

Design Features at Villa Borghese Drive

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway provides more than 300 acres of green space with landscaped areas, 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 would like you to know about design elements in your neighbourhood:

- landscape screening behind Villa Borghese Drive
- direct access to trails from Daytona Avenue.

The following table describes features of noise barriers and landscaping elements in proximity to Villa Borghese Drive.

NOISE BARRIER			LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS	
Noise wall	Earth berm	Combination wall/berm	Pedestrian Bridge	Trails
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
n/a	Location: North of Highway 3 from east of Cabana Road to west limits of Lennon Drain Trail Height: varies	Location: North side of Highway 3 near Villa Borghese Drive Height: 4m	Trail Bridge 5 (TB-5) Width: 3m Location: Over Huron Church Line Height: 5m Colour: Grey Theme: Bravery Symbol: Bear	Type: Primary Multi-use Trail (asphalt) Width: 4m Location: North side of Highway 3 Connections: Trail Bridge 3 (TB-3), Villa Borghese Tunnel (T-7), community connections to Cabana Road, Daytona Avenue, and Marguriet Park Type: Secondary Trail (asphalt) Width: 3m Location: South side of Highway 401 Connections: Trail Bridge 5, Todd/Cabana Tunnel (T-6), Villa Borghese Tunnel, community connections to Todd Lane, Huron Church Line, Pond 4 and Town of LaSalle

Landscaping

The cross-sections available with this fact sheet depict the location and features of noise barriers and landscaping elements in proximity to Villa Borghese Drive.

In summary, landscaping features depicted in these locations include:

Villa Borghese Drive (North side of Highway 401)

- screening landscape with evergreens, trees, shrubs, and grasses along property line fencing
- Tallgrass Prairie wildflowers and grasses leading to Riparian zone
- river bank or "Riparian zone" with grasses and shrubs along Lennon Drain
- low growing grasses along edge of primary asphalt trail
- salt-tolerant grasses along Highway 3 and Highway 401 roadside zones
- grasses, seasonal wildflowers and tree plantings in the upper area of the Highway 401 embankments

- retaining wall along south side of secondary trail at property line

Huron Church Line (South side of Highway 401)

- grassland with seasonal wildflowers and low growing grasses atop Villa Borghese Tunnel (T-7)
- Oak Savannah grasses, tree planting, and shrubs between secondary asphalt trails (south side)
- trees and grasses on berm beside Huron Church Line cul de sac
- evergreen trees, shrubs, and low growing grasses in the screening landscape buffer beside Huron Church Line cul-de-sac

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 combination noise wall and berm north of the Highway 401/Highway 3 corridor between Cabana Road and Bridge 9. 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.)



Earth berms will be paired with noise barriers to provide better sound attenuation in your area. Earth berms are mounds of earth raised to a specific height to serve a purpose. Earth berms will feature naturalized plantings of trees, shrubs and grasses which will integrate the berms into the surrounding ecological landscapes and increase their aesthetic appearance. Earth berms will be varying heights and will reduce the visual impact for the community.

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. Trail 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 palate. The bridges will vary in length dependent upon location and are designed to meet current accessibility and safety standards. Three themes – colour of the bridges, teaching and symbol – have been interpreted and then applied to the seven pedestrian bridges for cultural significance.

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: Villa Borghese Drive

