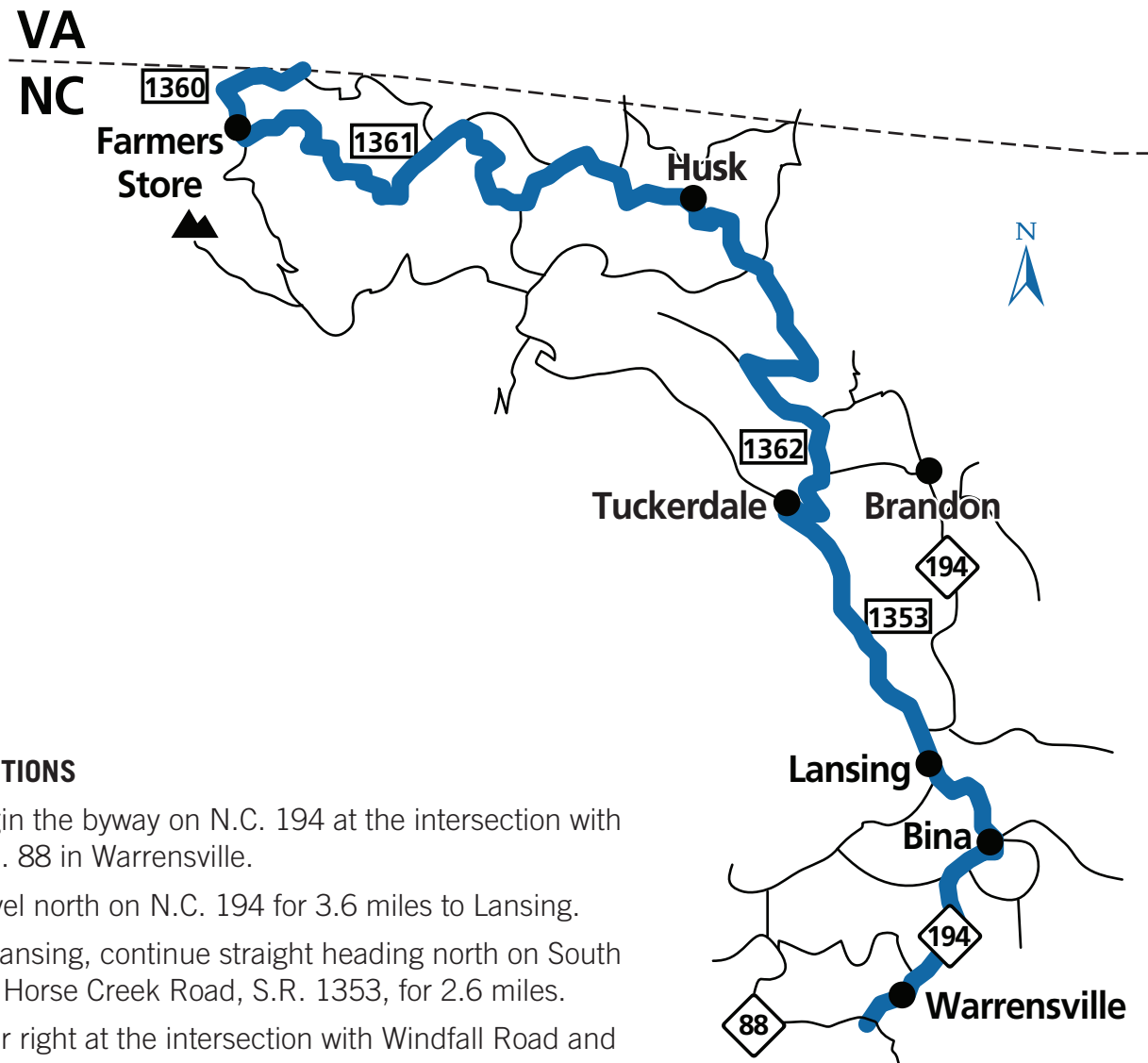


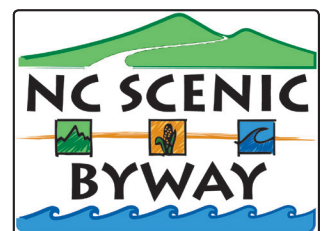
Big Horse Creek Scenic Byway



DIRECTIONS

- Begin the byway on N.C. 194 at the intersection with N.C. 88 in Warrensville.
- Travel north on N.C. 194 for 3.6 miles to Lansing.
- In Lansing, continue straight heading north on South Big Horse Creek Road, S.R. 1353, for 2.6 miles.
- Bear right at the intersection with Windfall Road and continue for 6.4 miles on Big Horse Creek Road, S.R. 1362.
- Big Horse Creek Road becomes Rip Shin Road, S.R. 1361.
- Follow Rip Shin Road for 3.5 miles where it switches from pavement to gravel and becomes Whenlin Ridge Road, S.R. 1359.
- Travel only 0.52 mile on Whenlin Ridge Road and then make a right turn back onto the paved Farmers Store Road, S.R. 1360.
- Follow Farmers Store Road for 1.27 miles to the North Carolina and Virginia state line where the byway ends.

* Continue straight onto Virginia Route 753, Dolinger Road and White Top Gap Road, for less than a mile to the parking lot for Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area to turn around and head back south on the byway. Or continue north to Whitetop Station Depot on the Virginia Creeper Trail, a rail-to-trail recreational facility.



Big Horse Creek Scenic Byway

Begin the byway in the community of Warrentonville at the intersection where N.C. 194 North and N.C. 88 West split. Follow the byway on N.C. 194 toward Lansing. The byway soon crosses the north fork of the New River and follows it for several miles before the river disappears from view.

Shortly after, Big Horse Creek appears and parallels the byway into Lansing.

Lansing's motto, "Echoes of the Past, Whispers of Tomorrow," well defines this mountain town.

The most prosperous years for Lansing began with the construction of the Virginia-Carolina Railroad from 1914 to 1916. The railroad had a great impact on the prosperity of the town, enabling the mining and timber industries to flourish. The passenger and freight railroad was known as the "Creeper Railroad" due to its slow ascent from its southern terminus in Elkland, North Carolina, to its northern terminus in Abingdon, Virginia.

Lansing grew and prospered until the economic crash of the Great Depression in 1929, after which recovery was slow. Road improvements gradually brought easier access to goods and services in nearby larger towns and led to the close of the railroad in 1977. The result was significant changes to the town.

Currently, this rustic small town is a designated "Mountain Heritage Trout Water City" with the creek-side "Creeper Trail Park." Lansing has two locations on the Blue Ridge Music Trail—the Old Helton School Hog Stomp on Thursdays and Phipps General Store Jam on Fridays.

The byway departs N.C. 194 in Lansing and follows South Big Horse Creek Road (S.R. 1353). As the road curves around Tuckerdale Baptist Church, it becomes Big Horse Creek Road (S.R. 1362).

As the name suggests, the road continues to follow the creek heading north. The byway crosses the creek in numerous locations, making it a great place to drive with the windows down to enjoy the sound of the water rushing over boulders and under the many bridges.

The road occasionally rises and follows the ridge above the creek. All along, there are spectacular views of the narrow valleys with farmhouses, farm animals, old barns and country churches. The hillsides feature a mixed forest with intermittent pastures and Christmas tree farms.



Eventually, Big Horse Creek Road becomes Rip Shin Road (S.R. 1361) as the byway follows along several smaller tributaries of Big Horse Creek. Rip Shin Road becomes Whenlin Ridge Road (S.R. 1359), but this is barely noticeable except that the road surface becomes dirt and gravel.

Shortly thereafter, take a right turn onto the paved Farmers Store Road and follow the byway to the state line. Just before entering Virginia, Big Horse Creek appears again.

Once in Virginia, Farmers Store Road becomes Dolinger Road and Whitetop Gap Road (VA 753). Less than a mile from the state line, the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area parking provides a great turn-around to follow the byway back south.

In the vicinity of the byway, look for:

- Phoenix Mountain (elevation 4,710 feet) east of the byway's beginning
- Wilburn Waters (a local famous bear hunter) historic marker in the creek
- "Creeper Railroad" abandoned rail bed paralleling the byway
- Pond Mountain (elevation 5,000 feet) and Pond Mountain Game Lands to the west of the northern end of the byway

Attractions in Virginia:

- White Top Station Depot on the Virginia Creeper Bike Trail
- Mount Rogers (elevation 5,729 feet) and Grayson Highlands State Park
- "The Crooked Road," Virginia's Heritage Music Trail

Attractions in Tennessee:

- Cherokee National Forest

