KANSAS
POST ROCK
Scenic Byway

Scenic Byways Etiquette
We welcome you to the Post Rock Scenic Byway and hope you enjoy your stay with us. Please refrain from taking samples of the post rock formations. Such activities could irreparably damage the geological features. In addition, many of the formations are on private property and to remove samples would be trespassing. It is also important that travelers realize that they will be sharing the roadway with large grain and farm trucks.

Lodging is available at both ends of the Byway, and camping accommodations are available through the Wilson Lake Recreation Area.

For more information about the Post Rock Scenic Byway, contact:
Lucas Area Chamber of Commerce
1-785-525-6288 • lucascoc@wtciweb.com
National Scenic Byways website: ibps.org

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Points of Interest Near the Byway

Scenic Places
Overlook at west end of the Wilson Lake dam mile marker #10
Hell Creek at mile marker #4
Lucas Mini Park Mural, Lucas
Stone Fence Posts along the byway
Dakota Sandstone Rock formations mile markers 4 & 5
Wilson Lake Dam

Natural and Recreational Sites
Wilson Lake–Boating, Swimming, Fishing, Picnicking
Wilson State Park–Camping, Hiking, Picnicking,
Wildlife watching, Interpretive programs, Switchgrass Bike Trail
Interpretive programs
Wilson Wildlife Area–Hunting
Burr Oak Nature Trail–7.5 mile trail with 23 interpretive stations
Dakota Trail–5 or 1-mile loop with 12 interpretive stations
Red cedar Trail–7.5 mile handicapped trail, Otoe Park
Rocktown Trail–3 mile loop

Historic Sites, Museums and Galleries
Garden of Eden, Lucas
Grassroots Art Center, Lucas
Deeble Rock Garden, Lucas
Wilson Opera House, Wilson
Round Stone Jail, Wilson
Midland Hotel, Wilson
Flying Pig Studio and Gallery, Lucas
World’s Largest Collection of the World’s Smallest Versions of the World’s Largest Things Roadside Attraction and Museum, Lucas

Events
Adam’s Apple Festival, Lucas, Saturday of Labor Day Weekend
Czech Festival, Wilson, last weekend in July
Eagle Days, Wilson Lake, February
Kansas Stripers Tournament, Wilson Lake, May, June, July, September, October
Wings Over Wilson, Lucas Park, remote-controlled model glider competition, June
Oktoberfest, Wilson, first weekend in October
Area festivals and garage sales, first Saturday in October

Wineries, stone quarry tours, antiques, food and Kansas arts & crafts shops are also in the area.
The Pioneer Spirit

The Post Rock Scenic Byway follows the natural twists and turns of the land winding through crop and pasture land in a section of Kansas with a rich heritage that is uniquely American.

Miles of stone fence posts stand as tribute to the ingenuity of the early settlers. These innovative farmers and ranchers solved their fencing problems on the treeless plains by quarrying rock to use as posts. The stone posts have become a trademark of the Smoky Hills region. The stone used for posts and homestead buildings was quarried from bedrock found near the earth’s surface. This rock is chalky limestone of roughly uniform thickness, approximately eight to nine inches deep. When freshly quarried, it is soft enough to be sawed, notched, drilled or shaped with hand tools. After prolonged exposure to the air, it hardens and becomes weather-resistant.

Inspiring Faces and Places

The Garden of Eden in Lucas

The Garden of Eden sculptures and Cabin Home were built by Samuel Perry Dinsmoor, a retired school teacher and Civil War veteran. This unique garden and home was started in 1907 and was worked on by Mr. Dinsmoor until his death in 1932. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Grassroots Art Center exhibits work by self-taught artists including Inez Marshall’s limestone sculpture, Ed Root’s glass-embellished concrete monuments, Leroy Wilson’s painted mosaic walls as well as M.T. Liggett’s metal totems and Herman Divers’ pull-tab motorcycle.

The Post Rock Courtyard behind the Grassroots Art Center typifies settlers’ use of stone for practical purposes as well as for “ornamentation beyond necessity.” The courtyard displays posts, stone blocks, arch construction, and cornerstone and lintel ornamentation.

Nature’s Roller Coaster

The Byway sweeps around Wilson Lake over the geological formations of the river valley like a natural roller coaster. The endless sky overhead is a favorite of photographers, especially at sunrise and sunset.

The Post Rock Scenic Byway passes through a variety of wildlife habitats. Over 225 species of birds, including waterfowl and bald eagles, are known to visit the Lake Wilson region in a year’s time.

Lake Wilson offers a wide variety of recreational activities including camping, hunting, nature trails, bicycling, boating, skiing, swimming, fishing, fisheries and Rocktown.