

The Environmental Benefits of Green Space

The Windsor-Essex Parkway will provide more than 300 acres of green space for the community to enjoy. This is 70 acres larger than the 230 acre Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve.

The Parkway green space will integrate with local parks and other protected natural areas to create a green corridor that supports viable natural communities, links existing natural areas and buffers surrounding communities from the new freeway.

Urban benefits

- more green space within a city's boundaries can assist in improving the urban environment
- green space assists in improving air quality and moderating climate
- green space reduces energy consumption by countering the warming effect of paved surfaces

Water quality protection

- proper landscaping reduces surface water runoff, helping to limit the pollutants reaching waterways

Reduce heat build-up

- trees near a paved surface can reduce on-site heat build-up
- trees and green space enhance night time cool-downs

Reduce soil erosion

- a dense cover of plants and mulch helps to hold soil in place, keeping sediment out of streams, storm drains and roads

Improve air quality

- trees, shrubs and grass remove smoke, dust and other pollutants from the air
- one tree can remove 12 kilograms of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere annually, equalling 17,702 kilometres of car emissions
- one acre of trees has the ability to remove 13 tons of particles and gases annually
- less than one acre of grass absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and releases enough oxygen for a family of four to breathe
- buffer zones and landscaping may further reduce particulate levels

Public consultation will continue during future design and construction phases of The Windsor-Essex Parkway and the community will have opportunities to influence site-specific landscape treatments.

Reference documents:

Landscape Ontario – Green for Life

UW – Madison Department of Urban and Regional Planning: EcoPlanIT Madison: Green Space Goal

Virginia Cooperative Extension: The Value of Landscaping

Wolf, K.L., Ph.D., University of Washington 2004, Trees, Parking and Green Law: Strategies for Sustainability

Turfgrass Resource Center: Our Precious Plane

