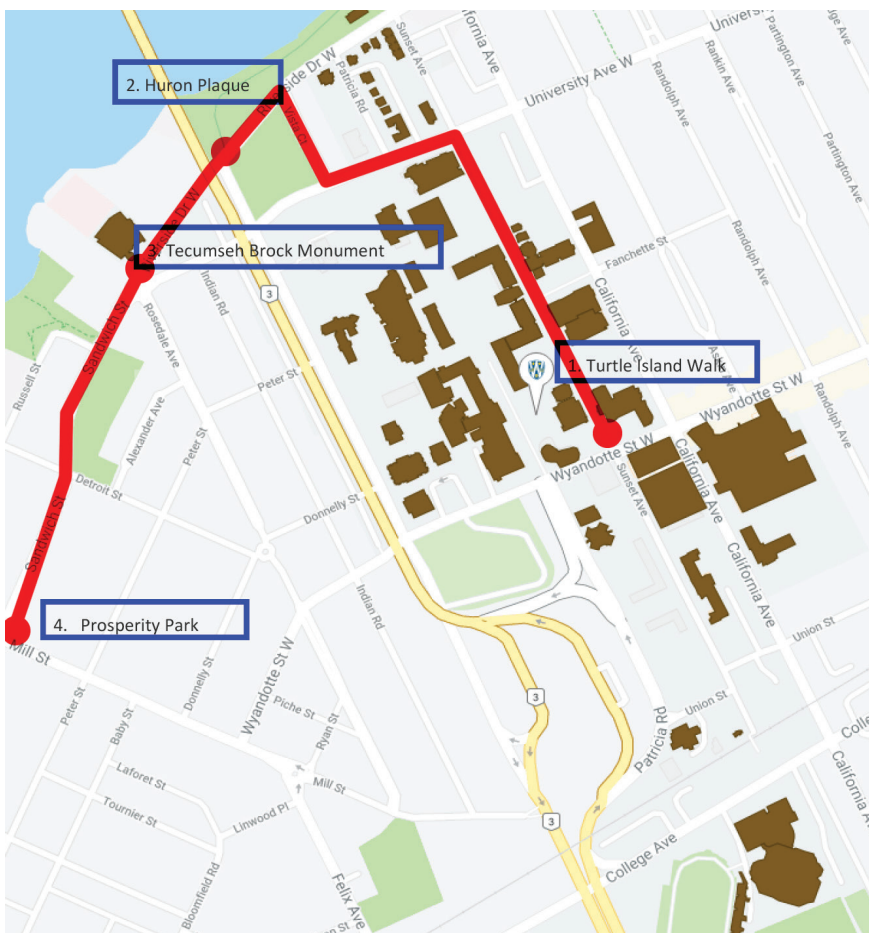


Turtle Island Walking Tour





1. Turtle Island Walk
2. Huron Plaque
3. Tecumseh Brock Monument
4. Prosperity Park

TURTLE ISLAND WALKING TOUR

Windsor-Essex has been home to Indigenous peoples for thousands of years.

Enjoy a walking tour of significant sites in the city's west end neighbourhood, starting from the University of Windsor campus.

The route on the map will take about 30 minutes at a moderate walking pace.



Turtle Island Walk. University of Windsor Campus

Turtle Island Walk was established by the University of Windsor along the portion of the former Sunset Avenue that ran between Wyandotte and University streets. Ceremonies September 21, 2017, marked its official dedication in celebration of Indigenous cultures. The walkway is lined with banners and plaques that depict traditional teachings, with artwork by Teresa Altman of the Walpole Island First Nation.

It takes its place alongside a number of local landmarks paying tribute to the heritage of First Nations in the area.

The Huron Deed Plaque located at Riverside Drive at the foot of Huron Church Road, near the Ambassador Bridge, describes the 1748 Huron tribute of several tracts of land along the Detroit River to the Jesuit order of the Roman Catholic Church.



Huron Deed Plaque (Riverside Drive and Huron Church Road)

The Tecumseh Brock Monument is a 7-foot bronze sculpture in the middle of the Sandwich Street roundabout depicting Shawnee Chief Tecumseh and British General Isaac Brock, preparing for their 1812 capture of Detroit.



Tecumseh Brock Monument (Sandwich Street Round-About)

Prosperity Place, unveiled by the Windsor Port Authority at the corner of Sandwich and Mill streets, is an outdoor museum and park telling the story of trade and commerce along the river. Plaques and pathways display canoe sculptures and storyboards from the early Indigenous presence and the history of the port.



Prosperity Park

First Nations artist Teresa Altman designed the Turtle Sculpture depicting a turtle holding a large boulder on its back. Situated along the Herb Gray Parkway and not shown on the map, it is titled *Homage to Safe Passage* and portrays the first documented European contact in the area.



Herb Gray Parkway, Homage to Safe Passage (not shown on map)



Huron Cemetery (not shown on map)

The Wyandotte Cemetery is located along the banks of the Detroit River near Amherstburg, outside the area depicted on the map. As the Wyandotte/Huron peoples arrived in the area, many converted to Christianity.

Local history reveals the story of a large rock positioned at the entrance to the Detroit River from Lake Erie, marking a special gathering point for ceremonial purposes.

In 1669, Father René Bréhant de Galinée (1645-1678), a Sulpician missionary and explorer, described the area:

"found the wild fruits of the forest at their best... the grapes as being as large and as sweet as the finest in France.... He admired the walnuts, chestnuts, wild apples and plums. He found bear-meat more palatable than the most "savory" pig-meat in France. He saw wandering herds of deer, and sometimes as many as two hundred were seen feeding together. To sum up, he calls the region "the terrestrial paradise of Canada."

"At the end of six leagues we discovered a place that is very remarkable, and held in great veneration by all the Indians of these countries, because of a stone idol that nature has formed..."

"... they propitiate it by sacrifices, presents of skins, provisions, etc. The place was full of camps... it was all painted... with vermilion.... I consecrated one of my axes to break this god of stone, and then having yoked our canoes together we carried the largest pieces to the middle of the river, and threw all the rest also into the water, in order that it might never be heard of again."

Source: The Ontario Historical Society. Vol. 4 (1903)



Wawiahtanong

The indigenous name for the Windsor region known as Wawiahtanan Ziibii meaning "The River Bending" from Wawiahtanong meaning the round area that is the circumference of the Great Lakes Basin.
(Frederic Baraga: A Dictionary of the Ojibway Language 1878).

Bkejwanong - Where the Waters Divide

Bimiskwa Sagaigan - Lake of the Swirling Eddies

Wawiahtanan Zii Bii - Where the River Bends

Wawiahtanan Zii Bii

Bimiskwa Sagaigan

Bkejwanong

