

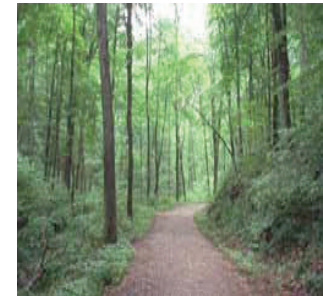
## St. Clair County Road Commission Policy Goals

- To consider petitions requesting designation of natural beauty roads in an equitable manner, consistent with Public Act 451, while fulfilling the general duty of the Road Commission to provide for the safe travel of the public.
- To plan and carry out needed maintenance of natural beauty roads and their rights of way within the letter and spirit of Public Act 451, consistent with maintaining safe driving conditions.
- To periodically review the status of such roads, and to consider withdrawing natural beauty road designations, when deemed in the public's interest, as specifically provided under Public Act 451.

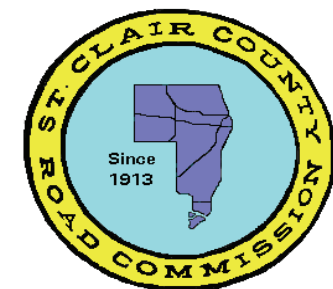
## St. Clair County Road Commission

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## *Natural Beauty Roads*



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The goal of the Natural Beauty Roads program is to acknowledge the natural character of certain county local roads having unusual or outstanding natural beauty and to maintain those roads in accordance with accepted maintenance practices established by the Road Commission for natural beauty roads.

Act 451 sets forth procedures whereby freeholders in a township may petition the Road Commission to consider designating portions of a county local road as a natural beauty road. Such designation is at the discretion of the Road Commission. Public Act 451 of 1994 replaces and supersedes Public Act 150 of 1970.

## **Considerations for Granting Natural Beauty Road Designation**

The following criteria is used to rate a county road for possible inclusion in the Natural Beauty Road Program:

**Character of Road:** To qualify as a natural beauty road, a road must have

outstanding natural features along its borders, including native trees and other native vegetation such as shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, and ferns, and bodies of water, natural rare plant communities, rare species and open areas with scenic or natural vistas, which, singly or in combination, set this road apart from other roads as being something unique and distinct.

**Length:** Normally a minimum of one-half mile will be considered for designation as a natural beauty road with exceptions below this length depending on unusual features. Stretches will be continuous except where broken by a non-qualifying portion. Non-qualifying portions should normally not exceed one-half mile in length.

**Roadside Development:** Qualifying roads should preferably have no development along them, but such development as exists at the time the road is designated should be compatible with the surroundings, and should not detract from the natural unspoiled character and visual impact of the road area.

**Road Bed:** Natural beauty roads may be dirt, gravel, or hard surface.

**Function of the Road:** Normally, the existing road should function as a local access road, i.e., one which serves the adjacent property owners, and/or as a road serving those wishing to travel for the purpose of enjoying its natural beauty features. Any road serving as a collector or a higher functional classification as defined by Federal standards would generally preclude designation as a Natural Beauty Road.

**Road Condition:** Condition of roadway should be

reviewed and found to be adequate in terms of drainage, design and safety.

**Volume:** The current average daily traffic (ADT) on an unpaved roadway should not exceed 250 vehicles for consideration as a natural beauty road. Designated natural beauty roads experiencing increases in excess of 250 vehicles per day will be reviewed for reconsideration of natural beauty road status. Any increase over 500 vehicles per day on designated roads will automatically warrant consideration of the withdrawal of the designation by the Board of County Road Commissioners.

**Environmental Quality:** The environmental quality of the right-of-way and surrounding observable areas should be exemplary.

**Development Potential:** Areas that are zoned for commercial, industrial, or light industrial development should not be considered for designation as a natural beauty road with exceptions depending on unusual features.

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