

## Garrett County Heritage Plan

1976 for the interim highway that was part of the transition from the old National Road to the present day I-68. The National Freeway Scenic Byway offers views of the mountainous landscape and scenic and protected Youghiogheny River.

- **Savage River Road**—New Germany Road, Big Run Road, and Savage River Road, between U.S. 40 Alternate near Grantsville and MD 135 near Bloomington. The road offers views of picturesque parks, rivers and streams, publicly owned forest land and rugged topography characteristic of Garrett County.

- **Coal Heritage Tour**—The Coal Heritage Tour, sometimes referred to as the Coal Heritage Trail, is a designated Maryland Scenic Byway along MD 135 from Oakland to Westernport (Allegheny County) and along MD 36 from Westernport to the Cumberland. The segment of the Coal Heritage Tour in Garrett County is approximately 17 miles long. The tour recalls the age when coal and the related timber industry dominated the county's economy

- **Cunningham Swamp Byway**—MD 495 from U.S. 40 to MD 135. The Cunningham Swamp Byway scenic road extends through the ancient bogs and swamp areas of the Allegheny Highlands.

- **The Glades**—The Glades Scenic Byway meanders through the glades, valleys, and marshlands of the central plateau of Garrett County. The byway includes various road segments in western Garrett County.

### Other Scenic Routes

Several other Garrett County roads have significant scenic properties. The segment of U.S. 40 Alternate east of Keyzers Ridge is part of a major statewide scenic route designated as the "Oakland to Ocean City Scenic Route". In addition, the latest Garrett County comprehensive plan (*A New Development Plan for Garrett County*, URDC, September 1995, p. IV-7) identifies two additional scenic routes:

- U.S. Route 219, between Keyzers Ridge and the West Virginia State Line.
- U.S. Route 50 west of U.S. Route 219.

The county should preserve the character of scenic routes by minimizing the size and number of commercial signs, maintaining adequate building setbacks, using berms and plant materials to screen or soften incompatible development, and working with adjacent property owners. Small, attractive signs and other enhancements such as interpretive signs and markers, scenic overlooks, and picnic areas could be provided at select areas along scenic routes, possibly in conjunction with a County heritage program. The county should ensure that the information on signs is always in accordance with the scenic route maps produced and distributed by the Maryland State Highway Administration.