest sponsored by the Kansas Sampler Foundation. Visitors to the Byway can visit the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area to learn about the Kansas Wetlands complex and view wildlife in the wetlands.

Communities along the Byway also offer opportunities to enjoy Kansas natural history. Great Bend is home to the Central Kansas Raptor Rehab Education Facility. The Hoisington High School Environmental Science class has built a songbird habitat. There are Underground Tunnels to explore in Ellinwood and Byway visitors can stop in Claflin where the 100-year old furniture store has taken over the town with "old fashioned" storefronts throughout.

The Kansas Scenic Byways program is funded by the Federal Highway Administration and sponsored by the Kansas Department of Transportation, in partnership with the Kansas Department of Commerce and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

To learn more about Kansas Scenic Byways, visit the website at [ksbyways.org](http://ksbyways.org) or call the Kansas Department of Transportation at 785-296-3585. The Kansas Wetlands and Wildlife Scenic Byway website is located at [kansaswetlandsandwildlifescenicbyway.com](http://kansaswetlandsandwildlifescenicbyway.com)

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