

Landscape and Trail Master Plan

During the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study, the community was consulted on what they wanted to see included in the Windsor-Essex Parkway's green space. Input received helped shape the *Urban Design and Landscape Plan* developed during the Environmental Assessment process.

The Windsor-Essex Parkway provides more than 300 acres (120 hectares) of green space with landscaped areas, ecological protection and restoration areas, and 20 kilometres of multi-use trails. These general landscape components are now being further defined through the Windsor Essex Mobility Group's *Landscape and Trail Master Plan*. This plan will detail what features such as trails, lighting, seating, public art and key gateway locations will look like and how they will be used.



Themes

A "Carolinian" theme, which received public support during the DRIC study, will be carried through as the primary theme for the green space. This theme reflects ecological sensitivity with a contemporary approach. It supports protection and expansion of adjacent natural areas with a focus on Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savannah.

Key Features

- The landscape and aesthetic features will be developed from the perspective of Parkway's drivers, pedestrians and adjacent residents.
- Three gateway areas are proposed for the Parkway that reflect the natural and cultural history of the area.
- The restored and reconnected ecological landscapes may include a range of prairie, wetland and woodland habitats.
- The lit, paved, four-metre wide primary multi-use trail system will allow pedestrians and cyclists to travel the length of the Parkway without encountering a vehicle and will bring communities together.
- Places for resting, meeting, reflection, and nature observation may be provided along the trail system and on the tunnel tops.
- Signage on the trail system will not only provide direction but may also explain the ecological restoration processes and promote appreciation of the natural and cultural history of the area.

Community Input

Your input to the *Landscape and Trail Master Plan* is important. Residents are encouraged to participate in upcoming workshops that will present the approach to landscape design in the corridor with the following discussion topics:

- landscape treatment of gateways and tunnel tops
- public art opportunities
- trail system (including lighting, bridges, connections and amenities)
- appearance of noise barriers, walls and screening landscapes
- vegetation preservation and habitat enhancement measures
- opportunities for community involvement and partnerships.

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