

Design Features at Homestead Lane and Hearthwood Place

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway provides more than 300 acres of green space with landscaped areas, a multi-use trail, pedestrian bridges and tunnels, and noise barriers. All of these features will work together to showcase how large-scale infrastructure and public uses can co-exist with natural habitat while considering the perspectives of drivers and adjacent residents.

In meetings held over 2011 to now, we heard many comments from your neighbourhood with respect to the final landscape design, including trails, and the location and types of noise walls. Based on this input, we have made a number of changes in your area. These changes include:

- a trail connection to the new long-term care facility west of Cousineau Road
- extension of multi-use trail from Cousineau Road to Cousineau Circle
- landscaping screens along property boundaries
- the installation of a noise berm to address sound from the Parkway while providing visibility to adjacent business.

The following table describes features of noise barriers and landscaping elements in proximity to Homestead Lane and Hearthwood Place.

NOISE BARRIER			LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS	
Noise wall	Earth berm	Combination wall/berm	Pedestrian Bridge	Trails
Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Location: South side of Hwy 3 between Sandwich West Parkway and the west end of the Hearthwood Tunnel (T-10), from the east end of the Hearthwood Tunnel (T-10) to the Oliver Estates Tunnel (T-11) Height: 4m	n/a	n/a	n/a	Type: Secondary Trail (asphalt) Width: 3m Location: South side of Hwy 3 Connections: To Hearthwood Tunnel (T-10), Cousineau Tunnel (T-9), and Windsor Crossing Outlet Mall

Landscaping

The cross-section available with this fact sheet depicts location and features of noise barriers and landscaping elements in proximity to Homestead Lane and Hearthwood Place.

In summary, landscaping features depicted in this location across the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway include:

- trees and shrubs along the roadside
- salt-tolerant grasses in roadside zones (closest to Hwy 401 and Hwy 3 lanes)
- grassland with seasonal wildflowers in roadside upland zone (closest to noise barrier)
- tallgrasses and wildflowers from noise wall to trail edge zone
- low growing grasses along the trail edge
- Tallgrass Prairie (grasses and wildflowers) near trail edge to screening landscape zone
- mixed planting buffer with evergreens, trees, shrubs, and grasses in the screening landscape between trail and homes.

Permanent Features Design

The Environmental Assessment Report for the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study required aesthetic features of the Parkway be visible to drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and adjacent communities. This will occur through design in the form of structures like noise barriers, retaining walls, tunnel top barrier walls and bridge barrier walls, and trail structures and amenities. The Carolinian Canada theme is integrated into the design elements of the Parkway and aesthetic treatments consistent with this theme have been applied to these structures.

In your neighbourhood, there will be a noise wall south of Highway 3 between Sandwich West Parkway and the west end of the Hearthwood Tunnel (T-10) and from the east end of the Hearthwood Tunnel (T-10) to the Oliver Estates Tunnel (T-11). The noise wall will be the same colour on both sides. However each side will feature a different pattern. On the community side the panels will feature a natural stone pattern. Where space permits, trees and shrubs will be planted on the community side of the wall to enhance the overall aesthetic of the landscape. Also, in keeping with the Carolinian theme for the Parkway landscape, the noise walls will be a "yellow-brown" colour which is representative of prairie grassland. (At right, an artist rendering of the wall with planting and wall design inset. Size and panels will vary according to area.)



Wayfinding signs will be installed at one kilometre intervals and trail junctions along the primary multi-use trail to direct users to trail bridges, municipal roads, rest areas and nearby municipal parks and facilities. Interpretive signs will be located at select tunnel tops rest areas and some lay-bys along the trail where there are features of interest. Signage will include natural and cultural heritage themes about the Parkway, prairie restoration, settlement in Windsor-Essex, stormwater management, species at risk, First Nations history and teachings. Signboards with trail maps and information about the Parkway will be located at all rest areas.

Who can I contact if I have a question or concern?

If you have any concerns regarding construction of the Parkway, please contact or visit the Windsor Essex Mobility Group's Public Liaison Office at 1-877-937-5929, 2187 Huron Church Road Suite 340, or hgp-plo@wemg.ca.

Please visit www.hgparkway.ca to learn more about the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway. Updates will be posted on Twitter (www.twitter.com/hgparkway) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/hgparkway) and photos and videos will be posted on Flickr (www.flickr.com/hgparkway) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/hgparkway).

Cross Section: Homestead Lane

