



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 park 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.

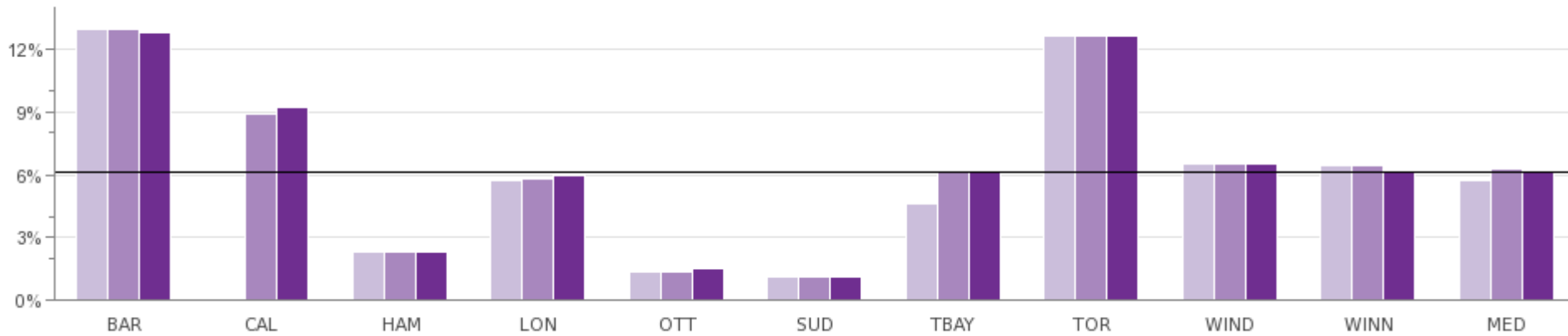
Service Standards: There can be significant differences between municipalities in the amenities available (greenhouses, washrooms, playgrounds), as well as the standards to which those parks are maintained, such as the frequency of grass cutting. There can also be differences in the costs of maintaining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

Weather Conditions: Weather conditions and the length of growing seasons 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.)

Parks

What percent of the municipality is parkland?

Fig 21.1 All Parkland in Municipality as a Percent of Total Area of Municipality



2010	13.0%	N/A	2.3%	5.7%	1.3%	1.1%	4.6%	12.7%	6.5%	6.4%	5.7%
2011	13.0%	8.9%	2.3%	5.8%	1.3%	1.1%	6.2%	12.7%	6.5%	6.4%	6.3%
2012	12.8%	9.2%	2.3%	6.0%	1.5%	1.1%	6.2%	12.7%	6.5%	6.1%	6.2%

Source: PRKS125 (Community Impact)

Comment: Municipalities with a predominant urban and/or rural form may find it more difficult to establish new or expand existing parks. All land in Calgary is designated for development or future development.

How much parkland is available per resident?

Fig 21.2 Hectares of Maintained and Natural Parkland per Resident

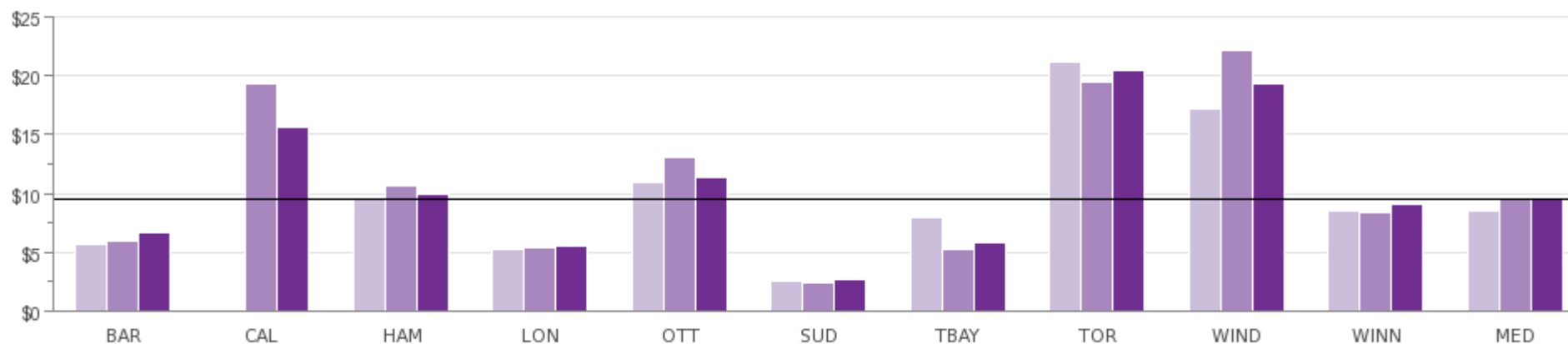
Municipality	Maintained Parkland (PRKS205)			Natural Parkland (PRKS210)			Total Parkland (PRKS215)		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Barrie	252	254	250	705	705	680	957	959	930
Calgary	N/A	334	325	N/A	360	368	N/A	693	693
Hamilton	321	322	312	177	167	173	499	489	485
London	271	275	281	390	396	404	661	671	686
Ottawa	240	238	231	155	153	212	395	391	443
Greater Sudbury	867	859	854	1576	1562	1547	2442	2421	2400
Thunder Bay	307	278	278	1082	1602	1602	1390	1880	1880
Toronto	158	157	157	133	132	132	291	289	290
Windsor	244	251	251	198	203	203	442	454	454
Winnipeg	291	288	265	155	154	147	446	442	412
Median	271	276	271	198	282	290	499	580	585

Source: PRKS205, PRKS210, PRKS215 (Service Level)

What is the total cost to operate parks per hectare?

Fig 21.3 OMBI Total Cost per Hectare - Maintained and Natural Parkland (includes amortization)

(In Thousands)



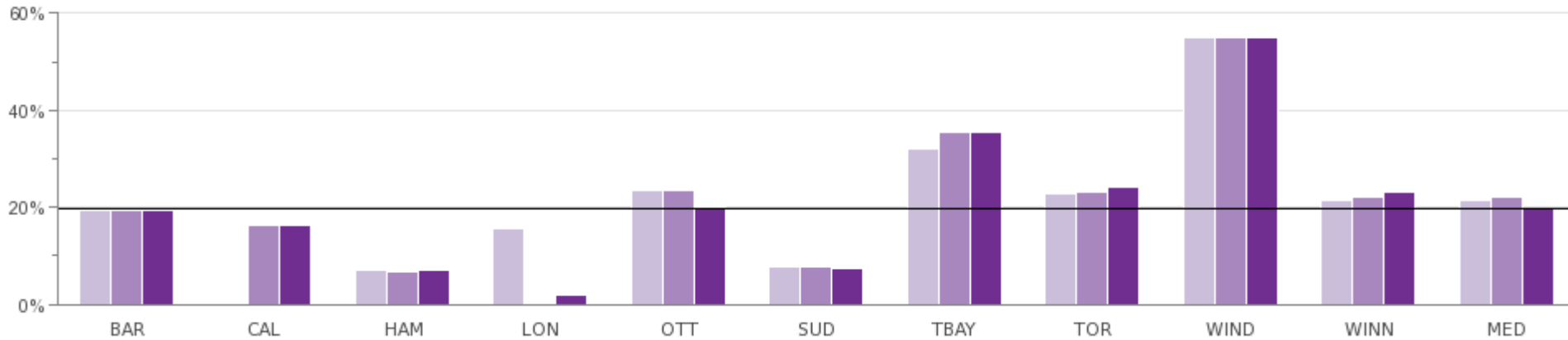
2010	\$5,673	N/A	\$9,483	\$5,213	\$10,918	\$2,516	\$7,952	\$21,212	\$17,253	\$8,500	\$8,500
2011	\$5,881	\$19,324	\$10,621	\$5,323	\$13,046	\$2,324	\$5,213	\$19,456	\$22,161	\$8,355	\$9,488
2012	\$6,702	\$15,702	\$9,973	\$5,465	\$11,300	\$2,617	\$5,828	\$20,517	\$19,339	\$9,049	\$9,511

Source: PRKS315T (Efficiency)

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 level of management applied to natural areas affects the results. Windsor's costs increased in 2011 and 2012 due to organizational changes.

What percent of parkland is classified as high profile parks?

Fig 21.4 Percent of Maintained Parkland that are High Profile Parks



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%	16.4%	6.8%	N/A	23.5%	7.6%	35.5%	23.3%	54.8%	22.1%	22.1%
2012	19.3%	16.3%	7.0%	2.1%	19.9%	7.5%	35.5%	24.2%	54.8%	23.2%	19.6%

Source: PRKS275 (Service Level)

Comment: A high profile park may include a higher level of turf maintenance, horticulture, litter collection, stand-alone sports fields and premium amenities such as ponds, decorative elements and monuments.