

Facts at a Glance: Aesthetics of Pedestrian Bridges

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway (the Parkway) multi-use trail system is linked with seven pedestrian trail bridges and two pedestrian tunnels that allow users to travel the length of the corridor without encountering a vehicle. The following *Facts at a Glance* provide an overview of the pedestrian trail bridges.

Design

Based on the project philosophy and supported by comments received from the public, the design of infrastructure features within the Parkway, including trail bridges, will be kept simple and unobtrusive.

- Structurally, the bridges are made of a steel truss and concrete abutment system that can commonly be found throughout Ontario. The steel truss system will be coated with a select colour palette.
- Trail bridges will vary in length dependent upon location and are designed to meet current accessibility and safety standards.

Themes

Three themes – colour, teaching and symbol – have been interpreted and then applied to the seven pedestrian bridges for cultural significance.

- For the bridges, the inspiration for the themes came threefold from the significant colours, teachings, and clans of the local Anishinaabe First Nations (Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi people) as interpreted by community members from Walpole Island First Nation.
- The seven colours for the bridges come from the four colours of the Medicine Wheel and the three colours that represent life on earth.
- The 'Seven Grandfather Teachings' are universal values to help guide us in our day-to-day living, including our interactions with the natural environment.
- The animal symbols are artistic representations of the original seven clans of the Anishinaabe people created by Teresa Altman, an accomplished First Nations artist.
- Each colour, teaching and symbol are linked together. See the map on the reverse for locations and details.
- Trail side markers will introduce the themes at the approaches to the bridges.

Seven Grandfather Teachings

Through consultation, the "Seven Grandfather Teachings" were identified as a concept that was both significant to First Nations and also reflected positive aspirations for all cultures.

- The Seven Grandfather Teachings, in Anishinaabemwin, English, and French, are:
 - o Debwewin – Truth – Vérité: do not deceive yourself or others
 - o Gchi-Piitendaagziwin – Respect – Respect: honour all creation
 - o Nbwaakaawin – Wisdom – Sagesse: knowledge, prudence, intelligence
 - o Giyakwaadziwin – Honesty – Honnêteté: be honest in word and action
 - o Zaagidwin – Love – Amour: to know love is to know peace
 - o Dabadendizwin – Humility - Humilité: equal to others, not better
 - o Zoongde'ewin - Bravery – Bravoure: fearless heart

