

SECTION II

12 Parks Services



What is the Service?

Parks Services supports the recreational and leisure needs of the community. Parkland, both maintained and natural, enhances quality of life, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of the community and is a key component in sustainability plans.

Specific objectives include:

- Clean, safe, welcoming parks and natural spaces for all residents to enjoy
- Opportunities for physical activity including both recreational and competitive sports

Influencing Factors:

Demographics and Community Use: Community/Resident demand for parks usage has increased in recent years particularly for large, social gatherings and various cultural activities (i.e. specialty fields, cultural gardens, community gardens, dogs-off-leash areas, special events etc.). While these activities increase parks usage, they also translate into higher maintenance and signage costs, as well as increased staff training requirements. The operating costs related to these contemporary activities vary across municipalities; these costs are not captured separately.

Geography: Varying topography's affects the number of hectares, e.g. size of escarpment, number of lakes, transportation networks.

Maintenance Levels: The level of management applied to natural areas in parks (e.g. ecological restoration projects, community naturalization projects).

Mix of Maintained and Natural Parkland: Maintained parks can include a number of amenities and usually involve turf maintenance programs, all of which typically are more costly on a per hectare basis than the costs of maintaining forests or other natural areas.

Service Standards: There can be significant differences between municipalities in the amenities available (greenhouses, washrooms, playgrounds), as well as the standards to which those parks are maintained such as the frequency of grass cutting. There can also be differences in the costs of maintaining certain sports fields i.e. Class A, B, C and D class fields (soccer, football, baseball).

Weather Conditions: Weather condition affect all municipalities differently, however as we continue to experience more frequent and intense weather changes, operating costs are impacted (i.e. less snowfall can mean less snow removal, but increased rain could mean more storm clean-up costs.)

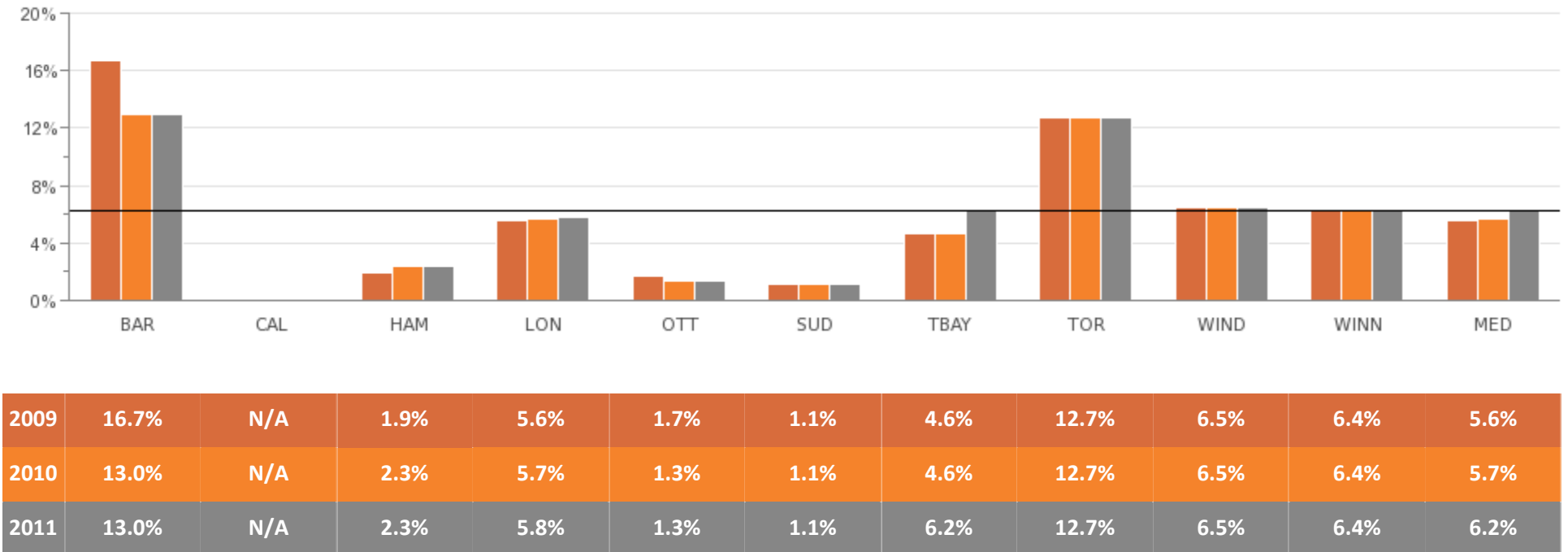
Additional Information:

The City of Winnipeg collected data in this service area for the first time in 2009. Therefore their results for 2009 may not be comparable. Contact the Winnipeg Municipal Lead for further information.

Parks Services

What percent of the municipality is parkland?

Fig 12.1 All Parkland in Municipality as a Percent of Total Area of Municipality



Source: PRKS125 (Community Impact)

Comment: Municipalities with a predominant urban form may find it more difficult to establish new, or expand existing parks within the developed core area.

How much parkland is available per resident?

Fig 12.2 Amount of Parkland Available Per Resident

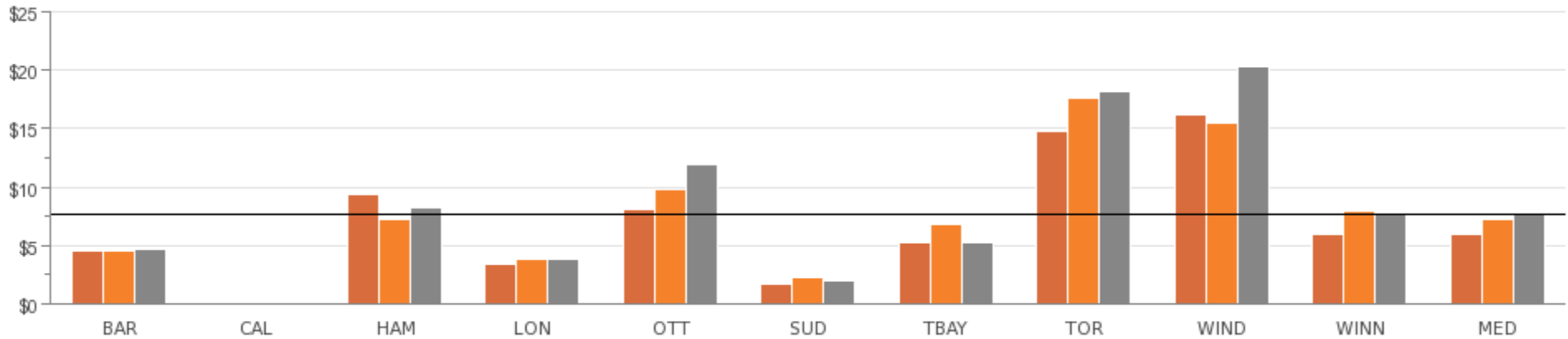
Municipality	Natural Parkland			Maintained Parkland			Total Parkland		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Barrie	254	252	254	710	705	705	964	957	959
Hamilton	227	321	322	177	177	167	404	499	489
London	267	271	275	385	390	396	652	661	671
Ottawa	396	240	238	128	155	153	524	395	391
Sudbury (Greater)	857	867	859	1,558	1,576	1,562	2,415	2,442	2,421
Thunder Bay	307	307	278	1,082	1,082	1,602	1,390	1,390	1,880
Toronto	158	158	157	134	133	132	292	291	289
Windsor	244	244	251	198	198	203	442	442	454
Winnipeg	298	291	288	156	155	154	454	446	442
Median	267	271	275	198	198	203	524	499	489

Source: PRKS205, PRKS210, AND PRKS215 (Service Level)

What is the operating cost to operate parks per hectare?

Fig 12.3 Operating Cost per Hectare - Maintained and Natural Parkland

(In Thousands)



2009	\$4,471	N/A	\$9,406	\$3,348	\$8,038	\$1,714	\$5,270	\$14,712	\$16,184	\$5,912	\$5,912
2010	\$4,477	N/A	\$7,284	\$3,835	\$9,738	\$2,269	\$6,858	\$17,686	\$15,472	\$7,908	\$7,284
2011	\$4,668	N/A	\$8,275	\$3,844	\$11,861	\$2,014	\$5,213	\$18,233	\$20,308	\$7,665	\$7,665

Source: PRKS315 (Efficiency)

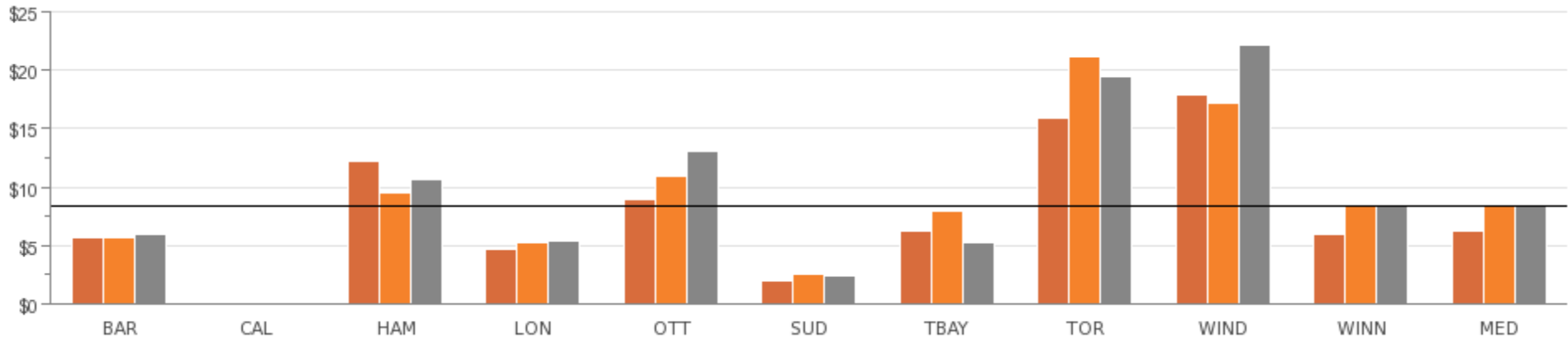
Note: Windsor's cost increased in 2011 due to organizational changes.

Comment: The cost per hectare is reflective of the proportion of maintained parkland vs. natural parkland, as maintained parkland includes higher maintenance costs. In addition, differences in service standards established for maintained parks and variations in the level of management applied to natural areas affects the results.

What is the total cost to operate parks per hectare?

Fig 12.4 OMBI Total Cost per Hectare - Maintained and Natural Parkland (includes amortization)

(In Thousands)



2009	\$5,649	N/A	\$12,227	\$4,611	\$8,878	\$1,901	\$6,285	\$15,957	\$17,864	\$5,986	\$6,285
2010	\$5,673	N/A	\$9,483	\$5,213	\$10,918	\$2,516	\$7,952	\$21,212	\$17,253	\$8,500	\$8,500
2011	\$5,881	N/A	\$10,621	\$5,323	\$13,046	\$2,324	\$5,213	\$19,432	\$22,161	\$8,355	\$8,355

Source: PRKS315T (Efficiency)

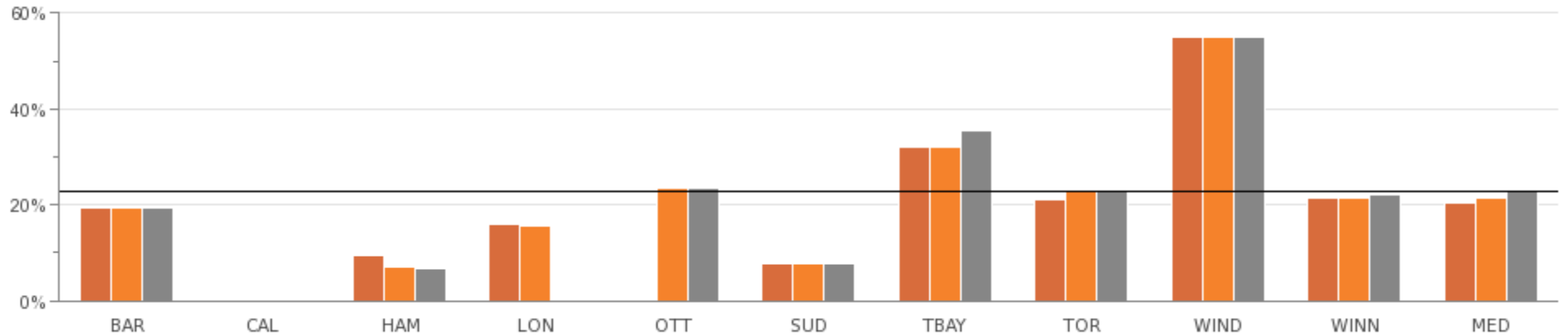
Note: Calculation includes amortization.

Note: Windsor's cost increased in 2011 due to organizational changes.

Comment: The cost per hectare is reflective of the proportion of maintained parkland vs. natural parkland, as maintained parkland is more expensive to maintain. In addition, differences in service standards established for maintained parks and variations in the level of management applied to natural areas affects the results.

What percent of parkland is classified as high profile parks?

Fig 12.5 Percent of Maintained Parkland that are High Profile Parks



2009	19.4%	N/A	9.5%	16.0%	N/A	7.6%	31.9%	21.1%	54.8%	21.3%	20.3%
2010	19.4%	N/A	6.9%	15.6%	23.5%	7.6%	31.9%	22.7%	55.0%	21.5%	21.5%
2011	19.3%	N/A	6.8%	N/A	23.5%	7.6%	35.5%	23.3%	54.8%	22.1%	22.7%

Source: PRKS275 (Service Level)

Note: High Profile Park refers to one with a higher level of turf maintenance, horticulture, litter collection and stand-alone sports field.