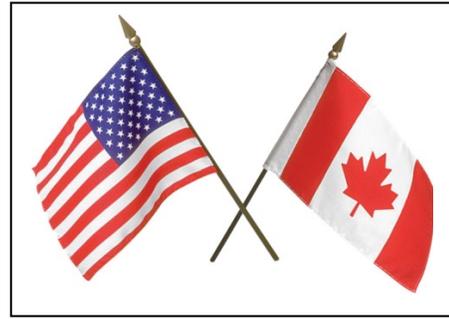


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## **U.S.-Canada Greenways Vision Map Will Bridge the Gap Between Emerging Trails and Bicycle Lanes**



Windsor, Ontario/Detroit, Michigan – A U.S. - Canadian partnership is hoping a new map will encourage people to grab their bikes and explore both sides of the Detroit River. The group has released a binational greenways vision map to connect emerging international greenways, trails, and bike lanes, establishing safe and convenient routes for pedestrians and bicyclists.

It is the vision of these Canadian and U.S. partners to encourage stronger linkages between emerging greenways of southwest Ontario and southeast Michigan via a future dedicated bike lane on the new Gordie Howe Bridge and a possible future ferry system between Windsor and Detroit.

Greenways are connections that link communities, parks, nature areas, cultural features, economic centers, and historic sites. Based on experience throughout the world, greenways promote outdoor recreation, catalyze ecotourism and economic development, promote healthier life styles, provide safe alternatives to motorized transportation, increase adjacent property values, celebrate historical and cultural assets, promote conservation and environmental education, and improve quality of life.

Windsor and Detroit share the same ecosystem and have much in common culturally, socially, economically, and historically. Each has a unique greenway system.

For example, the City of Windsor maintains 128 km (79.5 miles) of trails, including the Windsor Loop that is a 42.5-km (26.4-mile) loop when completed will traverse around the City's perimeter, joining neighborhoods and providing access to the Trans Canada Trail. The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway trails will soon be open, offering an additional 20 km (12.4 miles) of greenways. As well, The Waterfront Regeneration Trust added Lake Erie to the Waterfront Trail, signing 600 km of new trail from Fort Erie (near Niagara Falls) to Windsor and Lakeshore on Lake St. Clair. The new route connects 27 new waterfront communities. For more info visit: <http://www.waterfronttrail.org>.

In Essex County, the 50-km (31-mile) Chrysler Canada Greenway is a multi-use, rail trail that is the southern-most section of the Trans Canada Trail. Managed by Essex Region Conservation Authority, it connects a number of communities and natural areas in Essex County and the heart of southwest Ontario's wine country. The new Cypher Systems Group Greenway will be a 22-km (13.7-mile) rail trail that will connect Essex to Amherstburg.

Detroit has over 200 miles (321.9 km) of bike routes and greenways, including the Detroit RiverWalk that won an Excellence in the Waterfront Award from The Waterfront Center, the Dequindre Cut Greenway that links the waterfront with Detroit's Eastern Market and many neighborhoods, and an Inner Circle Greenway that is a planned 26-mile (41.8-km) trail for biking and walking. Detroit's greenways are connected to over 1,000 miles (1,609 km) of greenway trails in southeast Michigan. Of particular interest is the Iron Belle Trail that, when complete, will link the wealth of natural and cultural resources in the state, including a hiking and biking route connecting Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The route heads south from Belle Isle via the Southwest Detroit Greenlink and through 10 Downriver

communities, primarily following the emerging route of Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative. The biking route heads north from Belle Isle via the Conner Creek Greenway.

Both greenway systems in southwest Ontario and southeast Michigan are unique individually, but together they are truly world-class. This U.S.-Canada Greenways Vision Map encourages you to not let the international border limit you. Grab your bike and explore both sides of the Detroit River, the only river system in North America to receive both Canadian and American Heritage River Initiative designations, as well as the only international wildlife refuge in North America (i.e., Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge).

"Significant investments have been made that improve biking and walking opportunities on both sides of the river," says Todd Scott, Executive Director of the Detroit Greenways Coalition. " This map highlights the need to build cross border connections for those traveling on foot or by bike."

"This map clearly identifies the locations of the cycling facilities on both sides of the border, which in turn encourages international adventures," says Jennifer Leitzinger, Transportation Planning Engineer with the City of Windsor.

This map is available online at: <http://detroitgreenways.org/us-canada-greenways-vision/>. For more information on greenways in the Windsor and Detroit metropolitan areas, please contact Josette Eugeni, Manager of Transportation Planning with the City of Windsor ([jeugeni@citywindsor.ca](mailto:jeugeni@citywindsor.ca); 519.255.6418) or Todd Scott of the Detroit Greenways Coalition ([todd@detroitgreenways.org](mailto:todd@detroitgreenways.org); 313 649.7249), respectively. A total of 10,000 copies of the vision map will be available for distribution at Wheelhouse Detroit (1340 Atwater St, Detroit, MI 48207) and City of Windsor Public Works - Operations (1266 McDougall Street, Windsor, ON, N8X 3M7).

Partners in this project include: Bike Friendly Windsor Essex, Canadian Consulate General, City of Detroit, City of Windsor, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Detroit Greenways Coalition, Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, Downtown Detroit Partnership, Essex County, Essex Region Conservation Authority, National Park Service, Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wheelhouse Detroit and Windsor Bicycling Committee.

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***Don't let the international border limit you!***

