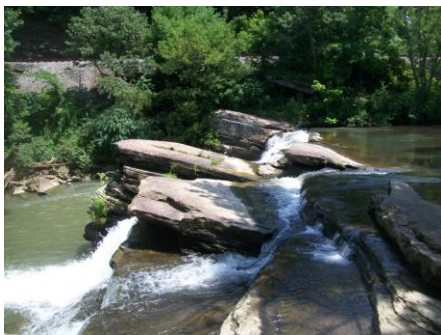




NATURAL INTRINSIC QUALITIES

“Natural Quality applies to those features in the visual environment that are in a relatively undisturbed state. These features predate the arrival of human populations and may include geological formations, fossils, landform, water bodies, vegetation, and wildlife. There may be evidence of human activity, but the natural features reveal minimal disturbances.”
- America’s National Scenic Byway

The Virginia Coal Heritage Trail has many natural intrinsic qualities along its route. One of the most notable is the Stone Face in the Mountain which one sees when traveling west on Hwy 421 on the Norton Loop of the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail. There is a double waterfall and the Class 4 rapids on Russell Fork on the Pocahontas Trail as well as the Natural Tunnel located just off the St. Paul Loop.



Twin falls at Falls Mills (Tazewell Co.)

Other natural sites include the Clinch and Black mountain ranges, the visible coal seams and geological strata, and the numerous rivers and streams which the trail follows and often crosses. There are also five Virginia Scenic Rivers located on or near the byway. A list of these designated scenic rivers can be found in Chapter V of the CMP.

For a complete list and more details of all Virginia Scenic rivers and its program, see *Virginia Outdoors Plan* [Chapter VII-F Scenic Rivers](#) (PDF), pages 152-160.



Stone Face (Lee Co.)



Natural Tunnel (Scott Co.)



*Rapids at Russell Fork
(Russell & Dickenson Counties)*



Numerous mountain ranges, rivers and streams are visible as one drives along the byway.