

Coming Soon ...

As part of the construction staging for the Parkway, a portion of Highway 401 between North Talbot Road Bridge and Labelle Street will open prior to the entire project being completed.

While the exact date of this opening is yet to be determined, it is important that travellers through the corridor are well-prepared in advance as this stage of the project will provide them with a significantly changed driving experience.

In April we posted photo galleries on our flickr page, www.flickr.com/hgparkway, to show the new traffic flow on Highway 401, Highway 3, and the on/off ramps connecting the two.

Shortly after opening Highway 401 between North Talbot Road Bridge and Labelle Street, portions of Highway 3 will be closed while work on Highway 3 is completed. This includes the surface coat of asphalt through most of Highway 3. Travellers will use Highway 401 via on- and off-ramps to detour around work being completed on Highway 3. Travellers on Highway 3 should anticipate encountering lane closures and traffic restrictions as final work is completed along the Parkway.

To prepare drivers, photos, videos, maps and other useful information is available on www.hgparkway.ca.

We want to hear your questions and give you answers before the highway opens to traffic, ensuring travellers are prepared for the upcoming changes within the Parkway corridor. Send your questions to us at detroit.river@ontario.ca or via our social media sites.

Bringing Tallgrass Prairie to Your Garden

In southern Ontario, the once abundant prairies and savannahs along Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River were turned into farmland. Today, very little of the ecosystem remains in North America, with estimates ranging from 5 per cent to less than 1/10th of 1 per cent of the original Tallgrass Prairie ecosystem. Prairie remnants in Windsor and Essex County are rich in biodiversity and contain more species at risk than anywhere in Ontario, except for Walpole Island. Today, Windsor's Ojibway Prairie Complex (OPC) is the largest protected prairie in Ontario. The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway (the Parkway) is located adjacent to the remnant OPC containing Tallgrass Prairie, a globally threatened ecosystem. The Parkway project has helped preserve this ecosystem, but the reestablishment of Tallgrass Prairie in urban areas is encouraged to sustain the broader ecoregion.



Butterfly Milkweed

The prairie plants featured in the Parkway's landscape can also have a place in an urban home garden. Repurposing a small portion of your lawn to Tallgrass Prairie grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs can make a difference ecologically. By doing so, you will reduce the maintenance required for your lawn and provide a suitable environment for pollinators. As pollinators are crucial to our food production, it is important to preserve their habitat. To provide the best environment for pollinators, design your own Tallgrass Prairie garden and plant native species with a range of bloom times. By and large, native plants are hardier. Their flowers, leaves, seeds, and fruit will support a host of beneficial insects and birds. Some simple garden design guidelines include: keeping the edges clean, plant multiple species to enhance garden biodiversity, and plant taller species at the back. If you buy plant species sourced from your immediate area, it is a recipe for success. Ask for native plants at your local garden centre, or visit the native plant nurseries in your area to start your own Tallgrass Prairie garden.

Senior Environmental Planner at the Ministry of Transportation, Barb Macdonell, is a convert to prairie management. The following are some of her favourite prairie plants that are suitable for smaller urban gardens. All of these prairie plants are featured in the seed mixes that are being applied to the landscaped areas of the Parkway.

- New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
- Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)
- Closed Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*)
- Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- Blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hitra*).

The Ojibway Nature Centre website, www.ojibway.ca, is a good source of information about prairie plants. The Essex Region Conservation Authority also has an excellent publication, "A Guide to Local Native Plants" on its website, www.erca.org.

To learn more about the Parkway green space visit www.hgparkway.ca/sustainability.



New England Aster

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Still to Come

Once Highway 401 opens to traffic, residents and travellers can expect some traffic shifts and lane closures between the North Talbot Road Bridge and Labelle Street.

This work includes:

- completion of the permanent Highway 3 portion between Labelle Street and Lambton Road/Grand Marais Road West
- pole installation and median construction in the area of Huron Church Line requiring lane reductions
- surface course paving between Geraedts Drive to Lambton Road requiring the closure of Huron Church Line and Pulford Street at Highway 3

All of these lane closures and traffic shifts are schedule and weather dependent. Full details on the length of each closure will be made available when schedules are confirmed with our partners and Emergency Services.

We will provide updated information once final schedules are known.

All our road closures are advertised in the Windsor Star with information shared on www.hgparkway.ca and Twitter (www.twitter.com/hgparkway).

For up to date lane restrictions and traffic information, follow us on Twitter.

We apologize for the inconvenience as we complete construction of the Parkway and put all of the final pieces in place.

We appreciate your patience through this work and through the past four years of construction.

Summer Fun at The Safety Village

The Parkway is once again partnering with The Safety Village to bring you summer safety programs every Wednesday in July and August. Walk-In Wednesdays are open to the public and they're free. While visiting, be sure to test your roundabout knowledge when driving through the replica Parkway roundabout that was installed in 2013.

We would like to introduce you to Tyler Lamphier from The Safety Village.

What is your role at The Safety Village?

I am the Programs & Services Manager. I am involved in creating and overseeing various programs and services that are offered at, or through, The Safety Village. These include Neighbourhood Watch Windsor, Safe City Windsor and school programming that takes place in our miniature village behind the building.

What types of Summer Safety Programs does the Safety Village offer?

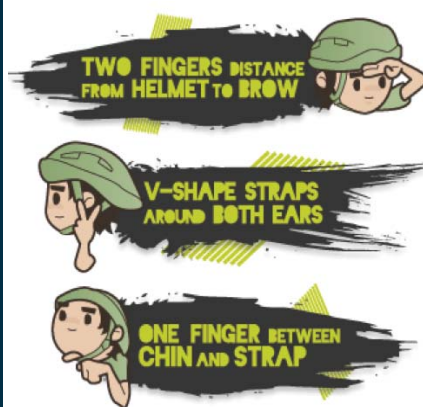
Between July 6 and August 14, The Safety Village offers classes to day cares, day camps, church groups and organizations that teach on a number of different safety topics such as: bike safety, pedestrian safety, fire safety and much more. These classes must be booked ahead and are offered free of charge.

Every Wednesday throughout the summer we offer our free Walk-In Wednesday Open House events for the public to attend. On these days, children, youth and adults will have the chance to explore our Village by bike or battery powered Jeep, learn some safety tips from local Emergency Service Providers, tour Police and Fire vehicles and much more. This year we will be open on Wednesdays from 10a.m.-12p.m. and 1p.m.-3p.m. Plus keep an eye on our website as some of these Walk-In Wednesdays will feature special guests from around the city.



What are some cycling safety tips that users on our 20 km Parkway Trail can employ once it is open?

The use of bike helmets is one of the most important safety tips when it comes to using a bike properly. Make sure that you always use a helmet that fits, is free of any cracks and the straps are able to be secured properly around your head. The "2V1" rule is the method that we teach at The Safety Village. That means that your helmet should be no higher than two fingers from the top of your eyebrows, the straps should make a nice "V" shape around your ears and you should be able to fit no more than one finger between your chin and strap.



Before each ride, make sure you do a quick inspection of your bike to ensure that everything is in working order, such as your pedals, chain and brakes. Make sure your seat is at a comfortable riding height and when you stop, both feet can be flat on the ground.

Be careful of those riding around you and obey posted traffic signals and signs. If you are riding at night, use lights on the front and back of your bike and wear reflective clothing.

Most important, have fun! Biking is a great way to get out, explore and get some exercise.

The Safety Village is located at 7911 Forest Glade Drive, Windsor. You can find more information on The Safety Village at www.thesafetyvillage.com.

People Profile

Meet Some of the Team

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway is creating and supporting jobs across the region and helping to stimulate our local economy. Design and construction of the Parkway is also providing training for people in our community and creating unique partnerships.

Q. What is your name and position?

A. Tania Di Giglio. I am the Receptionist/HR Clerk on this project.



Q. Where are you from?

A. I'm from LaSalle, Ontario.

Q. What type of work are you doing on the Parkway project?

A. There are many aspects to my job. I welcome visitors when they arrive and direct them accordingly, provide staff support to many departments and assist new hires in getting started. The largest part of my job, however, is maintaining our fleet of vehicles. That includes ensuring that the vehicles are serviced/repared in a timely fashion, monitoring fuel consumption and tracking mileage.

Q. How long will you be working on the project?

A. Until project completion.

Q. When people find out that you are working on the Parkway project what do they typically say?

A. I usually hear something like: "Every time I drive by, it looks different. I see progress and can't wait to see what it looks like when it's finished." I also get questioned about the timeline of the project.

Q. What has been the most rewarding part of your work on the project so far?

A. One of the most rewarding parts of working on this project is the pleasure of meeting and learning from so many people from various walks of life.

Q. Do you have anything else you would like our readers to know about your experience working on this project?

A. You gain a whole new perspective as to what goes into creating something of this scale when you have the chance to be a part of it! I've learned so much about our city/county and the construction industry from the numerous people I have worked with.

New Cabana Road West Intersection and Pedestrian Bridge

For 11 days in April, Cabana Road West between Highway 3 westbound and Northway Avenue was closed for construction of the new intersection and installation of a Parkway Trail pedestrian bridge.

During the closure, the new intersection of Highway 3 and Cabana/Todd was built with new curbs and asphalt pavement. Thanks to a last blast of winter, crews were unable to lay asphalt on schedule, delaying the road re-opening by one day. While that work was being completed, heavy equipment lifted the pedestrian bridge in place.

This pedestrian bridge is one of seven on the Parkway Trail which, along with two pedestrian tunnels, will allow users to travel the length of the trail system without encountering traffic. The pedestrian bridges themselves, including the design, were based on project philosophy and supported by public consultation. The pedestrian bridges are designed as simple and unobtrusive. Three themes—colour, teaching and symbol—have been interpreted and applied to the pedestrian bridges for cultural significance.

While the bridge currently may look a little odd, work to build the approaches to the bridge on either side will be completed over the next few months as part of the overall landscaping in the area. The bridge will be connected to the trail system via embankments on either side of the road.

Pedestrian Bridge Placement

On April 22, 2015, crews placed the first Parkway Trail pedestrian bridge.

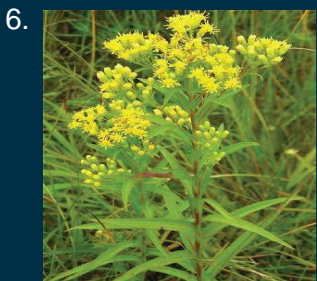


Don't Forget

The Parkway carpool lot located off County Road 9 and Howard Avenue is open and available for you to use. The lot accommodates 42 parked vehicles and is a great place to meet carpool partners.

Tallgrass Prairie Wildflower Match

Prairie plants will provide visual interest and a source of food for pollinators from early spring to late fall in the Parkway green space. Can you match the wildflower photos and names?



- A Wild Columbine
- B Riddell's Goldenrod
- C Smooth Aster
- D Wild Bergamot
- E Sullivant's Milkweed
- F Rough Blazing Star

KID ZONE

Road Trip Bingo

Cut this Bingo card out and bring it on your next trip through the Parkway, on your way to school, soccer practice or a trip across the border. Mark each square when you see a real version of the picture during your drive. Mark a row, column or diagonal of five squares and you win.

B	I	N	G	O
		FREE		

For other fun crafts and activities visit www.pinterest.com/hgparkway.

(Tallgrass Prairie Wildflower Match Answers: 1D, 2C, 3F, 4E, 5A, 6B)

There are many ways to stay up-to-date

- www.hgparkway.ca
- www.facebook.com/hgparkway
- www.twitter.com/hgparkway
- www.flickr.com/hgparkway
- www.youtube.com/hgparkway
- www.pinterest.com/hgparkway
- www.linkedin.com

Public Liaison Office
2187 Huron Church Road
Suite 340 A
Windsor, ON N9C 2L8
hgp-plo@wemg.ca
1-877-937-5929

Ministry of Transportation
949 McDougall Avenue
Suite 200
Windsor, ON N9A 1L9
detroit.river@ontario.ca